



DATE: April 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Council Committees Update, March 2024

Executive Board

At its March 28 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Adopted a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Five agencies submitted seven projects for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
 - King County Metro: Pier 48 Gangway Replacement
 - North Bend: South Fork Extension Bypass
 - Sumner: Fryar Avenue Shared Use Trail
 - Tukwila:
 - Interurban Avenue S Overlay
 - Boeing Access Road Overlay
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region: State Route (SR) 92/Pilchuck River – Chronic Environmental Deficiency
 - WSDOT Olympic Region: SR 166/Ross Creek – Remove Fish Barrier
- **Approved a change in Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project status for the City of Tacoma's Water Ditch Trail Phase 3 Project** from "candidate" to "approved."
- **Approved PSRC Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding for King County Metro's Pier 48 Gangway Replacement Project.** PSRC has project selection authority over certain funding programs under the FTA. King County Metro is requesting a redistribution of \$4,805,000 in PSRC's 2024 FTA funds from another Metro project to the new Pier 48 Gangway Replacement Project. This project supports Metro's water taxi maintenance facility.
- **Approved updates to PSRC's project tracking policies.** PSRC's adopted project tracking policies are designed to ensure the timely use of PSRC's federal funds and to increase the delivery of transportation investments that support the region's long-range plans. The Executive Board recently approved revisions to the policies for PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The policies also address requirements for PSRC's FTA funds. The Executive Board approved adjustments to the FTA funding process to ensure that the formula funding distribution can be done efficiently.
- **Approved 2024 project tracking and supplemental funding action.** PSRC is required to meet delivery targets for FHWA funds. A certain amount of funds, called "targets," must be authorized for spending by June 1 of each year, or else the funding may be lost to other regions in Washington. Per PSRC's adopted policies, the Executive Board's supplemental funding action allocated approximately \$40 million. This enables PSRC to meet its 2024 delivery target.
- **Discussed Washington State Ferry (WSF) system.** Newly appointed WSF Assistant Secretary Steve Nevey provided perspective on recent ferry investments during the 2024 Legislative Session. The Legislature allocated additional funding for WSF in the

Supplemental Transportation Budget. The funding will support the construction of five new ferries and electrification of three ferries. State funding will also be used for other ferry-related costs, such as preservation, maintenance, and studying the economic impacts of ferry service.

- **Received a briefing on outcomes of the 2024 Legislative Session.** The 60-day session ended on March 7. Legislators passed supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets with key investments made in affordable housing, behavioral health and addressing the opioid crisis, ferries, transportation projects and tackling climate change. Major policy discussions included land use, affordable housing, taxation, climate change, rent regulation, human services, public safety, and funding tools.
- **Discussed PSRC's climate work program.** PSRC staff provided a briefing on the climate work program to date and the schedule of activities through development of the next RTP, which is scheduled for adoption in 2026. Over the past year, PSRC conducted a climate analysis, which identified progress towards the region's 2030 climate goals and included various sensitivity tests to analyze potential impacts of additional strategies within the framework of PSRC's adopted Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

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

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its March 14 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended the Executive Board adopt a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP,** as described in the March 28 Executive Board update.
- **Approved a change in RTP project status for the City of Tacoma's Water Ditch Trail Phase 3 Project,** as described in the March 28 Executive Board update.
- **Approved PSRC FTA funding for King County Metro's Pier 48 Gangway Replacement Project,** as described in the March 28 Executive Board update.
- **Approved updates to PSRC's project tracking policies,** as described in the March 28 Executive Board update.
- **Approved 2024 project tracking and supplemental funding action,** as described in the March 28 Executive Board update. TPB members discussed how PSRC should account for project cost increases that occur after a funding application is approved. This topic will return for discussion at a future TPB meeting.
- **Discussed project selection future work items.** The TPB finalized recommendations on the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds* in January; the recommendation was then adopted by the Executive Board. The following two items were not recommended at that time:
 - Prohibiting from the competition projects adding general purpose capacity expansion on limited access highways.
 - Setting a threshold for funding projects only above a certain total score, since the

final scores and rankings reflect how well each project meets each of the project evaluation criteria and regional policies.

The TPB directed staff to conduct research on these two concepts and to present the findings to TPB in late fall.

- **Discussed PSRC's climate work program**, as described in the March 28 Executive Board update.

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

Growth Management Policy Board

At its March 7 meeting, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB):

- **Heard an update on Puget Sound recovery.** Staff from the Puget Sound Partnership, Kitsap County and the City of Poulsbo briefed the board on Puget Sound recovery efforts and sought feedback on how the Partnership and PSRC can further support local work. Staff described funding opportunities for projects and activities that support the Puget Sound recovery.
- **Heard a briefing on zoning and barriers to developing early childhood education facilities.** Enterprise Community Partners and South Sound Military and Communities Partnership shared how land use regulations may create unintended barriers to developing new childcare facilities and how addressing those barriers could improve childcare opportunities for families.

The GMPB met on April 4. The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for May 2. Councilmember Janice Zahn represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Economic Development District Board (EDDB)

At its March 6 meeting, the EDDB:

- **Received a staff update from Jason Thibedeau, PSRC's Economic Development Manager.** PSRC has moved to a new office in the 1201 Third building. Jason shared PSRC's ongoing workplan, including topic areas such as the overall economic development ecosystem, workforce development, infrastructure, housing, clean technology, AI, and the defense sector. The Board was reminded about PSRC's role as the Economic Development Administrations Puget Sound designated economic development district.
- **Ratified Economic Development District Board Officers.** Councilmember Conrad Lee was ratified by the Board as President, and Pierce County Councilmember Dave Morrell was ratified as Vice President. Councilmember Lee introduced Presidential Appointments and the incoming Executive Committee, which were then ratified by the Board.
- **Received an informational update on the activity of the Washington State Legislature.** During session, legislators focused on passing a supplemental budget and

addressing critical topics such as behavioral health, the opioid crisis, housing supply and affordability, homelessness, transportation budget including ferries, and climate change.

- **Received a presentation from the Olympic Workforce Development Council (WDC).** William Dowling, Director of Olympic WDC, presented on the functions of local workforce development boards, which include jobseeker services, business services, education, training, and data and research.
- **Received a presentation from Greater Seattle Partners (GSP).** GSP CEO Brian Surratt, and COO Rebecca Lovell provided an overview of GSP's recent efforts and focus areas for 2024, including:
 - GSP's three-year capital campaign
 - "Uncommon Thinkers Welcome", GSP's national marketing campaign for the Puget Sound Region
 - Programs such as the Export Accelerator, SelectUSA, and site visit coaching
 - GSP's upcoming International Leadership Mission to South Korea.

The next EDDB meeting is scheduled for June 5. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDDB.

Greater Seattle Partners (GSP) Board of Directors Update

At its March 8 meeting, the Board of Directors:

- **Passed two resolutions** to create new thresholds and approvals to enter into new contracts and formally recognize *ex officio* members as non-voting members on the Board.
- **Nominated and ratified new members**, including Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson who was welcomed and ratified to the Board.
- **Received an update on major initiatives, including site visit coaching and the Export Accelerator Program.**
 - GSP Chief Operating Officer Rebecca Lovell gave an update on GSP's site visit coaching program, which Bellevue participated in. GSP hired a site selector consultant, Global Location Strategies (GLS), to perform a mock site selection exercise with the region. GLS has finished their final report, which will be distributed to GSP members soon. GSP's paid media partnerships with GeekWire and the Puget Sound Business Journal are underway.
 - The Export Accelerator Program, which is a program for small businesses to learn how to export goods, had its application for the second cohort launch on April 22. GSP saw a 90 percent retention rate from the first cohort, as well as a reported average of \$340,000 export revenue within the first 6-12 months. Results of last year's SelectUSA Spinoff were highlighted and participation is encouraged for the upcoming June event, hosted in Bellevue. The spinoff will host 30 international companies who are in the final stages of locating a site in the United States for a familiarization tour in the US.
 - Staff highlighted positive outcomes from GSP's previous International Leadership Mission in Japan to promote the upcoming mission to Korea. Mayor Robinson will represent Bellevue on this mission.



City of Bellevue

City Manager's Office

- **Received an update on GSP's capital campaign**, which is currently in the private phase to line up commitments before going public in June. GSP has met with Boeing, Virginia Mason, King County, and the City of Bellevue. GSP staff feels confident that the campaign will reach its goal of a \$3.5 million organizational budget.

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