

## VISION / GOALS / OBJECTIVES

*SRTC's underlying values. What we will do and how we will do it.*

### REGIONAL VISION FOR 2040

A critical step in any long-range planning process is to establish a regional vision of Spokane and its future. SRTC's Unified Regional Transportation Vision and Implementation Strategy (Vision Project), completed in 2011, serves as the first step in realizing Spokane's desired vision. The Vision Project was a study to determine the long term transportation vision and goals for the area for the next 30 to 50 years.

The vision statement resulting from the Vision project reflects the needs and desires of the region:

*Future transportation investments will help the Spokane Region maintain its appeal as a livable community with a thriving business and cultural atmosphere nestled within the beautiful scenery of eastern Washington. A well-maintained regional transportation system will provide a high level of service across both urban and rural areas with a variety of sustainable transportation choices and connectivity that advance accessibility and reliability for all users.*

*The region's prosperity will also be the result of direct and indirect investments in our transportation systems to move freight and facilitate commerce that will ensure retention and attraction of new employers and family wage jobs, as well as increase our ability to attract quality employees. Implementing sustainable, efficient, effective, and reliable solutions to existing and future transportation challenges in the Spokane Region will be key to making the Inland Northwest a fantastic place to visit, live, work, play, and raise a family.*

### POLICY FRAMEWORK

As mentioned earlier, the federal planning factors clearly illustrate the need for long range transportation plans to recognize and address the interrelationship of transportation, land use and economic development planning. Horizon 2040 addresses each of the planning factors and the state's transportation policy goals in the following Policy Framework.

The Guiding Principles were crafted and accepted by the Board and represent the first step in creating a policy framework for Horizon 2040. From there, policy language was developed based on the Guiding Principles. The policies are specific statements to guide decision-making in order to reach the envisioned future. Additional work included developing strategies and performance measures in relationship to the policies in order to complete the framework.

Horizon 2040 provides an opportunity to test and analyze regional transportation policies. The Guiding Principles and Policies are the foundation for the Horizon 2040 evaluation framework. The performance measures in the framework allow for a thorough evaluation of our progress as a region in meeting the established policies.

The following pages provide detail about each of the Guiding Principles and Policies.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1: ECONOMIC VITALITY

Investments and improvements in the regional transportation system will promote economic vitality by focusing on moving people, freight and goods to enhance the global competitiveness of the regional economy. Major transportation facilities, and the mobility they provide to, between and within major economic activity centers, will stimulate commerce. Horizon 2040 should prioritize and coordinate regional transportation investments aimed toward the development of a multimodal system that provides transportation opportunities that enhance accessibility and connections among city centers, regional service centers and attractions, towns, and areas of regional employment.

### POLICIES - To promote economic vitality and prioritize transportation investments, Horizon 2040 will:

- 1a. Prioritize transportation investments by mode that enhance accessibility and connections between city centers, regional centers, attractions, towns and areas of regional employment.
- 1b. Create an environment that supports new and expanding business opportunities.
- 1c. Make transportation investments that support both maintaining existing jobs and creating new jobs.
- 1d. Improve transportation quality and efficiency in areas of existing development.
- 1e. Support the efficiency of freight movement.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2: COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP

Horizon 2040 will provide the forum to develop regional transportation priorities, to identify transportation funding needs and to develop strategies to acquire funding in accordance with federal and state planning requirements. Horizon 2040 will help coordinate efforts to communicate with business and community groups and give the public sufficient time to review and comment at key milestones in the transportation planning process. These efforts will bring together all community stakeholders and transportation planning partners in order to present a unified voice in support of the region's transportation needs.

### POLICIES - To provide a regional forum for transportation planning and funding, Horizon 2040 will:

- 2a. Provide leadership by facilitating coordinated, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning.
- 2b. Incorporate public processes in significant planning efforts.
- 2c. Participate in the development and maintenance of transportation related information necessary to support the functions and responsibilities of the agency.
- 2d. Promote regional transportation interests, plans and projects to local, state and federal public, and private entities.
- 2e. Coordinate transportation relevant data for shared use among regional stakeholders.
- 2f. Identify feasible funding sources and mechanisms beyond those typically identified in state and federal requirements.
- 2g. Strengthen avenues of involvement for low-income, minority, and/or transportation disadvantaged populations in the decision-making process.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3: STEWARDSHIP**

Transportation decisions should maximize a positive impact on the human environment while minimizing negative impacts to the natural environment. Investments will follow federal, state and local transportation, environmental and land use plans and policies and federal and state goals as adopted by statute, ordinance, resolution or executive order. Horizon 2040 will use performance measures to ensure coordinated regional policies make progress towards established objectives.

#### **POLICIES - To protect the environment and minimize impacts from transportation, Horizon 2040 will:**

- 3a. Ensure transportation decisions minimize impacts to natural resources and conserve non-renewable resources.
- 3b. Make investments that maximize transportation benefits and support federal, state and local goals.
- 3c. Develop a plan that provides for the responsible use of public and private funds.
- 3d. Encourage shared-use of infrastructure for stakeholders and all transportation users.
- 3e. Use performance measures to evaluate how policies and investments support key transportation objectives.
- 3f. Demonstrate financial constraint.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4: SYSTEM OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION**

Horizon 2040 will strive to provide adequate funding for projects that address documented transportation needs, reduce lifecycle operation and maintenance costs, conserve energy, and preserve and prolong the life of existing infrastructure. SRTC and project proponents will use performance-based plans that provide for efficient system management. Horizon 2040 should demonstrate that projected revenues will sustain current facilities and services, and ensure sufficient population demand is anticipated such that new facilities are a prudent application of fiscal resources.

#### **POLICIES - Maximizing the operations and physical condition of the transportation network will require strategic investments. To accomplish this Horizon 2040 will put a priority on programs and projects that:**

- 4a. Develop cost-effective strategies; pursue alternative funding sources and mechanisms.
- 4b. During winter weather conditions, ensure snow removal and snow storage is regularly maintained for roadways and sidewalks to keep the transportation system operational.
- 4c. Maintain a Congestion Management Process to reduce and monitor congestion and improve operations through ITS technologies, transportation demand management, and transportation system management, rather than through physical expansion of facilities.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5: SAFETY AND SECURITY

The regional transportation system will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to enable the healthy, safe, and secure movement of people and goods. The system will enhance safe and secure choices, access and usage among all modes of transportation through best-practice design, operational improvements, education and outreach, and technological strategies. Increased emphasis should be placed on maintenance activities and education of all users as means of making the system safer.

**POLICIES - To provide for maximum transportation safety and support security in the region, Horizon 2040 will put a priority on programs, services and projects that:**

- 5a. Support improvements to roadway safety deficiencies in order to reduce crashes within all modes of transportation.
- 5b. Protect critical infrastructure from natural and human threats.
- 5c. Promote safety through supporting education, outreach and enforcement of rules of the road for all modes that use the roadways.
- 5d. Support transportation infrastructure and operational strategies for emergency response.
- 5e. Support proper maintenance of the transportation system.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6: CHOICE AND MOBILITY

All residents will have reasonable access to transportation choices. Decision-making will work toward creating viable transportation choices through increased availability and improved service. Strengthening existing connections and creating new connections will improve mobility for all users. This includes connections within street networks, to port, rail and airport facilities; and within transit, pedestrian, and bicycle modes. Shared use of infrastructure will increase transportation choices and maximize returns for investments by increasing multi-modal connectivity.

**POLICIES - To improve choice and mobility, Horizon 2040 will put a priority on Programs, Services and Projects that:**

- 6a. Strengthen connections by filling gaps within and between modes.
- 6b. Improve access to transit for all persons.
- 6c. Promote high performance transit service where regional activity centers with transit supportive development exist.
- 6d. Expand the pedestrian and bicycle networks while focusing on moving people between centers and linking with transit.
- 6e. Incorporate safe and complete street policies into transportation planning and design.
- 6f. Support transportation demand management strategies.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7: QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life issues will be considered in transportation decision-making. Urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods will strive to offer safe and convenient forms of healthy, active transportation options for people of all abilities. Population concentrations will have connections to destinations by means of multiple modes to reduce transportation costs and tailpipe emissions. Context sensitive design will strive to support social, cultural and commercial activity and protect unique or indigenous cultural and landscape features.

**POLICIES - To make quality of life a hallmark of our community and to foster neighborhoods and protect cultural resources through context sensitive design, Horizon 2040 will put a priority on programs, services and projects that:**

- 7a. Support transportation projects that protect culture, values unique characteristics of communities and contributes to a sense of place.
- 7b. Promote context-sensitive design.
- 7c. Support health-promoting transportation options for people of all abilities like walking, biking and transit that provide options to reduce single occupant-vehicle use and overall vehicle miles traveled.

## STRATEGIES

While the preceding principles and policies are guiding rules intended to influence decisions and actions, strategies are required in order to deliver change by implementing those policies.

With the requirement under MAP-21 to establish performance targets, each strategy in Horizon 2040 has one or more performance measures. As previously mentioned, USDOT is required to establish national performance measures. MPOs are then required to establish targets for each measure. MPOs are required to establish targets in coordination with the relevant state(s) and with providers of public transportation. Please see the Strategies and Monitoring sections of Chapter 4, *How Will We Get There*, for more detail.

In order to develop strategies and reach the goals we set for the future, it is important to have an understanding of where we stand today. Chapter 2 of this document, *Where We're At*, looks at existing conditions for our region, including area employment, commute patterns, the condition of area bridges, traffic volumes, movement of freight and goods, and much more.