



**DATE:** July 24, 2023

**TO:** Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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

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

### **Executive Board**

At its June 22 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority for the transportation projects database and online applications upgrade.** The consultant contract, not to exceed \$150,000, will support the initial phases to upgrade and modernize the transportation project database and online application system used to support the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), PSRC funding competitions, Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and project tracking and delivery.
- **Approved amendments to the 2023-2026 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
- **Approved the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project tracking extensions.** PSRC routinely monitors the progress of FTA funds awarded to transit agencies. PSRC staff, committees and the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) recently reviewed projects that are experiencing delays and recommended extensions for eight projects, per



guidelines established in PSRC's adopted Project Tracking Policies.

- **Approved 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.
- **Heard an update on federal affairs.** Several federal funding packages, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), have created funding opportunities for cities, counties, tribes and PSRC. Holland & Knight provides PSRC with advice, expert information and relationship building support on federal affairs, legislation and programs.
- **Approved Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center Designation and Subarea Plans Certification.** The Board designated Greater Downtown Kirkland as a regional growth center and certified the Moss Bay Neighborhood Plan and the NE 85th Street Station Area Plan. In February, the City of Kirkland applied to designate a 564-acre regional growth center focused around Kirkland's historic downtown and planned bus rapid transit station. Planning for the Kirkland center seeks to leverage regional transit investments, connect to the historic downtown area and continue to develop as a well-connected, mixed-use area. The city will continue its planning work as part of the periodic update of the comprehensive plan due in 2024.
- **Approved the Public Participation Plan.** The new Public Participation Plan has an enhanced focus on equity, updated goals, desired outcomes, guiding principles and best practices, as well as new techniques and tools for engagement. PSRC's last Public Participation Plan was updated in 2018.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for July 27. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

### **Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

At its July 13 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP.** Five agencies submitted seven projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
  - King County (Transit): Interim Base Battery Electric Bus Charging Depot
  - Kitsap County: Perry – Stone to Sheridan
  - Marysville: Grove Street Overcrossing



- Woodinville: SR 202 Widening and Trestle Replacement – Phase B
  - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region: SR 99/SR 516 to S 200<sup>th</sup> Street – Paving & ADA Compliance
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-90/Eastbound East Channel Bridge – Modular Assembly Joints
  - WSDOT Marine Division: Terminal Electrification – Mukilteo – Clinton Route
- **Recommended certification of King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).** The CPPs include 2044 population and employment growth targets to support the 2024 comprehensive plan updates and to implement the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy. The CPPs were updated through King County's interjurisdictional process and the Growth Management Planning Council, with contributions from the Affordable Housing Committee.
  - **Recommended a project status change in the RTP for ten projects.** The RTP contains policies requiring PSRC's Executive Board to approve regionally significant transportation capacity projects before those projects begin implementation phases. Six agencies submitted requests to change the status of ten Regional Capacity Projects, including King County's Eastrail Wilburton Trestle Project.
  - **Recommended allocating remaining FFY 2022 FTA funding.** Two transit agencies, King County Metro and Skagit Transit, requested to allocate 2022 FTA funds to existing projects. These funds were held over from the distribution of PSRC's FTA Earned Share funds that were allocated to agencies as part of the 2018 project selection process.
  - **Debriefed on PSRC's Regional Safety Summit held on June 29.** The summit brought together about 140 people including elected officials, transportation experts, engaged citizens and other stakeholders to discuss transportation safety issues and how to move the region forward to achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries. The summit served as a first step to inform the creation of a regional safety plan that aligns with the USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy.
  - **Heard an update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.** After a successful first round of funding, PSRC submitted a \$2.9 million funding request to support the development of *additional* safety action plans: Eatonville, Fife, Bonney Lake, Federal Way, Renton, Kirkland, Shoreline, Edmonds, Sultan, and Snohomish County.
  - **Heard an update about the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC).** Significant progress has been made on regional equity work, including co-creating elements of the Regional Equity Strategy. In anticipation of upcoming comprehensive plan updates, the following resources are or will be available: Equity Tracker, Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report, Anti-Displacement Organizations Report, Equitable Engagement Guidance, Equity Planning Resources, and Racial Equity Impact Assessment. The EAC



is also charged with co-creating an equity pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds.

- **Discussed PSRC's Summer Planning Academy (SPA).** PSRC is introducing a summer youth engagement program in July 2023. The first SPA cohort will include 25 students from across the region. Following successful completion of SPA, students will be eligible for a \$500 scholarship.
- **Reviewed materials to support the comprehensive plan process.** VISION 2050 calls for PSRC to support efforts to update local comprehensive plans through updates to plan review and certification guidance. PSRC is updating planning resources in advance of 2024 local plan updates, including Equity Planning Resources and draft Transportation Guidance. PSRC's website includes guidance by policy topic area from PSRC and partner agencies.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for September 14. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.