



**DATE:** April 14, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, March 2026

**Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

At its March 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Four agencies submitted five projects:
  - Kitsap Transit: State Route (SR) 16 Park and Ride
  - Maple Valley: SR 169 Pedestrian Bridge at SE 258th Street
  - Seattle: Central Area Neighborhood Greenways
  - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):
    - SR 99/238th Street SW to 148th Street SW Vicinity – Paving and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance
    - SR 532/Stillaguamish River to 72nd Avenue NW Vicinity Paving and ADA Compliance
- **Recommended certifications of comprehensive plans for Puyallup and Renton.** The plans were reviewed by PSRC staff, who found the plans 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.
- **Recommended authorizing a change in the RTP project status for Woodinville's SR 202 Widening and Trestle Replacement Project from "candidate" to "approved."** This project will widen SR 202 between NE 175th Street and NE 177th Place from five lanes to eight, improve existing pedestrian facilities along SR 202, and construct a new multi-use trail from the Sammamish River Trail to the extension of 133rd Avenue NE. This project will also replace an existing railroad bridge on Eastrail with a pedestrian bridge.
- **Recommended the Executive Board approve the 2026 project tracking and delivery supplemental funding action.** This action would allocate up to \$29 million in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding to eligible projects, including up to \$1 million total for two Bellevue projects. Per the adopted PSRC Project Tracking Policies, early action on increasing the federal share of previously awarded projects was requested to streamline the processing and approval timeframes and expedite use of the funding to help meet the region's delivery target. Additional project delivery actions will be requested in April, including project extension requests and implementation of the proposed bridge funding pilot program.
- **Discussed the RTP public comments and plan refinements.** The draft RTP was available for public review and comment between December 15, 2025, and February 2, 2026. PSRC staff briefed the TPB on comments received, including a request from Bellevue and Seattle for PSRC to create an autonomous vehicle working group. The request Bellevue and Seattle did not receive any opposition and will be incorporated into

the draft RTP for a potential recommendation in April for the Executive Board to adopt the draft RTP.

- **Discussed the RTP performance dashboard.** The current RTP, adopted in 2022, included an action item to develop a performance monitoring dashboard of key plan metrics. This dashboard was developed in coordination with the TPB and first released in January of 2023. The dashboard reports on measures including emissions, safety, active transportation, vehicle miles traveled and transit ridership.

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

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

At its March 19 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended certifications of comprehensive plans for Bonney Lake, Pacific, and Seattle.** The plans were reviewed by PSRC staff, who found the plans to be substantially consistent with VISION 2050 and the RTP and to conform to transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act.
- **Recommended redesignation of Regional Growth Centers.** This recommendation includes redesignation of Downtown Bellevue as an Urban Regional Growth Center. Having Downtown Bellevue designated as a Regional Growth Center allows Bellevue to be more competitive when applying for regional transportation funding.
- **Discussed the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan update.** The plan will be updated over the coming year in anticipation of the next update to VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan for growth. The board discussed possible topics to further refine the scope of the update, including land acquisition, development pressures, and access to urban parks and trails.

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

### **Executive Board**

At its March 26 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Acted to redesignate Regional Growth Centers.** The Executive Board acted to redesignate Regional Growth Centers per the GMPB's recommendation. See the March 19 GMPB summary for more information.
- **Discussed the 2026 update to the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).** PSRC staff provided an overview of the process to update the RES. Former Governor Christine Gregoire spoke on behalf of Challenge Seattle about their upcoming Puget Sound Economic Development Plan. Cost of doing business in the region, affordability, lack of a welcoming business climate, energy reliability and power needs were common themes of board member comments. Bellevue's recently adopted Economic Development Plan is consistent with and complemented by regional economic development plans.

- **Heard an update on Regional Transportation Plan comments.** PSRC staff walked through the engagement process, comment categorization, and next steps. Bellevue's comments regarding an autonomous vehicle (AV) regional summit are captured as a future work item. Board members expressed support for the engagement process and proposed future work items — rural roads, technology (including AV), and data and monitoring.

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

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

At its March 4 meeting, the Central Puget Sound EDDB:

- **Ratified Presidential Appointments.** Also ratified the Executive Committee for the March 2026-March 2027 term.
- **Received a Legislative Update** including a Federal and State Budget and Policy Update. Revenue forecast indicates FY 25-27 revenue up by \$827 million, while FY 27-29 up by just over \$1 billion. Jobs data from 2025 indicated a 12,900 decline from tariffs and tech sector workforce reduction. Construction and service industries (including tech) lost most jobs. Education, health services, and financial sectors saw job growth.
- **Received an update on Regional Economic Strategy Development.** The board provided input on prioritization of implementation efforts. The four focus areas and goals for the draft strategy included: economic opportunity, quality of life, global competitiveness, and business climate. An updated five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy will be finalized and adopted by the end of 2026 for the 2027-2031 period.
- **Received an update on the Challenge Seattle Economic Plan Development** led by former Governor Gregoire and Challenge Seattle. The goal is to develop an actionable regional economic development plan focused on aligning around a small set of shared outcomes, defining ownership of priority actions, and creating a structure for implementation and accountability.

The next EDDB meeting is scheduled for June 3. Councilmember Clair Sumadiwirya represents Bellevue on the EDDB.