



March 19, 2018

Erika Harris, AICP, Senior Planner
SEPA Responsible Official
Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue
Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Vision 2050 Scoping

Dear Ms. Harris,

The City of Des Moines appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scoping of Vision 2050 and the associated environmental review.

The City of Des Moines appreciates the important work of the Puget Sound Regional Council and is supportive of including consideration of housing affordability; economic inequality; social equity and access to opportunity; healthy communities; climate change adaptation and mitigation; demographic shifts or changing needs; and funding for infrastructure and other improvements in Vision 2050 and the associated environmental analysis.

The City's concerns relate primarily to the evaluation of impacts related to regional aviation planning and our City's proximity to SeaTac Airport. Alternatives should include a significant discussion of aviation planning, utilizing the information developed through the PSRC regional baseline aviation study which is expected to be complete in 2019. This study is an opportunity to understand the dynamics of the region's growing aviation activity and is intended to include an evaluation of the impact of airport activities on surrounding communities.

It is state policy to work with appropriate local and regional authorities to begin the process of siting a second large commercial airport in western Washington, and Vision 2050 should provide policy guidance toward this end. The City requests that alternatives evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement include the siting of a new international airport within the region. Environmental considerations must be critical considerations in the decision to site new airports and this thorough evaluation of impacts to all elements of the environment due to aviation system growth must be included in the environmental analysis for this regional planning document.

The Waterland City

Erika Harris, AICP, Senior Planner
Page Two
March 19, 2018

Specifically, the disproportionate impacts experienced by Des Moines residents and surrounding communities due to regional population growth fueling demand for additional capacity at SeaTac Airport should be thoroughly analyzed for all alternatives, including impacts on human health and to air and water quality.

SeaTac is growing rapidly and Vision 2050 should also provide policy guidance to assure that multi-modal options are the standard for addressing SeaTac Airport growth. Constraints on the capacity of the regional transportation grid to absorb millions of more passengers and tons of cargo must be seen as signaling consideration of new airport facilities that will relieve congestion, not simply add to it. The integration of the state aviation system into regional transportation planning is essential to the accommodation of future demand at SeaTac and elsewhere.

The ability to implement sustainable measures to protect the natural environment, human health, mitigate noise and understand any adverse health impacts of jet fuel emissions, etc. is an essential component of the regional transportation system, and is a constraint on future airport capacity, expansion and growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for serious consideration of the City's comments and concerns. We look forward to the opportunity to continue this discussion on behalf of all of our residents.

Sincerely,



Matt Pina
Mayor



Michael Matthias
City Manager

cc: City Council
Aviation Advisory Committee
Dan Brewer, Chief Operations Officer
Susan Cezar, Chief Strategic Officer
Lance Lyttle, Managing Director, Port of Seattle Aviation Division
City Managers and SEPA Officials – Cities of Burien, SeaTac and Normandy Park

The Waterland City