



City of
Bellevue

City Manager's
Office

DATE: April 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Committees Update, March 2025

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its March 6 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Acted to recommend the Executive Board certify Bellevue's 2024 comprehensive plan.** The board also acted to recommend certification for Bothell, Burien, Port Orchard and Wilkeson's comprehensive plans. Final action by the Executive Board will maintain Bellevue's eligibility to compete for federal transportation funding. This eligibility is in place until the next comprehensive periodic update in 2034.
- **Heard a briefing on the forthcoming Centers Monitoring Report.** The report assessed the performance of regionally designated Regional Growth Centers and Manufacturing/Industrial Centers. Downtown Bellevue is a Regional Growth Center and is meeting or exceeding the regional performance metrics for housing and job growth. The draft report will be available in April.
- **Heard early analysis from the 2023 Household Travel Survey.** Staff walked through findings from the 2023 household travel survey.

The GMPB also met on April 3. This meeting summary will be included in the April Intergovernmental Affairs update. The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for May 1. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its March 13 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved three projects for routine amendment into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program:**
 - Bellevue: 150th Avenue SE Mobility Improvements
 - King County: State Route (SR) 520 Portage Bay Bridge Trolley Infrastructure Replacement
 - Seattle: Vision Zero Leading Pedestrian Intervals and No Turn on Red Restrictions
- **Recommended Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for Two Projects:** City of Fife's I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Project and Kitsap Transit's SR 16 Park and Ride Project. This action is a procedural step required for regionally significant projects. PSRC confirmed that the projects are consistent with regional policy and recommended approval on the consent agenda.
- **Recommended the PSRC Executive Board certify the comprehensive plans for**

Bellevue, Bothell, Burien, Port Orchard, and Wilkeson. 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.

- **Received an update on the 2025 State Legislative Session and federal activities.** Staff provided an update of legislation through the first seven weeks of session. Bills of note included House Bill (HB) 1921 and Senate Bill (SB) 5726 which would implement a road usage charge, SB 5067 which would lower the legal blood alcohol concentration limit from 0.08 to 0.05, and HB 1491 concerning transit-oriented development. Congress is taking its first steps toward surface transportation reauthorization, which is a shorthand term for the legislative process where the federal surface transportation program is renewed—setting all policies, priorities, and funding levels for multiple years to come. Surface transportation reauthorization bills are multi-year, typically covering five to six years.
- **Recommended approval of the 2025 Project Delivery Tracking and Supplemental Funding Action.** A requirement to meet an annual delivery target for PSRC's Federal Highway Administration funds has been in place since 2013. PSRC's adopted project tracking policies identify the procedures to be followed when there is a risk the target will not be met, including the development of a supplemental funding action. Information provided by project sponsors to date indicates that there will be a gap to the 2025 delivery target. If the action is approved by the Executive Board on March 27, Bellevue may receive up to \$9.5 million in additional federal funding for three transportation projects. The amount Bellevue receives will depend on funding availability.
- **Discussed the Regional Action Safety Plan public comments and next steps.** The Regional Safety Action Plan has been under development since Fall of 2023, following the June 2023 Regional Safety Summit and receipt of grant funding from USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. PSRC released the Draft Regional Safety Action Plan for public comment in mid-January, concluding on February 14, 2025. PSRC staff reviewed general themes of the public comments received.
- **Discussed Regional Transportation Plan development.** PSRC staff provided key findings on the current transportation system related to the roadway network, freight system and transportation system technologies. PSRC staff shared information on the inventory and data collection efforts for these elements, and related data from PSRC's travel model.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for April 16. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Executive Board

At its March 27, 2025 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Acted to certify Bellevue's 2024 Comprehensive Plan.** Bellevue's plan was certified by PSRC as part of the consent agenda approval. The City has fulfilled its obligations for

PSRC plan certification until the next periodic update in 2034.

- **Adopted a resolution on the state transportation budget.** The resolution supports a sustainable transportation budget. The resolution is high level and does support or oppose specific revenue generation nor budget cuts. The resolution is in alignment with Bellevue's 2025 State Legislative Agenda.
- **Heard a briefing on the Equity Advisory Committee's (EAC) past and future work.** The EAC co-chairs provided a recap of work completed in 2024 and a look at upcoming work in 2025. Work in 2025 will focus on the Regional Housing Strategy and the update to the Regional Economic Strategy.
- **Heard a briefing on comments received on the draft Regional Safety Action Plan.** Staff shared an overview of comments received on the draft plan and staff's proposed responses to address comments. This includes a staff proposal to add language recognizing local and state safety planning and high injury networks. The board will be asked for a recommendation at the April meeting in preparation for potential action at the May General Assembly.
- **Heard an update on federal legislation.** Leslie Pollner, from Holland and Knight, PSRC's federal consultant provided an update on the budget continuing resolution, work on the surface transportation act, and changes at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

Economic Development District Board (EDDB)

At its March 5th meeting, the EDDB:

- **Received an update on the Cascadia High-Speed Rail and I-5 Program** from the Washington Department of Transportation. The Department shared that, in December 2024, the Federal Railroad Administration awarded WSDOT \$49.7 million, supplemented by \$5.5 million from the Washington State Legislature, to advance planning for high-speed rail in the Cascadia corridor. The program aims to develop a multimodal transportation system linking major population centers, including Vancouver, Seattle and Portland, with high-speed rail service reaching up to 250 mph. Finally, WSDOT shared an update on the upcoming I-5 Master planning process.
- **Received an update on Federal and State Policy and Budget.** PSRC staff shared updates on legislation relevant to economic development in addition to updates on federal policy. Specifically, PSRC has identified \$2.2 billion of federal funding obligated to the region in 2024-2025 that has seen instability resulting from funding freezes. On the state level, staff highlighted proposed cuts to economic development programming, as well as a number of housing related bills and a funding request for the Housing Research Center.
- **Received a status update on the Regional Economic Strategy.** PSRC shared the update's timeline and process to develop the analysis, including ways for board members to engage in the update. At the June meeting, staff will provide an overview of

the strategy development roles, the stakeholder engagement approach and a review of current economic conditions.

The next EDDB meeting is scheduled for June 5th. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDDB.