



City of Bellevue

City Manager's Office

**DATE:** January 14, 2025

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

### **Executive Board**

At its December 5, 2024 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Authorized a contract for consultant services** at an amount not to exceed \$10,000. The consultant will evaluate PSRC's information technology infrastructure and implement an electronic document and records management system.
- **Adopted Recommendations to the 2025 State Legislature.** Based on adopted regional plans and policies, the document includes core priorities of transportation, housing choices and affordability, climate change and economic development. New language in 2025 reflects the region's focus on improving transportation safety and the need for stable state transportation revenue sources. The document also includes a request to support the establishment of a Housing Research Center to confront the affordability challenges faced in the region.
- **Approved the scope of work to update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2026-2050.** The scope of work includes the focus areas of safety, climate and equity; maintenance and preservation; transit and accessibility; ferries; decarbonizing the system; and recognizing the diverse needs and community contexts around the region. The RTP update will also address changes in travel behavior since the pandemic, rising transportation project costs, and revenue challenges. The RTP update scheduled for adoption in May 2026.
- **Discussed the state of the region's housing.** The Regional Housing Strategy is a playbook of regional and local actions to preserve, improve and expand housing stock in the region. The aim is to make a range of affordable, accessible, healthy and safe housing choices available to every resident and to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people. The strategy calls for PSRC to track performance and outcomes over time and identify challenges or barriers in consultation with jurisdictions and other stakeholders. The 2024 update shows that residents continue to struggle to access housing that is within their budget. The cost of ownership housing has risen at a higher rate than rental costs, though renters continue to be cost-burdened, particularly renters of color. Data show that the region has been catching up on building enough housing to support population growth, though multifamily permitting has been declining since late-2021, likely in response to elevated interest rates.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for January 23. Mayor Lynne Robinson

represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

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

At its December 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Discussed the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Consolidated Grant Program.** This ongoing statewide competition provides funds for transit, including services for seniors and people with disabilities. WSDOT holds the competition once every two years to fund projects for the upcoming biennium. PSRC provides regional priority rankings that are one component of project scoring. On January 9, the TPB will be asked to approve regional priority rankings for the 2025-2027 competition.
- **Discussed the RTP financial strategy.** The TPB discussed potential new transportation revenue sources that could be used to pay for future regional transportation projects, including a road usage charge (RUC), increased vehicle registration fees, increases sales tax rates for local transit, and a potential motor vehicle excise tax.
- **Discussed the year in review.** Just under six billion dollars was programmed in PSRC's Regional Transportation Improvement Program in 2024, reflecting expenditures of federal, state and local funds for projects of wide variety in size and scope. PSRC staff provided highlights of some of these transportation investments and milestones that occurred in the region over the last year.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for January 9. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the TPB.

### **Growth Management Policy Board**

The Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) did not meet in December. The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for January 16. Councilmember Janice Zahn represents Bellevue on the GMPB.