

The following is an excerpt from a report analyzing the relationship between land use policy and transportation planning.

The main legislation guiding land use policy for the Washington State is the Growth Management Act (GMA). The Washington State Legislature passed the GMA in 1990 to provide for growth and development in the state, while maintaining quality of life. It mandates that 150 cities and counties adopt growth management plans (also called comprehensive plans) to plan for growth over the next 20 years. A key aspect of the GMA's mandate is transportation planning. The GMA requires comprehensive plans to address the following transportation issues:

- Coordinating regional transportation needs
- Reducing pollution from automobiles
- Managing traffic congestion
- Meeting the cost of transportation improvements
- Planning for transportation consistent with land use

Using these guidelines, cities and towns are creating integrated land use and transportation plans for the next 20 years.

One example of GMA planning is the City of Redmond's comprehensive plan implementation. Redmond's plan designates an area as its urban center, and other surrounding areas as either compact communities or rural areas. In the urban center and compact communities, the city encourages development that includes compact or clustered housing with adjacent green space. Retail and entertainment outlets are located within in walking distance of residences, eliminating the need to drive. The city has planned conveniently located transit stops and shuttles to local employers, such as Microsoft.

To fund their program Redmond has a \$65 per employee tax to pay for transportation facilities in the city. Redmond is estimated to collect \$2.5 million dollars annually for transportation improvements. Microsoft alone pays the city \$500,000 annually.

On the regional level, cities can coordinate with each other via the Puget Sound Regional Council; an association of governments in the Central Puget Sound Region including King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties. It serves as a forum for cities and counties to develop policies and make decisions for regional growth management including economic and transportation issues.