



City of Bellevue

City Manager's Office

DATE: July 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, June 2026

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its June 18 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Discussed potential updates to the Regional Centers Framework Update.** The board discussed the scope of work for the regional centers framework update to be completed this year. This update is narrow in scope and focuses on administrative fixes to issues that came up during the recently completed redesignation process. A draft scope of work will be brought to the July meeting for approval. A larger look at the centers framework will be part of the VISION 2060 update beginning in 2028. Bellevue has one regionally designated Metro Growth Center, Downtown Bellevue, which was redesignated earlier this year.
- **Received an update on how local jurisdictions use the Sales and Use Tax for affordable housing.** As a follow-up to findings from the 2025 Housing Incentives and Tools Survey, PSRC staff dove deeper into how cities and counties are using House Bill (HB) 1406 and Senate Bill (SB) 5190 funds, two state enabled tools for counties and cities to tap into sales tax revenue to fund affordable housing. Bellevue's Housing Stability Program was listed as an example of a use of SB 5190 funds.
- **Heard a briefing on a new housing tool, "Build Here, Puget Sound."** With funding from Amazon, PSRC worked with consultants HR&A to develop a housing tool. The online tool allows a user to look at parcel level data on development capacity. The tool is intended to spur housing development by providing information on where there is vacant land and/or land that is built under capacity and could be redeveloped at a higher density. The tool will be available in late July and outreach/training events are forthcoming.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for July 16. Councilmember Vishal Bhargava represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its June 11 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Six agencies submitted nine projects:
 - **Kirkland:** NE 124th Street Pedestrian Facilities

- **Sound Transit:** Link Reliability Improvements
- **Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Olympic Region:** SR 16/West of S Tyler Street to North of Jackson Avenue Paving
- **Released the Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program (RTCC) and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) recommendations for public comment.** RTCC and TAP are funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). PSRC staff recommended six RTCC projects totaling approximately \$6 million, and 14 TAP projects totaling approximately \$16 million.
- **Received a briefing on FIFA World Cup regionwide activities.** \$8.4 million in Federal Transit Administration funds was distributed to the region's transit agencies to support World Cup activities. The TPB also heard from Everett, Bremerton, Tacoma, Renton and Seattle on their various efforts related to their status as fan zone and host cities.
- **Discussed upcoming transportation work program and board topics.** PSRC staff provided a brief overview of the upcoming transportation work program. Future board briefings include action on RTCC and TAP funding recommendations, the next project selection process and adoption of the Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds, and early planning and timelines for implementation items from the Regional Transportation Plan.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for July 9. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Executive Board

At its June 25 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Acted to redesignate regional Manufacturing Industrial Centers (MIC).** The Executive Board approved the GMPB's recommendation to redesignate the existing nine MICs. Several have planning conditions that must be addressed by 2028. There are no areas in Bellevue that meet the minimum criteria for being a MIC.
- **Discussed potential updates to the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan (ROSCP).** PSRC staff are in the process of updating the ROSCP in advance of the VISION 2060 update. The discussion focused on the need for more funding to preserve open space given the high cost of land, especially in urban areas, and the need to balance open space and housing density needs. A draft of the updated plan will be available for review later this year and supports local park and open space planning efforts.
- **Heard a briefing on a new housing tool, "Build Here, Puget Sound."** See GMPB write up for more information.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for July 23. Mayor Mo Malakoutian represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

Economic Development District Board (EDDB)

At its June 3rd meeting, the EDDB:

- **Established a Bylaws & Memorandum of Agreement Review Committee.** Participants reviewed the current EDD Bylaws covering board composition, member terms, meeting rules, election processes, committees, and budgeting. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Economic Development District (EDD) and PSRC, which defines how the two entities share staffing, services, and workspace. The group outlined a timeline for potential updates, with committee work occurring June through August, refinement of recommendations September through November, discussion at the September EDD Board meeting, and final recommendations presented for a required two-thirds board approval in December. The meeting concluded with a recommended action to formally establish a board committee comprised of Dave Morell, Mayor Ed Stern, Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn, Michael Catsi, and Stacey Crnich to review both the bylaws and the MOA and propose any needed changes.
- **Received an update on the Regional Economic Strategy.** The RES update detailed the strategy's draft components and defined the role of partners such as PSRC, EDD, and Challenge Seattle in shaping and carrying out early implementation actions. The plan identifies key sector focuses (AI, aerospace/space, energy, maritime, defense), outlines tracking mechanisms for partner activities aligned with the strategy and sets a timeline to finalize implementation efforts over the summer. Initial items will be identified in September, released for public comment in October, and then adopted in December.

A complementary Challenge Seattle presentation highlighted the region's major structural strengths, including a highly educated workforce, clean energy, a large federal defense footprint, dense innovation clusters, and strong global connectivity while also identifying declining competitiveness in areas such as business predictability, operating costs, talent attraction, and overall business-government partnership.

- **Held a discussion on the Military & Defense Sector Implementation area.** PSRC staff presented the sector's economic significance to the region, including 105,073 servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians contributing \$30.9B to state GDP, and noted Washington's underperformance in defense contract spending relative to its military presence. The EDD Executive Committee recommended including Military & Defense as a key implementation initiative in the Regional Economic Strategy, with near-term next steps focused on continuing steering committee meetings and developing a regional sector strategy.

The next Economic Development District Board meeting is scheduled for March 26. Councilmember Sumadiwira represents Bellevue on the EDDB.

Greater Seattle Partners (GSP) Board of Directors

At its June 4th meeting, the Board of Directors:

- **Passed a resolution authorizing a new Bank Signature Approval structure.** The administrative resolution was required in recognition of the CEO transition from Brian Suratt to Shannon Braddock. The resolution passed unanimously.
- **Received Financial Program Updates.** GSP staff updated the Board on programmatic work including Inbound Delegations, SelectUSA Seattle Spinoff, Outbound Delegations, Site Selector Familiarization Tours, and marketing. Specifically, GSP is planning to do more site selector familiarization tours and outbound marketing to defined target markets.

GSP's finances remain healthy, with minor downward assumptions in income resulting from the CEO transition.

- **Heard a CEO Report from new CEO Shannon Braddock.** Shannon Braddock shared her initial goals for the organization. This included a desire to utilize the initial 90 days to meet GSP stakeholders and investors, and potentially launching a strategic planning process for GSP as an organization.

The next GSP Board meeting is scheduled for September 2nd. Councilmember Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Board.