



SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 | www.ssmcp.org



Executive Leadership Team:

- City of Lacey
- City of Lakewood
- Pierce County

Steering Committee:

- City of DuPont
- City of Tacoma
- City of University Place
- City of Yelm
- Thurston County
- Nisqually Tribe
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Washington State Military Department

Working Group Chairs:

- Clover Park School District
- Pierce Transit
- Puget Sound Energy
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Thurston Regional Planning Council
- Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- United Way-Pierce County
- Washington State Department of Transportation

Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104-1035

ATTENTION: Centers Framework Comment

SENT VIA E-MAIL: CentersComment@psrc.org

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Regional Centers Framework Update – Draft Board Proposal. We appreciate the forward momentum created by the Growth Management Policy Board.

SSMCP supports the notion that Military Centers are similar in nature to Manufacturing and Industrial Centers. The example of Boeing Field is a close parallel. But there are several important differences that regional planners and decision-makers should be aware of.

As national leaders decide where to invest defense dollars, they are looking for the best returns. It is important to acknowledge that defense assets have a life cycle and community leaders can extend that life cycle by how they support it.

Military installations have characteristics different than an urban center, but should still be considered a “center”. These installations have vast land holdings and large populations not subject to GMA or PSRC policy but local jurisdictions and the installation must cooperate to promote compatible civilian-military land use.

In addition to the economic value of Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM), its workforce creates demands on community-based social systems such as: housing, social services, public education, healthcare, transportation, and compatible land use. JBLM’s workforce is highly dispersed with a population spread over 17 communities. Due to the high percentage of military families (>85% live off-base) that reside in and interact with surrounding communities, acknowledging the wide-ranging socio-economic impact of JBLM is vital.

Be aware that JBLM meets all the criteria listed on page ten of the Regional Centers Framework draft proposal, only because of the coordination between JBLM and SSMCP members that have worked these issues for over several years, first by developing a Growth



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Coordination Plan and later on the JBLM Joint Land Use Study. This may not be the case for all military communities.

Please note that JBLM, as a federal installation, does not seek nor can it accept transportation funding from PSRC. It simply doesn't have authority to do so. Transportation projects in adjoining cities and the county affiliated with the impact of JBLM that could be subject to a PSRC grant application, would either be submitted by the jurisdictions most impacted by JBLM's presence or by the SSMCP on behalf of its stakeholders and partners.

In many ways, the SSMCP acts as a municipal planning organization bridging the gap between Pierce and Thurston Counties. As an example, the JBLM JLUS was completed in and approved by the SSMCP Elected Officials Council representing public agencies in Pierce and Thurston counties in October 2015. Currently, SSMCP is working on a JLUS Implementation Plan.

As communities grow and change, development pressures present unique challenges for installations and jurisdictions. Since local jurisdictions must account for the effects caused by the presence of large installations in Comprehensive Plans, plans developed by PSRC should give increased emphasis and resources to these jurisdictions – not to the military installation itself. JBLM's surrounding communities should be allowed to factor in the impact of the base when qualifying for regional transportation funding in the same manner as any regional center.

Recognizing military installations, and the communities impacted by them, as a distinct regional geographic type on par with a regional center is a way to reflect commitment to our military partners. As noted in the PSRC draft proposal, it is the belief of SSMCP partners that major military installations like JBLM should be recognized in VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040.



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A Partnership of over 53 member cities, counties, the Nisqually Tribe of Indians, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, State, regional, corporate, and non-profit organizations dedicated to fostering outcomes that are mutually beneficial to the South Sound region.



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