



DATE: July 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Council Update, June 2024

Executive Board

At its June 27, 2024 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority** for:
 - consultant services for a federal policy and grant consultant;
 - audio-visual systems maintenance; and,
 - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) public engagement.

- **Adopted a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Three agencies submitted six projects for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
 - **Pierce Transit:** System-Wide Bus Shelters Modernization and Related Passenger Amenities Upgrade
 - **Shoreline:** State Route (SR) 523 (N/NE 145th Street) Aurora Avenue North to I-5, Phase 3
 - **Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region:**
 - SR 18/Issaquah Hobart Road to Deep Creek Vicinity – Widening
 - SR 3/Ostrich Creek – Remove Fish Barrier
 - **WSDOT Olympic Region:** SR 162/SR 410 Interchange - Roundabouts

- **Discussed development of the *Regional Safety Action Plan*.** The Puget Sound region is currently experiencing a traffic safety crisis. In 2023, 367 people walking or riding a bike were killed in the four-county PSRC region. These are historic levels last seen in the 1990s. Considering the traffic safety crisis, PSRC will develop its first *Regional Safety Action Plan*, funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. This is a multiyear effort to improve traffic safety in the central Puget Sound region in a comprehensive, data-informed, equitable, and collaborative way. PSRC will publish a draft *Regional Safety Action Plan* by late- 2024.

- **Heard an update on the regional Equity Tracker project.** The Equity Tracker is a tool that uses data to help measure the well-being of different communities in our region. The tool tracks progress on regional equity-related goals, holds PSRC accountable, and enhances PSRC's ability to support members and stakeholders in pursuit of equity objectives.

- **Reviewed the comprehensive plan review work plan and approach.** State law requires PSRC to review and certify local comprehensive plans. When certified, jurisdictions are eligible for PSRC’s federal transportation funds. Early findings from draft plans were highlighted and PSRC will continue to review and comment on draft comprehensive plans. The Executive Board may begin certifying comprehensive plans as early as this fall.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for July 25. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

Transportation Policy Board

At its June 13 meeting, the Transportation Policy Board (TPB):

- **Recommended the Executive Board adopt a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP,** as described in the June 27 Executive Board update.
- **Discussed development of the *Regional Safety Action Plan*,** as described in the June 27 Executive Board update.
- **Received a briefing on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Financial Strategy.** The next RTP is under development and scheduled for adoption in 2026. Because the RTP is financially constrained, the region is required to demonstrate that it has enough transportation revenue to cover new capital projects as well as preservation and maintenance. The current RTP, adopted in 2022, demonstrates that 84 percent of the plan is funded with forecasted current law revenues. The RTP includes a menu of options that policymakers could implement to cover the remaining 16 percent of costs, a value of approximately \$43 billion dollars. The 2026 RTP will need to include a similar menu of options.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for July 11. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Growth Management Policy Board

At its June 6 meeting, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB):

- **Reviewed the comprehensive plan review work plan and approach,** as described in the June 27 Executive Board update. Once comprehensive plans have been adopted, the board will make certification recommendations to the Executive Board.
- **Received a briefing on housing trends for Asian American and Pacific Island (AAPI) populations.** As part of AAPI Heritage Month, PSRC conducted data analysis of the housing experiences of AAPI residents. The analysis found that while Asians as a

whole have a relatively low poverty rate and the highest median income across all racial groups, there is considerable variation based on ethnicity, country of origin and length of time in the United States.

- **Heard an update on the regional Equity Tracker project**, as described in the June 27 Executive Board update.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for July 18. Councilmember Janice Zahn represents Bellevue on the GMPB.