



King County

December 15, 2021

Re: Designation of Countywide Centers

Dear Rachael Markle,

I am writing to follow up on Shoreline’s application for candidate countywide center status. On December 1, 2021, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) approved King County’s first set of countywide centers. On behalf of Executive Constantine, I am pleased to share that 148th St. Station Area, 185th St. Station Area, Shoreline Place, and Shoreline Town Center have been designated as candidate countywide centers. A copy of GMPC’s motion approving the candidate centers, including a map of approved centers, is attached.

The GMPC’s action included a recommendation that all jurisdictions focus on displacement, equity, and affordable housing in countywide center planning work. Additional planning recommendations were also included for some centers, as listed in the table below. We recognize that the application period did not afford sufficient time to fully plan for your center and wanted to highlight themes that would strengthen a future application for full designation.

<i>Center Name</i>	<i>Planning Recommendation</i>
148th St. Station Area	The King County Centers Framework calls for compact, walkable centers with a justified, generally round or square-shaped boundary (Part 2.E.1-2). Review the center boundary to ensure corridor shapes are justified.
185th St. Station Area	The relative size of this center and the presence of a freeway interchange present challenges for creating compact, walkable centers. Review the orientation of this center and neighboring centers to ensure a compact, walkable, and transit-oriented place.
Shoreline Place	The King County Centers Framework calls for compact, walkable centers with a justified, generally round or square-shaped boundary (Part 2.E.1-2). Review the center boundary to ensure corridor shapes are justified.
Town Center	The King County Centers Framework calls for compact, walkable centers with a justified, generally round or square-shaped boundary (Part 2.E.1-2). Review the center boundary to ensure corridor shapes are justified.

Looking ahead, candidate countywide center designation will be considered as part of the countywide transportation funding competitions in 2022 and 2024. Jurisdictions with

candidate countywide centers are expected to fully plan for their centers as a part of the 2024 comprehensive plan periodic update or in parallel local planning efforts. Jurisdictions can review the full list of criteria for countywide centers in Appendix 6 of the [2021 Countywide Planning Policies](#). Following the 2024 periodic update, in 2025 jurisdictions will submit identified countywide centers to GMPC for consideration as fully designated centers. GMPC will then amend the Countywide Planning Policies 2025-26 with a final list of designated countywide centers.

Thank you for participating in King County’s countywide effort to recognize candidate countywide centers. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or our GMPC lead, [Ivan Miller](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Smith
Direct of Regional Planning
King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Enclosure

12/01/2021

Sponsored By: Executive Committee

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GMPC MOTION NO. 21-3

A MOTION approving the list of Candidate Countywide Centers in jurisdictions in King County.

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Regional Council adopted the Regional Centers Framework Update in March 2018, and VISION 2050 in November 2020, and these regional policy documents expand the growth management centers framework to include a new countywide center designation;

WHEREAS, the current King County Countywide Planning Policies identify regional urban centers and regional industrial centers, but do not identify countywide centers;

WHEREAS, as this is a new type of center and designation process in King County, jurisdictions may not have done the planning needed for new centers to meet the expectations in the Countywide Planning Policies, and that would typically occur in the next Comprehensive Plan update which is scheduled for 2024;

WHEREAS, between 2021 and 2024, there will be transportation project selection processes that will focus on funding projects in countywide centers, making the designation of such centers in King County necessary to compete for funding;

20 WHEREAS, because the Comprehensive Plans will not be updated until after the
21 transportation project selection processes occur, new countywide centers can be designated
22 with a candidate status and thereby participate;

23 WHEREAS, designation of Candidate Countywide Centers would have status until
24 such time as Comprehensive Plans are updated and a permanent list of countywide centers
25 could be designated by the Growth Management Planning Council in 2025 to 2026;

26 WHEREAS, the authority to designate countywide centers resides in countywide
27 planning bodies including the King County Growth Management Planning Council;

28 WHEREAS, the Growth Management Planning Council approved the King County
29 Candidate Countywide Center Identification Process in December 2020 and it was shared
30 with all jurisdictions in King County;

31 WHEREAS, jurisdictions have followed the steps in the Identification Process and
32 submitted potential Candidate Countywide Center applications to the King County
33 Interjurisdictional Team;

34 WHEREAS, a subcommittee of the Interjurisdictional Team reviewed the
35 applications, worked with jurisdictions to refine and clarify the applications, and brought a
36 recommendation to the Interjurisdictional Team;

37 WHEREAS, the Interjurisdictional Team reviewed the subcommittee's work and has
38 made a recommendation to the Growth Management Planning Council regarding which of
39 the applications should be included on the list of Candidate Countywide Centers;

40 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Growth Management Planning
41 Council of King County hereby approves the list of Candidate Countywide Centers as
42 depicted on the attached map.

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45 Chair, Growth Management Planning Council

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47 Attachment A: King County Candidate Countywide Centers Map

Attachment A: King County Candidate Countywide Centers

