



**DATE:** June 26, 2023

**TO:** Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

**FROM:** Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Committees Update

**General Assembly**

At its May 30 meeting, the General Assembly:

- **Adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Biennial Budget and Work Program.** The budget reflects revenues and expenditures of \$32.0 million. The budget includes a 4 percent annual dues increase to build the reserve fund balance and support operations once the recommended target is reached. The work program allocates resources for updating the region's growth management strategy - VISION 2050 - and ongoing work on the updated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Additionally, funds are designated for improving transportation demand and land use models, developing growth forecasts, and collecting and analyzing data to support planning efforts. The proposed plans and tools are intended to assist local comprehensive plan updates.
- **Election of officers.** The General Assembly unanimously elected Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson as President and Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers as Vice-President. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci served as President for the previous two years.

Mayor Lynne Robinson and Councilmember Conrad Lee represented Bellevue at the 2023 General Assembly. There was no Executive Board meeting in May.

**Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

At its June 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Seven agencies submitted fifteen projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
  - Arlington: 169th St Connecting Segment
  - Community Transit:
    - Marysville Urbanized Area Transit Operations
    - Preventative Maintenance
    - Swift Bus Rapid Transit Gold Line
  - Kitsap County: Harper Estuary Barrier Correction
  - Pierce Transit: Battery Electric Buses and Infrastructure



- Sound Transit: Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (2023-2026)
- Seattle: RapidRide J Line
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region:
  - I-90/Unnamed Tributaries to Tibbetts Creek & Lake Sammamish – Fish Passage
  - US 2/S Fork Skykomish River Bridge at Beckler Rd Vicinity – Painting
  - I-5/Duwamish River BN & UP RR Overcrossing Bridge – Painting
  - SR 202/Snoqualmie River Bridge – Painting
  - SR 202/S Fork Snoqualmie River Bridge – Painting
  - SR 529/Southbound Steamboat Slough Bridge – Bridge Painting
- **Recommended approval of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project tracking extensions.** PSRC routinely monitors the progress of FTA funds awarded to transit agencies. The Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) recently reviewed projects that are experiencing delays and recommended extensions for eight projects, per guidelines established in PSRC's adopted Project Tracking Policies.
- **Recommended approval to the Executive Board of the Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center Designation and Subarea Plans Certification.** PSRC received an application from the City of Kirkland to designate a 564-acre center focused around Kirkland's downtown in February. This action would also certify that the Moss Bay Neighborhood Plan and the NE 85th Street Station address regional growth expectations.
- **Recommended approval of the annual FTA adjustments and \$84.8 million in additional 2023 FTA funds.** The 2023 FTA funds initially distributed by PSRC were based on estimates from the 2020 project selection process, but the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) updated the allocation levels. The final allocation exceeded the estimates, resulting in an additional \$84.8 million for the region. Some of the additional funds were allocated to previously awarded projects, while the rest will be distributed later through an equity formula distribution process.
- **Received a briefing on the 2023 State Legislative Session.** Significant changes were made to the Growth Management Act (GMA), including new requirements to plan for housing and for climate change. Three notable pieces of legislation -- House Bill 1110, House Bill 1337, and House Bill 1181 -- were passed. House Bill 1110, the Middle Housing Bill, requires certain cities to authorize development ranging from duplexes to six-plexes in residential zones. TPB members also discussed the stalled Road Usage Charge (RUC) legislation.
- **Discussed the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) transition planning research.** The Regional Transportation Plan (May 2022) calls on PSRC to "Elevate the work and needs of ADA transition planning, including monitoring the progress and supporting the



development and analysis of local plans.” As a first step, PSRC staff conducted background research on ADA transition planning (elements related to public rights-of-ways and/or pedestrian facilities) and completed a regional inventory survey to help inform direction.

- **Heard PSRC’s safety program updates.** Since the adoption of the RTP in May 2022, PSRC staff has been working on short- and long-term implementation tasks, particularly focusing on safety. Staff shared information about the regional safety summit, work to develop a Regional Safety Plan, and technical and contractual support for the USDOT’s Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.
- **Learned about PSRC funding updates,** including the Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program, the Equity Pilot, and the FTA Equity Formula Distribution.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for July 13. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

### **Economic Development District (EDD) Board**

At its June 7 meeting, the EDD Board:

- **Received a briefing on the Washington Autonomous Vehicle Cluster (WAV-C),** an organization dedicated to growing the unpiloted and autonomous water vehicles industry in Washington State. WAV-C is a recipient of Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program (ICAP) funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce. This funding source is designed to support organizations working to promote economic growth in specific, targeted industry clusters across the state, with a focus on bringing business, government, academia, and investors together under one umbrella.

WAV-C is focusing on autonomy in the maritime sector, developing new technologies, a highly-skilled workforce, and other key industry drivers. WAV-C is based in Kitsap County and sponsored by the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA).

- **Recapped the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) delegation which visited the Greater Seattle region from May 14 to May 19.** The ACE was a program of the Organization of American States (OAS) and was sponsored by the Washington State Department of Commerce and Greater Seattle Partners. During this spring’s event, nearly 60 delegation members from 20 countries were selected to participate through a highly-competitive process. The program included more than 30 locations, designed to explore different economic development models, share experiences and knowledge, and build networks among the local and visiting stakeholders to enhance economic competitiveness in the Americas. The delegation also included a number of high-level



dignitaries, including Nestor Mendez (the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS) and Alejandro Castillo (the Assistant Secretary of Economic Development for the U.S. EDA).

Delegates visited private companies, including Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, and Amazon, as well as a panel of space sector companies. They visited CoMotion Labs, UW's Clean Energy Institute, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and Bellevue's own Global Innovation Exchange. Delegates took part in a conversation about tourism and arts and culture economic development strategies with groups like Maritime Blue, the Washington State Department of Commerce, and the Port of Seattle. Reception was held throughout the week to connect with local leaders, including one at Chateau Ste. Michelle attended by Mayor Lynne Robinson, Councilmember Conrad Lee, and others.

- **Received a briefing on several smaller projects, including:**
  - **EDD grant renewed:** In April 2023, PSRC was awarded a \$300,000 grant through the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Partnership Planning Program.
  - **WSDOT is continuing work on high-speed rail:** In 2022, the Washington State Legislature approved the Move Ahead Washington package, which included \$150 million for regional high-speed rail. WSDOT is working with its Oregon and British Columbia peers to advance the project, including applications for over \$250 million in planning grants through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Award announcements are expected by the end of the year.
  - **Commercial aviation work continues:** PSRC has a non-voting seat on the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission, which is tasked with identifying sites for potential commercial facilities in Washington. The Commission met in early June to finalize its work and deliver a final report to the legislature no later than June 30, 2023.

The next EDD Board meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2023. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDD.

### **Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)**

At its June 1 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received a briefing on the 2023 State Legislative Session.** As described above, significant changes were made to the GMA, including new requirements to plan for housing and for climate change. Three notable pieces of legislation -- House Bill 1110, House Bill 1337, and House Bill 1181 -- were passed. House Bill 1110, the Middle



Housing Bill, requires certain cities to authorize development ranging from duplexes to six-plexes in residential zones. House Bill 1337, the ADU Bill, amends the GMA to require cities and counties to allow two accessory dwelling units and detached units on all lots in the zone that allows single-family homes within the urban growth area. House Bill 1181, the Climate Change Bill, adds a requirement to include a climate change and resilience element in local comprehensive plans and for jurisdiction to plan for transportation systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the legislative changes, \$1 billion was appropriated through the Capital and Operating Budget for the 2023-24 biennium for housing. PSRC played an important role during the session, completing data and mapping analysis of House Bill 1110 and SB 5466 (related to transit-oriented development) to help members understand the impact drafts of the bills could have.

- **Received a briefing on PSRC resources relating to Comprehensive Plan Updates and the review process.** The GMPB received a briefing on development of a frequently asked questions document about comprehensive plan updates, such as when to seek PSRC review of draft plans and the consequences of not completing the update. PSRC staff also briefed the GMPB regarding recent guidance, technical assistance, countywide work, and other support for the 2024 comprehensive plan updates. Guidance documents are available on the VISION 2050 Planning Resources page. Recent publications include the Equity Planning Resources for Comprehensive Plans and Draft Transportation Guidance. PSRC staff will continue to provide updates on the progress to update comprehensive plans due in 2024 and welcome requests for information and tools needed for the comprehensive plan updates.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for July 6. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.