



DATE: December 12, 2022

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Committees Update

Executive Board

At its December 1 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority for the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) Event Planning.** The Seattle region was selected to host the Spring 2023 ACE event. PSRC and the Economic Development District Board (EDDB) are among the lead entities planning the programming for the week-long event. Assistance from experienced event planning consultants is needed for project and event management, as well as program development.
- **Approved contract authority for facilitation services.** A working group was created to develop a recommendation for PSRC's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding distribution. The FTA Funding Working Group began meeting in September using a facilitator to aid in the discussions. Additional meetings with the facilitator have been requested.
- **Approved PSRC's 2023 Recommendations to the State Legislature.** PSRC has developed a legislative agenda based on adopted regional plans and policies. The final policy areas are:
 - Keep the Region Moving (transportation)
 - Increase Housing Choices and Affordability
 - Significantly Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Sustain a Strong Economy
- **Heard an update from the Equity Advisory Committee co-chairs on creating a Regional Equity Strategy.** The Regional Equity Strategy will seek to improve outcomes for marginalized communities and to improve PSRC's own internal operations.
- **Discussed the preliminary results from the 2030 climate analysis,** as directed by the RTP. PSRC developed a 2030 transportation network and worked with partner agencies to develop a climate implementation strategy for achieving the climate goals identified in VISION 2050. PSRC staff have assessed how transit service, access to transit, road capacity projects, road pricing assumptions, electric vehicle adoption and work from home behaviors could impact greenhouse gas emissions.



- **Reviewed the performance of the Executive Director.**

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2023. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its November 3 meeting, the GMPB:

- Received a briefing on Stormwater Parks Projects and Guidance. Puget Sound recovery is a key goal in VISION 2050. The development of stormwater parks is one effective method for fixing legacy stormwater problems and is an efficient way to treat stormwater and provide recreational opportunities for local communities. In 2020, PSRC received a Puget Sound National Estuary Grant to help fund the development of stormwater parks and develop planning guidance for stormwater parks. The GMPB was briefed about the development of six new stormwater parks, currently receiving technical assistance for early planning. Services being provided include community engagement, feasibility studies, alternatives development, conceptual design, and cost estimates. PSRC staff is developing planning guidance to make it easier for jurisdictions to plan for and construct stormwater parks in the region and improve water quality. The guidance is expected to be available in late December.
- Received a recap on the Regional TOD Event. The GMPB received a recap of the TOD for All: Planning for 1 Million+ New People Near Transit event that took place on October 21. The TOD event included a webinar with two panels highlighting industry perspectives and community-led transit-oriented development, as well as in-person walking tours at various locations in the region. The event was sponsored by the Regional Transit-Oriented Development Committee. A video of the webinar is available on PSRC's website.
- Received a briefing on the 2022 Housing Incentives and Tools Survey. PSRC developed the Regional Housing Strategy to serve as a playbook for local action to help promote affordable, accessible, and safe housing choices. As an implementation step of the Regional Housing Strategy, PSRC fielded a survey -the 2022 Housing Incentives and Tools Survey- to local jurisdictions to better understand how tools, incentives, and strategies are being used, and which have the biggest impact on increasing housing development and affordability. The Growth Board was briefed on initial findings:
 - MFTE was the third most used incentive in 2019 and continues to be active in 2022.
 - Parking reduction policies have been adopted by 18 local jurisdictions since 2019.
 - Forty-one cities responded they have or are planning to adopt at least one zoning



- change to increase housing capacity since 2019.
 - PSRC staff is continuing to process responses and further develop findings. A complete report will be made available at the February 2023 board meeting
- Received a briefing on the Housing Public Opinion Survey. PSRC is working with the state Department of Commerce and the consulting firm PRR to conduct a statewide public opinion survey on housing. The GMPB was provided an overview of the survey, including preliminary results. Key takeaways include:
 - Homelessness and housing costs/rents are the top-rated problems in Washington state.
 - Most respondents think rents and costs to buy a home are too high.
 - Most respondents agreed that multi-family housing should be allowed in single-family zones if they meet the standards of the zone, such as heights, setbacks, and parking.
 - Full results are expected later this month, and will be reported to the Executive Board.

The next GMPB meeting is a joint board session on structural racism and is scheduled for November 30. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its November 10 meeting, the TPB:

- **Discussed the 2022 Transit Integration Report**, which increases awareness of transit coordination activities and opportunities in the region. The 2022 Report highlighted multi-agency coordination to implement the free youth transit pass by October 1, opportunities for rebuilding ridership since the pandemic, and growing the workforce to achieve pre-pandemic service levels.
- **Heard a briefing on climate change analysis and implementation strategy.** VISION 2050 established a 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal of 50 percent below 1990 levels. To achieve VISION's climate goals and monitor progress, the RTP directs PSRC to develop a climate implementation strategy. PSRC is developing a 2030 transportation network and inputs corresponding to the Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy. PSRC staff shared the concept of "sensitivity tests" that would be used to demonstrate how the region could consider lowering emissions.
- **Discussed transportation demand management (TDM) and commute-trip reduction (CTR) activities.** Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) staff shared a proposal for the upcoming legislative session that would create a "Mobility Partnership" Grant program. The proposed program aligns with the call to expand TDM activities identified in the RTP.



- **Discussed project tracking and delivery system for PSRC's federal funds.** The adopted project tracking policies are designed to ensure timely use of PSRC funds and increase the delivery of transportation investments. PSRC must meet its annual funding delivery target or risk losing the unused portion of funds to other regions in the state. Refinements to PSRC's project tracking program will likely be recommended based on trends and current challenges.

At its December 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Discussed the preliminary results from the 2030 climate analysis,** as directed by the RTP. PSRC developed a 2030 transportation network and worked with partner agencies to develop a climate implementation strategy for achieving the climate goals identified in VISION 2050. PSRC staff have assessed how transit service, access to transit, road capacity projects, road pricing assumptions, electric vehicle adoption and work from home behaviors could impact greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Discussed PSRC's safety work program,** including a recent application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program, planning for a regional safety convening in early 2023, and the development of a Regional Safety Plan.
- **Discussed PSRC's progress in creating a Regional Equity Strategy.** The Regional Equity Strategy will seek to improve outcomes for marginalized communities and how PSRC operates internally.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2023. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Economic Development District (EDD) Board

The EDD Board met on December 7, too close to council packet publication deadline to be included in this memo. Notes will be included in the January packet. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDD Board.