

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

At its July 28 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved a budget amendment to add revenue from Department of Commerce for Housing Public Opinion Survey.** Amendment increases the adopted Biennial Budget to account for the Department's participation in a statistically valid public opinion poll to better understand public interest and support for implementation of the Regional Housing Strategy and VISION 2050.
- **Approved contract authority for join development of travel model software.** Through a collaborative model, this contract would extend PSRC's involvement with other states and cities to better understand travel behavior differences by race.
- **Recommended Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) and Critical Rural Freight Corridor (CRFC).** The designations allow a freight transportation project to be eligible to compete for National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) or INFRA (Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects) funding. This year, segments without a near-term planned project could be considered for designation if they have a strong freight-supportive role. Bellevue was successful in adding portions of 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE/SE to the CUFC list.
- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP.** Three agencies submitted eight projects for a routine amendment into the Regional TIP:
  - Fife: I-5/54th Avenue E Interchange – Phase 1
  - Kenmore: Complete SR 522 Improvements - Kenmore
  - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region: I-5/Freedom Creek Vicinity – Fish Passage
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-5/SR 161/SR 18 Triangle Interchange Vicinity - Improvements
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: SR 9/Unnamed Tributaries to Prairie and Quilceda Creeks – Fish Passage
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: SR 99/238th Street SW to 148th Street SW – ADA Compliance
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: SR 531/Fish Creek – Fish Passage
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: SR 410/Upper White River – Chronic Environmental Deficiency (Immediate Actions 1 and 2)
- **Approved the 2022 annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) adjustments.** PSRC distributed its 2022 FTA funds as part of the 2018 project selection process using an estimate

based on previous funding levels under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. FTA updates its actual allocations on an annual basis. The final 2022 allocation made under the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is higher than originally estimated, providing an increase of approximately \$93.7 million to the region.

- **Approved projects proposed for 2025-2026 FHWA Funds, as well as the recommended contingency lists.** Between February and June 2022, the project selection process to distribute approximately \$187 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 FHWA funds was conducted through a regional competition and competitions in each of the region's four counties. PSRC will prepare the Draft 2023-2026 Regional TIP, scheduled to be released for public comment in September. In October, the TPB will make its final recommendation on the 2023-2026 Regional TIP, and the Executive Board is scheduled to take final action on October 27.
- **Authorized the Executive Director to execute office space lease.** A lease agreement would start on January 2, 2024 in downtown Seattle (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue).

At its September 22 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority for website support services.** PSRC recently launched a new agency website. This contract will provide for provide technical support, including security updates for the website platform, help desk assistance, and design and programming adjustments.
- **Approved contract authority for PSRC's move-related expenses.** With approval for a lease for new office space, effective January 1, 2024, this contract will assist with furniture needs, including ensuring the existing furniture fits into the space and assist in the design of fixtures not covered by the lease's turnkey tenant improvements provisions.
- **Approve contract authority for in-house leadership development training.** PSRC will enter into a contract for in-house leadership development training. The training would ensure all staff have an opportunity to apply leadership practices, apply a practice of inclusive leadership and build essential skills through team engagement.
- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP.** Three agencies submitted ten projects for a routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
  - Seattle: Jose Rizal Bridge (North Segment)
  - Snohomish County: Pilchuck Creek Bridge 626 Replacement
  - Sound Transit: Sumner Station Access Improvements
  - Sound Transit: Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-5/Ravenna Blvd. Bridges – Seismic Retrofit
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-5/Southcenter Pkwy Vicinity – Seismic Retrofit

- WSDOT Olympic Region: SR 3/SR 104/SR 303/SR 307/SR 308 Kitsap Co – Remove Fish Barriers
- **Discussed the 2023 Legislative Agenda.** The legislative agenda will be based on adopted regional plans and policies, including transportation, housing choice and affordability and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A final legislative agenda is anticipated for adoption by the Executive Board in December.
- **Discussed the Transportation Work Program.** Members provided feedback regarding the implementation of actions identified in the RTP adopted in May, as well as work already underway as part of the current budget and work program.
- **Discussed Puget Sound data trends.** PSRC staff shared trends that highlight how the region has been impacted and is recovering from the pandemic. Data includes population and housing growth, as well as job changes, transit and airport use in the region.

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

#### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its September 1 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received a briefing on Vision 2050 implementation.** PSRC staff provided an overview of how PSRC is working to implement VISION 2050 and techniques for tracking progress. The overview included a presentation of recent trend data that correlates to VISION 2050 objectives, including growth, economic activity, housing, and transportation.
- **Received a briefing and update on PSRC's Comprehensive Plan certification process** and addressing housing requirements under HB 1220 as well as climate change. Future updates and webinars will be provided to elected officials.
- **Received a briefing on recent and upcoming outreach activities and support opportunities for the 2024 comprehensive plan updates.** PSRC has launched the Passport to 2044: Comprehensive Plan Workshop Series in partnership with Commerce and Municipal Services Research Center (MRSC) to support the comprehensive plan periodic updates. PSRC has published numerous guidance documents to date, which are available on the VISION 2050 Planning Resources page.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for October 6. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its September 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP.** Three agencies submitted eight 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:
  - Seattle: Jose Rizal Bridge (North Segment)
  - Snohomish County: Pilchuck Creek Bridge 626 Replacement
  - Sound Transit: Sumner Station Access Improvements
  - Sound Transit: Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-5/Ravenna Blvd. Bridges – Seismic Retrofit
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-5/Southcenter Pkwy Vicinity – Seismic Retrofit
  - WSDOT Olympic Region: SR 3/SR 104/SR 303/SR 307/SR 308 Kitsap Co – Remove Fish Barriers
- **Released the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan for Public Comment.** The Draft TIP includes projects approved by the Executive Board in July to receive PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds, as well as projects with local, state and other federal funds expected to be utilized between 2023 and 2026. Pending TPB recommended action, the Executive Board will consider adopting the Regional TIP on October 27. Several Bellevue projects are added to the Draft TIP, including Eastrail to Spring Boulevard Trail Link (construction), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail (construction between 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE to I-90 at 150th Avenue SE), and South Downtown Arterial Overlay Construction.
- **Continued discussion of the Transportation Work Program.** Members provided feedback regarding the implementation of actions identified in the RTP adopted in May, as well as work already underway as part of the current budget and work program. The conversation focused on the timeline for short-term and future deliverables, including a 2030 greenhouse gas analysis, a climate implementation strategy, an active transportation plan and a regional safety convening.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for October 13. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.