The Legislature invited AWC and others to collaborate on a statewide vision for Washington and help build a road map to that future. The state Legislature this session appropriated $600,000 for the project.

$300,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and $300,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to collaborate with groups and organizations, including associations of local governments, associations of the business, real estate and building industries, state agencies, environmental organizations, state universities, public health and planning organizations, and Tribal governments, to create a “Road Map to Washington’s Future.” The road map shall identify areas of agreements on ways to adapt Washington’s growth management framework of statutes, institutions and policies to meet future challenges in view of robust forecasted growth and the unique circumstances and urgent priorities in the diverse regions of the state.

The center shall, in conjunction with state universities and other sponsors, conduct regional workshops to:

1. Engage Washington residents in identifying a desired statewide vision for Washington’s future;
2. Partner with state universities on targeted research to inform future alternatives;
3. Facilitate deep and candid interviews with representatives of the above named groups and organizations; and
4. Convene parties for collaborative conversations and potential agreement seeking.

The center must submit a final report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by June 30, 2019.

The project scope is the State of Washington’s planning framework of laws, policies, and institutions. Road maps will identify redundancies and pinpoint areas of conflict, gaps, or confusion. While the primary focus will be the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), the planning framework also consists of other statutes:

- Local Project Review Act – RCW 36.70B
- Regional Transportation Planning – RCW 47.80
- Land Use Petition Act – RCW 36.70C
- Water-Sewer Districts – RCW 57
- Planning Enabling Act – RCW 36.70
- Water System Coordination Act – RCW 70.116
- Port Districts – RCW 53
- School District Property – RCW 28A.335
- Shoreline Management Act – RCW 90.58
- Cities and Towns – RCW 35
- State Environmental Policy Act – RCW 43.21C
- Optional Municipal Code – RCW 35A
- Plats, Subdivisions, Dedications – RCW 58.17
- Counties – RCW 35

Envisioning a desired future requires a community dialogue about values, priorities, and aspirations.

The framework includes the GMA and other state laws that address land use, transportation, environmental protection, economic development, and governance.

One challenge: Connecting the state’s growth management framework to the state’s 29 federally recognized tribes.

Washington’s many regions have very diverse physical, economic, and human geographies.

Conversations focused on interests rather than positions and better long-term outcomes as well as near-term gains are more likely to build understanding and find areas of agreement.

For more information: ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/projects/current-projects