



City of
Bellevue

City Manager's
Office

DATE: July 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, June 2025

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its June 5 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended the Executive Board certify the comprehensive plans** for Edmonds, Federal Way, Index, Issaquah, Lynnwood, Newcastle, and Sumner. The comprehensive plans were reviewed by PSRC staff 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 and to conform to transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act (GMA). Bellevue's 2024 comprehensive plan was certified in March 2025.
- **Recommended the Executive Board conditionally certify the plans for Lake Forest Park and Renton.** Conditional certification is recommended when a plan meets the majority of state and regional criteria, but additional work is needed in discrete aspects of the plan. Cities with conditionally certified plans are eligible to compete for PSRC federal funding. The plans are missing transportation inventories that are required by the GMA. The cities are supportive of this action and will work to receive full certification in 2026.
- **Heard a briefing on research on Racially Disparate Impacts (RDI) in comprehensive plans.** University of Washington Evans School students shared their research on RDI policies in comprehensive plans, including an analysis of policy updates, public engagement, and assessment of past and current local inequities. Bellevue's plan was included in the regional research and there was no Bellevue-specific findings.
- **Heard a briefing on the Home in Tacoma program.** City of Tacoma staff shared their multi-year process to rezone residential areas in the city to allow for more types of housing and efforts to encourage home ownership for communities that have historically had less access to home ownership opportunities.
- **Heard a recap of the 2025 State Legislative session.** The Washington State Department of Commerce staff shared outcomes related to growth management, land use, and housing bills and an overview of state support for upcoming local implementation efforts.

The GMPB met on July 3 and the meeting recap will be included in next month's packet. The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for September 4. Councilmember Vishal Bhargava represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its June 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Five agencies submitted six projects:
 - Community Transit: Swift Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Gold Line
 - Intercity Transit: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Replacement Fixed Route Coaches
 - Kenmore: 84th Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Project (NE 150th Street – NE 155th Street)
 - Marysville: Ingraham Boulevard and 84th Street NE Pavement Preservation
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):
 - State Route (SR) 525 Mukilteo Bridge Over Railroad – Bridge Replacement
 - I-5 Ship Canal Bridge – Stormwater Treatment Facility
- **Recommended certification of comprehensive plans** for Edmonds, Federal Way, Index, Issaquah, Lynnwood, Newcastle, and Sumner, as described in the GMPB meeting summary above.
- **Recommended conditional certification of comprehensive plans for Lake Forest Park and Renton**, as described in the GMPB meeting summary above.
- **Recommended authorizing a change in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project status** for Kitsap County's Ridgetop Boulevard NW, Mickelberry Road to Northwest Myhre Road project. Kitsap County submitted a request to change the status of the Ridgetop Boulevard NW, Mickelberry Road to Northwest Myhre Road project from "candidate" to "approved" in the RTP. Per PSRC's adopted procedures, requests to change project status require TPB action.
- **Discussed RTP outreach and engagement.** Work to develop the next RTP has been underway since February 2024. In alignment with PSRC's equitable engagement guidance, a robust public involvement plan has been developed that will guide the outreach and engagement activities as part of the RTP update. Some activities have already begun, but many more are planned and will be launched in the coming months.
- **Discussed RTP financial strategies and investments.** The next RTP, slated for adoption in 2026, outlines transportation investments and needs through 2050, including maintenance, operations, and system improvements. Forecasted revenues, based on existing sources, fall short by 21 percent (\$78 billion). The TPB discussed options including identifying new revenue sources, scaling back projects, or reducing asset maintenance commitments. Bellevue recommended focusing on equitable, economically supportive revenue alternatives to the gas tax. In July, the TPB will provide direction on scenarios, with further analysis and modeling to follow in the fall.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for July 10. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Executive Board

At its June 26 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved conditional certification of the comprehensive plans for Lake Forest Park and Renton.** Following the GMPB and TPB's recommendation, the board approved conditional certification for the two cities. The cities will have one year to amend the plans to meet state and regional transportation requirements. See the GMPB recap for more information.
- **Heard a federal legislative update.** Consultants Holland & Knight provided an update on the federal budget reconciliation and appropriations processes. See the June Federal Legislative Update included in this packet for more information.
- **Discussed the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Financial Strategy.** There is an anticipated funding gap in the RTP. Filling the gap will require a variety of measures including potentially reducing or eliminating unfunded capacity projects, cutting other costs, and increasing revenues. PSRC staff emphasized that there is no silver bullet approach to addressing the gap. The board will be asked for direction on possible scenarios at the July meeting and PSRC staff will then conduct additional modeling and analysis to share in the fall. More information is included in the TPB summary above.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for July 24. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

Economic Development District Board (EDDB) Quarterly Meeting

At its June 4 meeting, the Central Puget Sound EDDB of PSRC:

- **Received a Legislative Update** on the state and federal budgets touching upon areas of reductions and increases. On the state level, there were reductions to economic development support programs, early learning and childcare, tourism, and the Small Business Administration. The Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) did get approved for \$1.3 million for the biennium, as well as funding for state ferry workforce development. Board members asked questions regarding cuts to green energy, the Department of Commerce's Industry Sector Program, and broadband.
- **Received an update on the Regional Economic Strategy**, conducted every five years and divided into Economic Analysis and Strategy. The analysis tracks state and federal policy impacts on the local economy. Public and stakeholder input is key, with an online engagement hub launching in June and additional feedback opportunities planned. Local economic development plans will also be reviewed. Adoption is targeted for December 2026.
- **Highlighted various 2026 FIFA World Cup** efforts by the Seattle Metro Chamber, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, Kitsap County, and Snohomish County. Three regional playbooks are anticipated for release this year around World Cup watch parties, branding, and small business. The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is

looking at border travel between Washington and Canada and emergency management. Kitsap and Snohomish counties are accessing how to activate Bremerton and Everett, including transportation and emergency management infrastructures.

The next EDDB meeting is scheduled for September 3. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue and is the current Board President.