

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*January 2022***

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At its December 2, 2021 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority for a public engagement platform.** PSRC will renew a subscription with Bang the Table, which offers a central hub for people to engage online with PSRC on planning efforts and share feedback through surveys, quick polls and stories. Bang the Table offers a suite of engagement tools through one platform, which has helped PSRC to manage multiple projects and easily report on comments received with limited in-house staff resources.
- **Approved contract authority for website hosting and support services.** PSRC will work with a consultant for hosting, security updates and technical support for the existing PSRC website until a new website is launch in late-2022.
- **Approved contract authority to update project-level emissions estimation tool.** PSRC is required to submit an annual report that quantifies the emissions benefits of all projects that have obligated Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds. The agency will work with a consultant to update PSRC's existing project-level emissions estimation tool.
- **Received a briefing about Governor Inslee's 2020-2021 Smart Community Award winners.** This annual awards program recognizes achievements by local leaders who promote smart growth planning and projects that contribute to thriving communities, a prosperous economy, and sustainable infrastructure in Washington. PSRC's VISION 2050 plan was honored with a Judges' Merit Award. The cities of Kent, Kirkland, Lake Stevens, North Bend and Renton also received awards.
- **Received a briefing on the Regional Housing Strategy.** The Regional Housing Strategy is intended to serve as a "playbook" of regional and local actions that move towards the region's goals of preserving, improving, and expanding housing; providing a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices to every resident; and, promoting fair and equal access to housing for all people. Before taking final action on the Strategy, members discussed the involvement of the Equity Advisory Committee; the need to more clearly state the need for housing and affordability; the need to monitor how housing need is met; and, impacts of the pandemic on housing needs. After the Regional Housing Strategy is updated, based on Board feedback, members may be asked to take action on the Strategy at the January 2022 meeting.

- **Received a briefing on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).** Members heard from United States representatives Rick Larsen and Marilyn Strickland on the IIJA, which was enacted on November 15, 2021. The legislation reauthorizes federal surface transportation programs for five years and increases spending on infrastructure by \$550 billion over five years for transportation, water resources, culverts, broadband and energy. The total funding package is \$1.2 trillion. A majority of the funding in the bill will go toward the major federal surface transportation formula-based funding programs or to state administered programs. IIJA also creates new competitive funding opportunities accessible by local communities.

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

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its January 6 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received a briefing on the 2022 Legislative Session.** The GMPB received a briefing and presentation on bills related to housing, climate, and environmental provisions of the Growth Management Act.
- **Received a briefing on the Industrial Lands Analysis.** VISION 2050 specifically calls for an update of the industrial lands inventory, which is underway. In 2021, PSRC convened a working group to review policy related to preserving industrial lands and employment. The update also includes evaluating supply and demand for industrial land across all industry sectors, research trends for industrial uses as technology and markets evolve, and identify strategies to preserve, protect, and enhance industrial lands, jobs, and businesses in the region in coordination with jurisdictions' efforts to support their industrial land base.
- **Received a briefing on PSRC's Biennial Budget and Work Program (2022-2023).** The Biennial Budget and Work Program was adopted in April 2021 and covers July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. The proposed supplemental budget reflects revenues and expenditure of approximately \$32 million. Throughout the month of January, the draft supplemental budget information will be provided to PSRC boards and committees, including the Executive Board, Economic Development District Board, Growth Management Policy Board, Transportation Policy Board, and the Regional Staff Committee. PSRC staff will bring any comments received to the February 24 meeting of the Operations Committee. In March, the Operations Committee will be asked to recommend approval of the budget by the Executive Board. In April, the Executive Board will recommend the budget for adoption by the General Assembly, to be held May 26, 2022.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for February 3. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its December 9, 2021 meeting, the TPB:

- **Discussed the Coordinated Mobility Plan (Plan).** The Plan is a comprehensive strategy for identifying and addressing transportation challenges due to age, income or ability. This includes older adults (age 65+), youth (age 5 – 17), people with low incomes and people with disabilities. Key mobility challenges highlighted in the Plan include shorter travel times when taking transit, more services at more times, better access to health/wellness destinations and better regional coordination to meet growing needs. The Plan will be incorporated into the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), expected to be released for public comment in January 2022.
- **Discussed RTP financial strategy and key policy focus areas.** In advance of the draft 2022 RTP release in January, members reviewed nearly two years of preparation work. Members reviewed key themes about safety, equity, climate, access to transit, local agency needs and future visioning. Staff highlighted financial strategy elements where implementation requires additional steps, such as a road usage charge, highway facility tolls and other new or increased fees/taxes. Member feedback focused on the importance of addressing safety and climate in the Draft RTP.
- **Approved releasing the Draft RTP for public comment in January 2022.** The draft RTP was approved to be released for a 45-day public comment period from January 13 – February 28, with final PSRC adoption anticipated for May 2022.

At its January 13 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of the 2022 Policy Framework for PSRC's federal funds.** A competitive project selection process is conducted every two to three years for the distribution of PSRC's federal funds. The next process will be conducted in 2022 for PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. The policy focus for the project selection process continues to focus on support for centers and the corridors that serve them, directed by the policies in VISION 2050. Based on feedback from PSRC's Project Selection Task Force, equity and safety criteria language has been strengthened, point values have increased, and they are identified as stand-alone criteria. Additionally, FHWA funds policies are updated to address the parameters around which emergency requests for funding may be considered. A Call for Projects will be issued in February with recommended projects being reviewed by TPB in July.
- **Discussed the Economic Development District (EDD).** Every five years, the EDD Board updates the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In December, the EDD Board adopted the 2022-2027 Regional Economic Strategy as the region's CEDS. The updated strategy provides a comprehensive blueprint for regional collaboration on economic development across the region. It aims to address the challenges associated with the COVID-19

pandemic and looks ahead to necessary actions to support the region's long-term success. Several new and expanded regional challenges were identified in outreach with stakeholders, including equity, health, childcare, regional job distribution, broadband, housing and business recovery.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for February 10. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (EDD) BOARD

At its December 1 meeting, the EDD Board:

- **Approved the Nominating Committee for a new President and Vice President of the EDD Board.** This committee will present nominations for President and Vice President to the EDD Board at its February 2022 meeting for board action. Current President Tom Florino will chair the Nominating Committee, with other members of the committee consisting of the current EDD Executive Committee, including Poulsbo Councilmember Ed Stern, Bellevue Councilmember Conrad Lee, Port of Tacoma Commissioner Kristin Ang, and Terry Ryan.
- **Adopted the 2022-2027 Regional Economic Strategy.** This document is designated as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity of a region, building off of other regional planning efforts. It also enables local jurisdictions and organizations to qualify for funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The EDD Board launched the update to the Regional Economic Strategy at its July 2020 meeting. Since then, staff facilitated work sessions with more than 60 state and regional leaders, embarked on a broad public outreach campaign, and garnered 20 responses during the official 30-day public comment period.

The new CEDS provides a comprehensive blueprint for economic development collaboration across the region and expands its focus on efforts like equity and racial justice, childcare, regional job distribution, housing, and business recovery. It aligns closely with the City's Economic Development Plan at the Greater Seattle Partners' regional recovery framework.

- **Adopted the EDD Board's 2022 work plan and focus areas.** Each December, the EDD Board approves a set of focus areas, which are used as a work plan to guide board and staff efforts to implement the Regional Economic Strategy over the coming year. Typically, these focus areas are quite broad. This year's focus areas include 19 topics, including updating the Washington State space economy report, developing workforce strategies and analysis, and accelerating the recovery of the region's arts and culture institutions. The EDD Board also plans to analyze the economic impact of the region's expertise in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and cybersecurity, and support the implementation of PSRC's new Regional Housing Strategy.

GREATER SEATTLE PARTNERS (GSP)

At its December 8 meeting, the GSP Executive Council:

- **Received a board report from Bill McSherry.** This report covered the CEO transition which GSP is currently undergoing. GSP is working with an outside executive search firm to locate a high-quality candidate. The application period was open in December and GSP is looking to narrow the applicant pool in January with final interviews and an offer ideally extended by late February. Additionally, the board report provided a general organizational health update and indicated GSP was generally healthy organizationally, both in terms of finances and staff, with increased capacity coming onboard in 2021.
- **Received a CEO Report from Interim CEO Chris Mefford.** This report covered the year in review and plans for 2022. Overall, in 2021 GSP restarted formal travel and trade show participation, built up regional partnerships, and rebuilt capacity. In 2022, GSP plans to more fully build up its core programming by hiring more staff and deploying its marketing plan.
- **Received a briefing on a marketing report prepared by Mekanism.** This report will inform GSP's marketing actions for business and talent attraction, in addition to the Marketing Council's work in 2022. This report covered the initial findings of GSP's marketing program and a phase 3 is scheduled to take place in 2022 which will cover implementation of the updated marketing program in both national and international contexts for the region.

The next meeting of the Executive Council is scheduled for June 8. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the Executive Council.