

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*February 2020***

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its February 6 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended the Conditional Certification of the Black Diamond Comprehensive Plan to the Executive Board.** The Board concluded that conditional status, directing additional work to be completed prior to 2021 to fully certify the plan, was appropriate. Black Diamond must pass a resolution committing to narrow the gap between the plan's anticipated housing and employment growth to align with adopted countywide targets and must amend their plan to ensure consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan regarding SR 169.
- **Reviewed preliminary findings of the PSRC Housing Incentives and Tools Survey** and discussed its key findings including: 1) local governments are using tools to promote housing development; 2) implementation of housing tools is uneven; 3) city characteristics influence availability of incentives; 4) mandatory, locally calibrated tools are more effective in creating new affordable housing than voluntary tools; 4) many cities are planning to add housing by increasing allowable heights and densities; 5) use of the Multifamily Property Tax Exemption has grown over the past decade, with MFTE accounting for more units than all other incentives combined; and 6) more local jurisdictions are offering resources to mitigate displacement. The 2019 effort had 73 responses from 69 cities and the 4 counties in the region, with ARCH and the Housing Development Consortium helping to fill gaps in data. A full report will be available later in February.
- **Received a status briefing on state Legislature bills** from Dave Andersen, Department of Commerce. Mr. Andersen noted the status of a great number of introduced bills this year and categorized them in four topic areas: 1) housing; 2) Infill [development]; 3) climate change; and 4) the [comprehensive plan] periodic update.
- **Acknowledged other information items** including the supplemental biennial budget for PSRC, the 2020 Toolbox Peer Networking Series, and the 2020 GMPB meeting schedule.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for March 5.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its February 13 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Four agencies submitted five projects for routine amendment into the TIP. The projects were reviewed by the PSRC staff and were determined to be consistent with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transportation Plan.

The projects approved for routine amendment to the TIP include:

- King County Department of Transportation: Fifteen Mile Creek Bridge Replacement.
- Kitsap County: Central Valley Road.
- City of Seattle: Roosevelt RapidRide.
- Snohomish County: Jordan Creek Bridge
- Snohomish County: Swamp Creek 503 Bridge Replacement.

The PSRC Executive Board will consider final action on February 27.

- **Recommended conditional certification of the Black Diamond 2018 comprehensive plan update,** described in the GMPB summary above. The PSRC Executive Board will consider final action on February 27.
- **Recommended an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan.** The Regional Transportation Plan was adopted by the PSRC General Assembly in 2018. The plan describes how the region intends to keep pace with expected growth and lists upcoming regionally-significant transportation projects. Per the PSRC's adopted policies, the plan is amended on an as-needed basis to make minor revisions, such as adding new projects or updating project costs. The amendment added or updated 18 regionally-significant projects to the Regional Transportation Plan. The PSRC Executive Board will consider final action on February 27.
- **Discussed the East-West Intercity Rail Study.** Last year, the Washington State Legislature directed the Joint Transportation Committee to conduct a feasibility analysis of an east-west intercity passenger rail system. The study will analyze the historic Stampede Pass corridor, which connects Auburn, Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Yakima, Tri-Cities, and Spokane. The report is funded by \$250,000 from the Multimodal Transportation Account. The Joint Transportation Committee selected All Aboard Washington, a passenger rail service advocacy group, to conduct the study. A report is due to the legislature by June 30.

- **Discussed Initiative 976 (I-976).** I-976, referred to as “Bring Back Our \$30 Car Tabs”, was approved by voters in November. The legislation does the following:
 - Limits motor vehicle license fees (VLF, car tab fees) to \$30 per year;
 - Repeals or reduces certain motor vehicle weight fees;
 - Repeals the authority of transportation benefit districts (TBDs) to impose vehicle fees;
 - Reduces electric vehicle fees to \$30 per year;
 - Repeals the 0.3 percent tax on motor vehicle retail sales;
 - Requires local motor vehicle excise taxes (MVET) to be calculated using the Kelley Blue Book base value of the vehicle;
 - Conditionally repeals the Sound Transit 0.8 percent MVET; and,
 - Requires the retirement or refinancing of Sound Transit-related bonds to adjust for the lost revenue from the MVET.

The TPB received a briefing on potential impacts to PSRC-funded projects. Project sponsors confirmed that only a small percentage of PSRC-funded projects are expected to be impacted by I-976. There appears to be minimal risk to the region’s ability to meet its annual delivery target for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds.

- **Discussed the Regional Transportation Plan update.** The PSRC will begin a major update to the plan this year, with completion of the update scheduled for 2022. The TPB discussed major focus areas for the update, including:
 - Access to transit
 - Safety
 - Equity
 - Local agency needs
 - Future investments, such as high capacity transit and passenger only ferries

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for March 12.