



DATE: August 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, July 2025

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its July 3 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended the Executive Board certify the comprehensive plans** for Algona, Auburn, Gig Harbor, Maple Valley, Mukilteo, King County, Pierce County and Snohomish County. The comprehensive plans were reviewed by PSRC staff in accordance with the adopted plan review process using PSRC's Plan Review Manual and VISION 2050 consistency tool. The plans were found to be substantially consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan and to conform to transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act (GMA). Bellevue's 2024 comprehensive plan was certified in March 2025.
- **Discussed the Regional Centers update.** PSRC staff provided background on the Regional Centers Framework which was last updated in 2018, the recently published draft centers system monitoring report, and upcoming decisions to redesignate existing centers and designate new centers. The board will be asked for a recommendation on center redesignation and new center designation at the October meeting. Bellevue has one regionally designated Regional Growth Center – Downtown Bellevue. Downtown Bellevue is expected to be redesignated as a Regional Growth Center later this year.

The GMPB will not meet in August. The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for September 4. Councilmember Vishal Bhargava represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its July 10 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2025-2028 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Two agencies submitted four projects:
 - King County Department of Transportation:
 - Atlantic Base Maintenance Building Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Replacement
 - Broad Street Substation Transformer Replacement
 - Trolley Vehicle Maintenance 2024-2028
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): State Route (SR) 104/Hood Canal Bridge Girder Replacement

- **Recommended certification of comprehensive plans** for Algona, Auburn, Gig Harbor, Maple Valley, Mukilteo, King County, Pierce County, and Snohomish County, as described in the GMPB meeting summary on the previous page.
- **Recommended authorizing a change in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project status** for Bothell's Bothell Way NE Multimodal Improvements project. Bothell submitted a request to change the status of the project from "candidate" to "approved" in the RTP. Per PSRC's adopted procedures, requests to change project status require TPB action.
- **Recommended approval of a project tracking exception request for Sultan's US-2/Main Street Roundabout project.** The request is for additional time to deliver the project beyond its previously approved deadline for PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. PSRC staff reviewed this request and found that it is aligned with adopted PSRC policy.
- **Received a briefing on WSDOT's Consolidated Grant Program awards for 2025-2027.** This grant program provides funds for transit, including public transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities, which is called "specialized transportation services." WSDOT awarded funds to 17 projects from the PSRC region. Two of the funded projects will operate in Bellevue:
 - Catholic Community Services of King County provides low-income older adults and adults with disabilities in King County with free transportation using volunteers.
 - Sound Generations provides paratransit service for seniors and people with disabilities in Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond who are unable to use public transportation such as the bus or Paratransit, because they cannot afford the fare, are not eligible, or are too frail to use it.
- **Recommended approval of the 2025 Annual Adjustment of PSRC's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds.** PSRC has project selection authority for several sources of funding from the FTA. A project selection process is conducted every two years to distribute these funds via a competitive process. This is done using estimates of future FTA funding allocations, which may be more or less than the actual allocation amounts. After Congress approves the final amounts, the TPB must take action to adjust the preliminary grant awards to match the actual amounts. The TPB recommended an adjustment to reduce total federal fiscal year 2025 awards by \$8.6 million.
- **Discussed RTP financial strategies and investments.** The next RTP, slated for adoption in 2026, outlines transportation investments and needs through 2050, including maintenance, operations, and system improvements. Forecasted revenues, based on existing sources, fall short by 21 percent (\$78 billion). The TPB directed PSRC staff to develop financial models with a range of revenue and expenditure options. Bellevue recommended focusing on equitable, economically supportive revenue alternatives to the gas tax.

The TPB will not meet in August. The next TPB meeting is scheduled for September 11. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Executive Board

At its July 24, 2025 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Heard a briefing on planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.** Event planners are expecting about 75,000 visitors for the FIFA World Cup games, with about 60 percent of these visitors traveling internationally and the majority being first time visitors to Seattle. Crowd management, safety, and transportation options will be critical. City of Bellevue is coordinating with Visit Bellevue and Downtown Bellevue Association on events held in Bellevue during the World Cup games next summer.
- **Heard a briefing on state transportation policy and budget.** State Senator Marko Liias shared his thoughts on the 2026 state legislative session. He believes the focus will be on finding a sustainable path forward for the next 2-6 years. Senator Liias suggested the state enabling framework for local transportation benefit districts (TBDs) could be updated to better serve local jurisdictions. He mentioned revenue and tax fatigue and that new revenue sources will be an uphill battle.
- **Heard a briefing on the future of the Port of Seattle.** The Port of Seattle Executive Director Steve P. Metruck shared information on their economic development program and the needs at Sea-Tac Airport. Focus areas will include sustainability improvements and upgrades to the airport to better accommodate increased travel demands, including international travel.

The Executive Board will not meet in August. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for September 25. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.