

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At its February 24 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** The City of Seattle submitted the SW Admiral Way/Fairmount Avenue North Bridge project for routine amendment into the regional TIP. The projects were reviewed by PSRC staff and determined to be consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- **Approved 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.
- **Adopted a resolution in support of the statewide Move Ahead Washington transportation investment package.** The Legislature reached agreement on a 16-year, \$17 billion transportation package. Roughly a third of the package is funded by Climate Commitment Act resources with \$1.2 billion dedicated to active transportation, \$3 billion for transit programs and projects, \$517 million on alternative fuel and electrification, \$335 million on electrification of ferries, and \$162 million on rail. Active transportation investments include \$290 million for the Safe Routes to Schools grant program, \$278 million for the WSDOT bike/pedestrian grant program and \$146 million for the Complete Streets grant program. The remaining two thirds, or \$11.5 billion, invests in maintenance and preservation, new highway projects, fish barrier removal and backfilling funding gaps from existing projects.
- **Discussed the RTP schedule and preliminary key themes from public comment.** The draft RTP was released for public comment from January 13 – February 28. The TPB and Executive Board are scheduled to recommend approval of the RTP in April. The RTP is then scheduled for adoption at the General Assembly meeting in May. C comment themes centered on support for more bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; mixed support and opposition for transit implementation; safety; mixed support for highway and roadway investments; and, support for user fees or road usage charges. The PSRC Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board will make any final recommendations to the final plan that will go before the General Assembly in May 2022.
- **Received an update on the Economic Development District and the adopted 2022-2026 Regional Economic Strategy.** The strategy is a five-year blueprint for regional collaboration

around economic development. The strategy aims to address the current challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and looks ahead to what needs to happen to support the region's long-term economic success. It's organized around three overarching goals: expanding economic opportunity, maintaining global competitiveness, and sustaining the region's high quality of life. New and expanded regional challenges identified include equity, health, childcare, regional job distribution, broadband, housing, business recovery, and industry resilience.

At its March 24 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority to purchase audio/video web-streaming services.** PSRC has been live streaming audio and video of board meetings over the internet since 2008. The current contract for web-streaming, agenda management and caption services will expire on May 31.
- **Approved contract authority for consultant services for the Household Travel Survey.** PSRC recently completed a six-year, three-wave program of household travel surveys conducted in 2017, 2019 and 2021 (a survey wave is one data collection period). The success of the 2017-2021 six-year program led PSRC to recommend the reimplementing of a similar program design, starting with a 2023 survey. Data produced by the travel survey is used by PSRC and many member agencies to develop models that predict household travel behavior.
- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional.** Three agencies submitted four projects for a routine amendment into the Regional TIP. If recommended, the Executive Board will be asked to adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional TIP with the following projects:
 - King County Department of Transportation (Transit): Trolley System Transit Asset Management 2021-2022
 - King County Department of Transportation (Transit): Atlantic Base Vehicle Maintenance Bus Lifts
 - Sound Transit: Sumner Station Access Improvements
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region: Strategic Concrete Bridge Deck Preservation
- **Approved project submittals to WSDOT National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Funding Competition.** The NHFP was established by Congress in 2015 as a federal-aid highway formula program to improve the efficient movement of freight. WSDOT administers the allocation of funds apportioned to Washington State. For federal fiscal year 2022-2025, WSDOT will allocate approximately \$50 million. Of the nine projects recommended for NHFP funding:
 - Four from King County – Northwest Seaport Alliance, Seattle, SeaTac, Tukwila
 - Four from Pierce County – Fife, Pierce County, Sumner, Tacoma
 - One from Snohomish County – Port of Everett

- **Approved certification of the Frederickson manufacturing/industrial centers (MIC) Subarea Plan.** The Fredrickson MIC is located within urban unincorporated Pierce County, southeast of Tacoma and south of Puyallup. Certification of the Fredrickson MIC Subarea Plan affirms the planning work for the center is consistent with VISION 2050 and is an opportunity to identify any additional planning work required by 2025.
- **Discussed the statewide Move Ahead Washington transportation investment package with legislative leadership.** The Move Ahead Washington package is described above.
- **Approved the Rural Town Centers and Corridors (RTCC) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project list.** In October 2021, PSRC released a call for projects for the RTCC Program and the TAP. The RTCC Program assists rural communities in implementing town center and corridor improvements. TAP funds three project categories: (1) pedestrian-bicycle facilities, (2) environmental mitigation, as well as (3) historic preservation projects. Bellevue's Main Street Off-Street Multipurpose Pathway Project (108th Avenue SE to 112th Avenue SE) is on the list to be fully funded with \$1,041,000.
- **Recommended approval of the Supplemental Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2023.** The proposed \$32 million Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program FY 2022-2023 is a steady-state budget with no overall changes in revenues and expenditures since the last amendment in September 2021. PSRC's 2022-2023 work plan focuses on boosting economic recovery, tackling regional transportation needs and moving forward with VISION 2050 implementation actions. It will now go to the General Assembly in May for final adoption.
- **Ongoing discussion about the RTP public comments.** As described above, the draft RTP was released for public comment from January 13 – February 28. Comments were received from 74 individuals, 17 of PSRC's member agencies, and 22 other organizations including tribal governments, public agencies, non-profit and community organizations. PSRC staff identified 45 proposed amendments through public comment and/or Board Member feedback. Amendment topics include bicycle/pedestrian; climate change; equity; mobility (ADA); funding alignment; safety; and technology. The TPB and Executive Board are scheduled to recommend approval of the RTP in April.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for April 28. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its March 3 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended certification of the Frederickson manufacturing/industrial center (MIC) Subarea Plan to the Executive Board,** as described above.

- **Received an update on the Regional Housing Strategy**, as described above. VISION 2050 calls for a regional strategy to address housing needs. The GMPB led the development of the Regional Housing Strategy which is a “playbook” of regional and local actions that moves 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. The Strategy will shape PSRC’s housing work moving forward, including future technical assistance and legislative support. It is intended to provide guidance on local and subregional actions to support housing choices and will be used when PSRC reviews and provides comments on local comprehensive plans.

VISION 2050 also calls for regional housing assistance. H-Action-2 – Regional Housing Assistance— PSRC, in coordination with subregional, county, and local housing efforts, will assist implementation of regional housing policy and local jurisdiction and agency work. Assistance shall include guidance for developing local housing targets (including affordable housing targets), model housing policies, and best housing practices which will inform local comprehensive plan updates.

- **Discussed PSRC outreach and support for 2024 local comprehensive plan updates.** New and expanded policies in the adopted VISION 2050 will impact cities’ 2024 comprehensive plan updates. PSRC staff is developing additional guidance on these policies to assist jurisdictions. The regional plan expands on several topics, including housing, climate change, and racial equity. In addition, PSRC fielded a survey in January and February 2022 to city and county staff to learn more about the comprehensive update process and schedule. The survey asked participants to share questions and areas of focus around specific topics included in local plans. Staff will provide an overview of survey results along with information on guidance materials in development. In addition, PSRC staff are working with the Department of Commerce and MRSC to develop a series of workshops. These workshops will provide pertinent information on changes in state law since the last periodic update, VISION 2050 and PSRC’s Plan.

The GMPB met on April 7 and a summary will be included in the May Regional Issues packet. The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for May 5. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

REGIONAL TRANIST-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RTODC)

At its March 18 meeting, the RTODC:

- **Discussed displacement mapping**, an online tool hosted by PSRC that identifies areas where residents and businesses are at greater risk of displacement. Displacement risk is a composite of the following indicators:

- Socio-demographics – characteristics of current residents. These indicators include race and ethnicity, linguistic isolation, educational attainment, housing tenure, housing cost burden and household income.
 - Transportation qualities – indicators include access to jobs by car and transit, proximity to existing transit, and proximity to future light rail and streetcar service.
 - Neighborhood characteristics – include the proximity to services like supermarkets, restaurants, parks, and schools, and proximity to high-income areas.
 - Housing – indicators include development capacity and median rental prices.
 - Civic engagement – measured by voter turnout.
- **Discussed equitable transit-oriented development (TOD) through strategic site acquisition.** In the 2022 state legislative session, legislators considered House Bill 1880 and its companion legislation, Senate Bill 5861. This legislation would have authorized cities to establish housing benefit districts for affordable housing and community development. This could have included acquiring, land banking, predevelopment contracting, selling, improving, funding, and leasing land for the creation of affordable low-income and moderate-income housing and community development projects. To fund this, the special purpose district could impose a sales and use tax of up to 0.025 percent that would have been overseen by an advisory board. Both bills were given public hearings in their respective chambers; however, the legislation did not advance during the 2022 Legislative Session.
 - **Discussed lessons learned when planning for TOD for all.** Staff from the City of Lynnwood and City of Tacoma reported on their respective work to mitigate displacement. The City of Lynnwood is planning for the station area around the Lynnwood City Center Station that is scheduled to open in 2024. The City of Tacoma established a TOD Advisory Group in December 2021. The City of Tacoma has six light rail stations currently open with additional stations scheduled to open in 2023 with the Hilltop Extension. The Tacoma Dome Extension light rail stations are scheduled to open in 2032.

The next RTODC meeting is scheduled for June 17. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the RTODC.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its March 10 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional TIP**, which was approved by the Executive Board on March 24. The amendment is described above.
- **Recommended approval of project submittals to WSDOT National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Funding Competition**, as described above.
- **Recommended approval of the certification of the Frederickson MIC Subarea Plan**, as described above.

- **Recommended approval of the RTCC and TAP project list**, as described above.
- **Discussed the RTP public comments.** The draft RTP was released for public comment from January 13 – February 28. Comments were received from 74 individuals, 17 of PSRC’s member agencies, and 22 other organizations including tribal governments, public agencies, non-profit and community organizations. All comments are posted on PSRC’s website and will be coded into categories; identified for comment themes (support, opposition, recommendations) related to frequent topic area; and, assessed for geographic location. Comments will be grouped into three types: 1) no plan changes necessary; 2) technical corrections, and 3) requiring Board Member review. The TPB and Executive Board are scheduled to recommend approval of the RTP at its meeting in April.

At its March 31 special meeting, the TPB:

- **Acted on proposed RTP amendments.** In anticipation of final recommendation on the RTP in April 2022, the Board Members discussed and acted on proposed amendments in the following categories:
 - Technical corrections or clarifications
 - Project-specific amendments
 - Big ideas and technology
 - Coordinated Mobility Plan / Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plans
 - Equity
 - Water Quality.

The TPB and Executive Board are scheduled to recommend approval of the RTP at its meeting in April.

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