



DATE: March 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, February 2026

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its February 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Seven agencies submitted nine projects:
 - Community Transit:
 - Swift Bus Rapid Transit Gold Line
 - Facilities Rehabilitation, Renovation and Maintenance
 - King County Parks Department: Eastrail Corridor South – new project programming a preliminary engineering phase for a paved regional trail in Renton.
 - Kitsap Transit: Kitsap Transit Fast Ferry Passenger-Only Vessel Replacement
 - Mukilteo: 5th Street Preservation and Bicycle and Pedestrian Project
 - Pierce County: Compressed Natural gas Replacement and Workforce Development Training
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):
 - State Route (SR) 518/Gilliam Creek Fish Passage (Phase 1)
 - SR 16/Goodnough Creeks and McCormick Creeks – Remove Fish Barriers
- **Recommended certification of the comprehensive plan for Des Moines.** The plan was reviewed in accordance with the adopted plan review process using PSRC's Plan Review Manual and VISION 2050 consistency tool. The plan was found to be substantially consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to conform to transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act. PSRC staff coordinated with jurisdictional staff in the review of the plan and the development of the certification report.
- **Recommended the Executive Board adopt changes to PSRC's project tracking policies,** which 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. Among other things, the policies address the required annual delivery target of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. Each year a rebalancing process is conducted to address any gaps in delivery, following a specific set of procedures identified in the project tracking policies. The TPB recommended two updates to the project tracking policies. The first change would allow administrative transfers of up to \$100,000 between project phases. The second change would allow project sponsors to adjust their project cost estimates when unanticipated increases occur.
- **Discussed a potential bridge funding program.** Recent bridge closures and the impact to surrounding communities have highlighted the significant maintenance and preservation needs of these facilities. PSRC staff is considering a pilot program to fund bridge repairs. The pilot would last for two years and only PSRC's four counties would be eligible. The TPB will consider making a recommendation to the Executive Board at the March 12 meeting.

- **Discussed Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) preliminary public comments.** The draft RTP was available for public review and comment between December 15, 2025, and February 2, 2026. PSRC staff have begun the process of reviewing and categorizing all received comments, including a request from Bellevue and Seattle for PSRC to create an autonomous vehicle working group. PSRC staff flagged that request for discussion by the TPB at the March 12 meeting.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for March 12. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its February 19 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended certification of the comprehensive plans for Renton and Puyallup.** The plans were reviewed in accordance with the adopted plan review process using PSRC's Plan Review Manual and VISION 2050 consistency tool. The plans were found to be substantially consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to conform to transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act. Bellevue's comprehensive plan was certified in October 2024.
- **Reviewed draft center redesignation reports for the final batch of regional growth centers.** Action on a recommendation to the Executive Board is scheduled for the March meeting. The board discussed expectations to address conditions identified in the reports and potential criteria for removing conditions. Downtown Bellevue is anticipated to be redesignated as a Metro Regional Growth Center without conditions.
- **Reviewed findings from a 2025 survey of local planning implementation of new state requirements.** The Housing Incentives and Tools Survey provides insight on local implementation of state law, including comprehensive plan updates and middle housing. Bellevue staff responded to the survey and recommended that survey findings be shared with state legislators.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for March 19. Councilmember Vishal Bhargava represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Executive Board

At its February 26 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Heard an update on federal legislation from PSRC's federal consultants.** This included information on continuing budget discussions, work to implement H.R. 1 (Big Beautiful Bill), and PSRC staff's recent trip to D.C.
- **Heard a briefing on work to redesignate regional growth centers.** PSRC staff provided an overview of the redesignation process and work to date. Board members from Kirkland spoke to their request to remove a size condition from the Totem Lake draft redesignation report. The Executive Board is anticipated to take up the GMPB's recommended action at the April meeting.
- **Discussed RTP preliminary public comments.** The draft RTP was available for public review and comment between December 15, 2025, and February 2, 2026.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for March 26. Mayor Mo Malakoutian represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.