Road Map to Washington’s future
With 7.3 million people, Washington has the second largest population west of the Rockies. At 1,362 square miles, Washington is second smallest state west of the Rockies.
Washington has very diverse physical and economic geographies.
Washington has experienced dramatic growth over the last 25 years

- From 1990 to 2016, our state’s population grew by **2.5 million**

- The combined population of today’s three largest cities is 1.1 million
  
  \[
  \begin{align*}
  \text{Seattle} & \quad = \quad 686,800 \\
  \text{Spokane} & \quad = \quad 214,500 \\
  \text{Tacoma} & \quad = \quad 206,100 \\
  \end{align*}
  \]
  
  \[=\quad 1,107,400\]

- The **2.5 M** people added over the past 25 years is greater than:

  - City of Seattle
  - City of Seattle
  - Spokane
  - Spokane
  - Tacoma
  - Tacoma
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2016
CONTACT: Yi Zhao, 360-902-0592

Washington’s population grows at fastest pace since 2007

OLYMPIA, WA – Washington’s population grew by an estimated 1.73 percent over the past year — the largest percentage increase since 2007. The number of people in the state increased by 122,300 to 7,183,700, according to annual estimates prepared by the Office of Financial Management.
Population and jobs are unevenly spread across the state.
Issues related to ongoing growth and the accelerating pace of change manifest in calls for legislative action in Olympia.

- Since 1990, the legislature has made amendments to the Growth Management Act, Shoreline Management Act or State Environmental Policy Act almost every session.

- In the 2016 session, over 70 bills related to the GMA or other land use statutes were proposed. None passed.

- In the 2017 session, GMA bills have been introduced dealing with ground water allocation, school siting in the rural area, the supply of buildable lands, environmental impact statements, and manufactured housing.
Housing affordability is a shared statewide issue

**Home prices soaring across the state**

11 of these 12 metro areas in Washington saw home prices rise compared with a year ago, some by almost 14 percent.

*Source: CoreLogic housing-price index for April*

GARLAND POTTS / THE SEATTLE TIMES
Likewise, although distinct regional differences exist, public health is a statewide issue

Urban-rural gap in death rates growing
In 2016, OFM projected that over the next 25 years our state would add:

+100,000 (low estimate)
+1.6 million (medium estimate)
+3.5 million (high estimate)

The low estimate of an additional 100,000 people has already been surpassed.

Adding 3.5 million people by 2040, would be equivalent to adding:
Washington’s existing legal framework

Growth Management Act – RCW 36.70A
Planning Enabling Act – RCW 36.70
Shoreline Management Act – RCW 90.58
State Environmental Policy Act – RCW 43.21
Local Project Review Act – RCW 36.70B
Subdivision Statute – RCW 58.17
Water System Coordination Act – RCW 70.116
Local Governance – RCW 35, 35A, 36
Regional Planning – RCW 47.80
State, regional, local revenue authority
At first glance – the framework of laws and institutions may appear to fit together as a coherent whole.
The reality – the framework is a disjointed jumble of laws and institutions with gaps, conflicts and ambiguities
Which way to the future?
In 2016, the legislature asked the Ruckelshaus Center to propose a process to address the challenges of growth and change.

The Center prepared a draft “Road Map to the Future” and reviewed it with dozens of people and organizations.

Two-phase approach:

- **Phase 1** – Preliminary Assessment - 9/16 through 6/17
- **Phase 2** – Deep conversations with participants, public vision forums and research with university partners - 7/17 through 6/19
Project approach and scope

- Collaborate on a coherent and positive vision for our state’s future

- Assess the effectiveness of our statutory and institutional framework to reach that future

- Identify gaps, ambiguities and conflicts within that framework

- Seek agreement to support potential reforms for action in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions
Phase I – Pre-Assessment

**Timeframe:** August 2016 through June 2017

**Steps:** Background research, interviews, presentation(s)

**Deliverables:** Report, presentation(s)

**Identify and refine:**
- Scope of issues, statutes and institutions to assess
- Areas of potential agreement
- Potential interests, participants, champions
- Resources, expertise, partners
- A collaborative Phase II process
Phase II – Comprehensive Assessment and Road Map

**Timeframe:** July 2017 through June 2019+

**Steps:**
- Public Visioning Workshops across the state
- Deep and candid interviews with identified groups
- Targeted baseline research with university partners
- Periodic updates and presentations to participants
- Reports to the legislature on areas of agreement/potential action

**Objectives:**
- Engage resources and expertise to articulate a shared vision
- Summarize areas of potential agreement
- Identify actions that could serve compelling state interests while allowing for unique regional circumstances and priorities
The Center would engage interests from every sector and every corner of the state, including:

- Association of Washington Business
- Association of Washington Cities
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- Building Industry Association of Washington
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
- Centers for Disease Control
- Citizens Alliance for Property Rights
- Futurewise
- Master Builders of King and Snohomish Counties
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Washington Chapter, American Planning Association
- Washington Public Health Association
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Washington Sewer and Water Districts Association
- Washington State Association of Counties
- Washington State Farm Bureau

AND MANY MORE . . . .
**Project schedule**

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### Phase 1
- **Project scope, process, schedule**
- **Legislative Session**
- 2017-2019 biennium budget allocation

### Phase 2 – two years
- **Project status**
- **Potential recommendations**
- **Legisl. Sess.**
- **Potential legislation**
- **Recommended legislation**

### Phase 3?
- **Legisl. Sess.**
- **Potential legislation**

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**Public Outreach and Engagement**

- **Legislature Decision points**
- **Outreach, Visioning, Participant interviews, University research, check-ins with legislature and report preparation**
- **Reports to Legislature**

**Work ramps up on the city and county comprehensive plans due in the 2023 periodic update cycle**
Resources: previous plans, studies, visions and strategies
Resources: Research by Washington public institutions

- SUSTAINABLE CITIES PARTNERSHIP
- EVANS SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
- COLLEGE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- RURAL COMMUNITY PLANNING
- TRIBAL PLANNING
- MUNICIPAL RESEARCH
- CENTER FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION & RESEARCH
- CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL & ANTROPHOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- POLITICS & GOVERNMENT
- CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
- CAHNRS, Extension
Learning from Oregon’s unsuccessful “Big Look”
6 tips for our success

1. Assure a clear scope and agreement on the process
2. Identify project milestones and desired deliverables
3. Engage all interests, be inclusive and transparent
4. Support with non-partisan, empirical data – but don’t go into the weeds!
5. Provide sufficient funding to stay on schedule
6. Do not take too long!
Joe Tovar, FAICP, MUP
Project Co-Lead
William D. Ruckelshaus Center
jtovar@u.washington.edu
425.263.2792

Amanda Murphy, MMA
Project Co-Lead
William D. Ruckelshaus Center
amanda.g.murphy@wsu.edu
206.219.2409