

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At its May 26 meeting, the General Assembly:

- **Adopted the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Supplemental Budget and Work Program.** The biennial budget and work program supports regional land use, transportation, and economic development planning and coordination. The budget provides resources to complete an update of the region's growth management strategy, VISION 2050, and for preliminary work on a scheduled 2022 update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Resources are identified for continued improvement of the region's transportation demand and land use models, development of updated growth forecasts, and for collection and analysis of data to support the planning work.
- **Elected Officers.** King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci and Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson were unanimously approved for a second term as President and Vice President of PSRC.
- **Adopted the RTP.** The RTP maps out the proposed investments and policies needed to keep pace with growth and create a safe, clean and efficient transportation system. Building from VISION 2050, key policy focus areas are: access to transit; safety; equity; climate; local agency needs; and, longer range transportation investments. The RTP outlines \$300 billion in transportation investments over the next 28 years. The plan contains an updated project list, reflecting multimodal investments around the region. The RTP must be supported by a financial strategy that shows the region has a reasonable capacity to fund the investments in the plan.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met on June 23 and a summary will be included in the July Regional Issues packet.

At its April 28 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved an updated policy on compensating members of PSRC funded focus groups, committees, and/or community-based organizations (CBO).** Policy revisions allow PSRC to compensate CBOs to encourage public participation in PSRC outreach efforts.
- **Approved contract authority for consultant services for a housing survey.** The consultant contract allows PSRC to conduct a statistically valid public opinion poll to

better understand public interest and support for implementation of the Regional Housing Strategy and VISION 2050.

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Two agencies submitted five projects for a routine amendment into the Regional TIP. 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 (DOT – Transit): Interim Base Battery Electric Bus Charging Depot
 - King County DOT - Transit: King County Metro/ Sound Transit Link Passenger Improvements
 - King County DOT - Transit: Metro Base Facilities Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Replacements
 - King County DOT - Transit: Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance 2021-2024
 - Kitsap County: Local Electric Passenger Only Ferry
- **Approved an allocation of unprogrammed 2022 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding to King County Metro.** Metro requested previously-unprogrammed funds for five existing projects related to base improvements and overhead trolley infrastructure replacements. The additional funding is needed to offset increases in project expenses.
- **Approved 2022 project extension requests.** PSRC's adopted project tracking policies are designed to ensure the timely use of PSRC funds and to increase the delivery of transportation investments that support the region's long-range plans. PSRC's project tracking policies allow one-time extensions to project sponsors with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The nine project sponsors include Kirkland and Seattle.
- **Approved certification of the Canyon Park Regional Growth Center Subarea Plan.** VISION 2050 directs jurisdictions with regional growth centers or manufacturing/industrial centers to develop subarea plans for those centers. The Canyon Park regional growth center in Bothell, Snohomish County was designated by PSRC in 1995. The subarea plan leverages regional transit investments to continue developing a multifaceted neighborhood with housing, office, retail and public space. PSRC reviewed the plan and found that it addresses the planning expectations for regional centers. Plan highlights include the development of market rate and affordable housing; retaining flexible and affordable commercial spaces; and, creating through-block connections with proposed new development.
- **Approved certification of Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).** Snohomish County adopted a major update to its CPPs in September 2021 to align with the multicounty planning policies and the Regional Growth Plan in VISION 2050. In February, the County adopted 2044 growth targets as an appendix to the CPPs to support the 2024 comprehensive plan updates and implement the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy. PSRC

staff reviewed the CPPs and found the policies address the multicounty planning policies and the RTP.

- **Approved 2022 project delivery and supplemental funding action.** A requirement to meet an annual delivery target for PSRC's FHWA funds has been in place since 2013. PSRC's adopted project tracking policies identify the procedures to be followed when there is a risk that the target will not be met, including the development of a supplemental funding action, which is needed to meet the 2022 delivery target.
- **Recommended Adoption of the RTP to the General Assembly**, as explained above.

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

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its June 2nd meeting, the GMPB:

- Discussed the **Regional Housing Strategy Implementation**. The board was briefed on housing implementation work taking place across the agency, including:
 - Tracking several data measures to better understand changes in access to housing, including costs and affordability and the demographics of homeownership
 - Consultant work to explore the development costs of different housing forms, including missing middle housing
 - Development of a place typology to help identify housing actions based on local conditions.
 - PSRC is partnering with the WA State Department of Commerce and MRSC to host a series of workshops to support local comprehensive plan updates called Passport to 2044. The first event took place on June 15.
- Discussed **State Housing Support for Local Planning**. The board was provided an overview of the state's work to support local planning for housing. The state legislature recently amended the Growth Management Act, directing jurisdictions to plan and accommodate for housing at all income levels. Commerce staff shared information about periodic update requirements related to housing. The plan update deadline for the central Puget Sound region is December 2024. Commerce staff also shared information relating to grants for planning, housing, and climate change that are available to support jurisdictions through the update process.
- Panel Discussion with **Subregional Housing Group Panel Presentation**. Board members participated in a panel discussion featuring staff from the four subregional

housing groups: A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), South King Housing and Homeless Partnership (SKHHP), Alliance for Housing Affordability (AHA), and South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHA3P). They provided an overview of their respective group's work and discussed opportunities and challenges for cross-jurisdictional coordination.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for July 7. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its June 9 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP.** Three agencies submitted ten projects for a routine amendment into the Regional TIP. The Executive Board will be asked to adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional TIP with the following projects:
 - Everett: 41st Street to Rucker Avenue Corridor Phase 2
 - Seattle: Greenwood Avenue N Sidewalks and 1st Avenue NW Neighborhood Greenway
 - WSDOT: I-405/SR 522 to SR 527 – Widening and Express Toll Lane
 - WSDOT: SR 99/Southbound Duwamish River Bridge – Bridge Painting
 - WSDOT: I-90/Lewis Creek – Fish Passage
 - WSDOT: SR 202/Sammamish Creek – Fish Passage
 - WSDOT: Northwest Region I-90 and I-5 Tunnel Fire Suppression Systems
 - WSDOT: SR 104/Lyon Creek – Fish Passage
 - WSDOT: I-90/1.8 Miles East of Tinkham Road to Denny Cr Viaduct – Stormwater Retrofit
 - WSDOT: I-90/Franklin Falls Bridge Westbound – Bridge Painting
- **Discussed the FTA funding process.** Members discussed how to approach the upcoming process for PSRC's FTA funds to address questions related to the fairness of the earned share distribution methodology. The briefing covered how FTA funds come to the region and how they have been distributed since 2004. Staff also provided an overview of transit agency boundaries and demographics of those service areas, including access to transit with an equity lens. The TPB will continue its discussion in July with a goal to recommend a new approach and conduct a project selection process before the end of 2022.
- **Discussed PSRC transportation work program.** Members provided feedback regarding the implementation of actions identified in the recently adopted RTP, as well as work already underway as part of the current budget and work program. The conversation covered priorities, timelines and next steps. The TPB will have ongoing discussions at future meetings.

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