



**DATE:** May 14, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, April 2024

**Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Executive Board**

At its April 25 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Adopted a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Three agencies submitted six projects for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
  - King County Metro: RapidRide I Line
  - Kitsap Transit: Port Orchard International Terminal
  - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):
    - State Route (SR) 7 and Pacific Highway Crossing and Signalization
    - I-90/South Fork Snoqualmie River Bridges – Seismic Retrofit
    - I-90/South Fork Snoqualmie River Bridge Westbound – Deck Rehabilitation
    - I-90/Upper Snoqualmie River Bridge Westbound – Seismic Retrofit
- **Authorized PSRC staff to enter into one or more contracts to provide strategic advice on communications methods, user accessibility and strategy.**
- **Authorized PSRC staff to enter into one or more contracts to provide strategic information and advice on state budgets and legislation** and provide government relations support.
- **Approved updates to PSRC's project tracking policies.** PSRC's adopted project tracking policies are designed to monitor spending of PSRC's federal funds and to redistribute funds when necessary to meet spending deadlines. The Executive Board approved adjustments to the Federal Transit Agency (FTA) funding process to provide flexibility that allows the FTA funding to be distributed efficiently.
- **Approved 2024 extension requests.** Project extensions are allowed by the PSRC Project Tracking Policies when projects that are awarded PSRC funds are unable to meet the June 1 obligation deadline for reasons beyond the sponsor's control. This action included a one-year extension for the City of Bellevue's Main Street Off-Street Multimodal Pathway project. Bellevue was awarded \$1,041,000 for construction of this project, which will install wide, multimodal access connecting the 108th Avenue Downtown Bikeway with the new Main Street Light Rail Station at 112th Avenue. The project also fills a gap in the Lake-to-Lake Trail, furthering access toward the Eastrail. The project is delayed due to an extended property rights acquisition process. This extension allows construction to begin by spring of 2025, with completion anticipated by the end of 2025.
- **Recommended that the General Assembly adopt the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program.** Federal grants generally make up

nearly 80 percent of PSRC's budget, state grants contribute about 5 percent, and local funds provide 15 percent. PSRC's Biennial Budget and Work Program was adopted in May 2023 and covers July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. The Proposed Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program of approximately \$45 million is a steady-state budget with no overall changes in revenues and expenditures beyond the Executive Boards's last amendment in September 2023. The General Assembly will consider adoption on May 30.

- **Discussed the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).** The CCA is Washington's cap-and-invest program targeted at reducing carbon pollution and achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) limits. It was adopted by the legislature in 2020. Initiative 2117 to repeal the CCA is on the ballot in November 2024. House Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbon, House Transportation Chair Jake Fey, and Governor's Policy Advisor Becky Kelly described impacts to the state's budget if Initiative 2117 is adopted.
- **Discussed federal legislative matters.** As stated above, approximately 80 percent of PSRC's funding comes from federal grants. PSRC educates federal policymakers about the region's priorities and needs, which include environmental stewardship, reducing GHG emissions, transportation safety, equity and inclusion, economic development, housing choices and affordability, and more.

The Executive Board will not meet in May due to the May 30 General Assembly meeting. All members of City Council are invited to attend the General Assembly.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for June 27. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

### **PSRC Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

At its April 11 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended the Executive Board adopt a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP,** as described in the April 25 Executive Board update.
- **Recommended that the Executive Board adopt updates to PSRC's project tracking policies,** as described in the April 25 Executive Board update. TPB members unanimously approved an amendment that provides more flexibility to transit agencies to use FTA funding to serve the region's equity focus populations. This increased flexibility also allows funding to be distributed more efficiently.
- **Recommended that the Executive Board approve the 2024 extension requests,** as described in the April 25 Executive Board update.
- **Discussed the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2026-2050 development process.** Under federal and state law, PSRC is required to develop a long-range RTP every four years. PSRC staff provided an overview of the current RTP, which was adopted in 2022.

The TPB met on May 9; a summary will be included in the next Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next TPB meeting is scheduled for June 13. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the TPB.

### **PSRC Growth Management Policy Board**

At its April 4 meeting, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB):

- **Discussed the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency CPRG program is providing funds to states and large urban areas to develop near- and long-term climate action plans. The board heard about work completed to date under an existing regional grant and an application recently submitted by the region and state. Bellevue staff participated on the regional steering committee to prepare the application, which was due April 1. The City's grant proposal works across the building sector to decrease climate pollution, fill gaps in current state and federal programming, and increase community resilience and high-quality jobs for the most vulnerable populations in our region.
- **Heard a briefing on the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Community Solar Program.** Community Solar is a way for PSE electric customers to share the benefits of 100 percent local solar power. Solar panels have been installed on the rooftops of schools and other municipalities.
- **Discussed local climate planning.** The board heard from staff from the cities of Sammamish and Lakewood about how climate change impacts are being addressed in their comprehensive plans. Staff from the Washington State Department of Commerce shared findings from a survey of small and mid-size cities about their approaches to climate planning.

The GMPB met on May 2; a summary will be included in the next Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for June 6. Councilmember Janice Zahn represents Bellevue on the GMPB.