



DATE: March 27, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Committees Update

Executive Board

At its February 23 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved contract authority for audio-visual equipment purchase and installation.** Before PSRC moves into new office space on January 1, 2024, they must update audio-visual (AV) equipment; existing equipment is ten years old and it outdated or nearing the end of its life cycle.
- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Six agencies submitted fourteen projects:
 - Duvall: 3rd Avenue NE Reconstruction
 - Federal Way: City Center Access Project – Phase 1
 - Issaquah: NW Gilman Bridge Seismic Retrofit
 - Kitsap County: Newberry Hill Road – Culvert
 - Pierce County: Bridge Deck Rehabilitations – Mashal River, Puyallup River, Kapowsin Creek
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region:
 - I-90/Soderman Creek – Fish Passage
 - SR 161/19th Way S Vicinity Unnamed Tributary to East Fork Hylebos
 - SR 202/Unnamed Tributary to Patterson Creek - Fish Passage
 - SR 515/Panther Creek to Springbrook Creek - Fish Passage
 - SR 516/Mill Creek - Fish Passage
 - US 2/Unnamed Tributaries to Skykomish River - Fish Passage
 - SR 9/Bunk Foss Creek & Cemetery Creek - Fish Passage
 - US 2/Bunk Foss Creek and Unnamed Tributary to French Creek - Fish Passage
 - US 2/Groeneveld & Unnamed Creek to Skykomish River - Fish Passage
- **Discussed PSRC's Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan grant.** PSRC was awarded a nearly \$4.9 million grant that will support the development of a Regional Safety Plan, as well as funding local safety plans for the cities of Burien, Everett, Kent, Redmond, Tukwila and Pierce County.
- **Heard an update on the 2023 legislative session.** The board was briefed on recent legislative issues such as increasing housing supply, road usage charge, funding for



affordable homes and tenant protections.

- **Discussed the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)**, coming to the greater Seattle region from May 14-19. ACE brings together 60 senior-level government, business, policy, and economic decision-makers across the Americas. The ACE program showcases a region's economic ecosystem and provides resources to expand international cooperation and long-term partnerships. Delegates will spend a week visiting businesses, organizations, universities, and important cultural sites across King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for March 23. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its March 9 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Four agencies submitted five projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
 - King County Transit: Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance 2021-2024
 - Seattle: 4th/Argo Railyard Bridge Replacement Planning Study
 - Seattle: Seattle Center Monorail Station Reconfiguration
 - Tukwila: 42nd Avenue S Bridge Replacement
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) South Central Region: I-90/2.77 Miles East of Tinkham Road Westbound – Slope Stabilization
- **Discussed a working group recommendation on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding distribution methodology.** Members recommended approval of revisions to the methodology used to distribute PSRC's FTA funding. The recommendation includes a direct equity formula distribution in lieu of a regional competition. PSRC's 2025-2026 FTA funding distribution has been on hold until deliberations about the methodology for distributing FTA funds have concluded and a final process is determined.
- **Received a briefing on WSDOT's Revive I-5 project and a schedule of activities.** WSDOT has developed a 10-year plan of more than two dozen projects between now and 2032. Projects will include pavement repair and full replacement, expansion joints, and seismic work to strengthen bridges against earthquakes. Nighttime lane, ramp and directional closures, construction over the weekends, and land reductions and closures can be expected.
- **Discussed PSRC's draft Public Participation Plan.** PSRC worked with the Equity



Advisory Committee to ensure there are consistent procedures and people have reasonable opportunities to involve themselves in regional planning. The draft Plan has an enhanced focus on equitable engagement, updated goals, desired outcomes and guiding principles, and a suite of new techniques and tools for engagement.

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

Economic Development District (EDD) Board

At its March 1 meeting, the EDD Board:

- **Discussed PSRC's upcoming office move to 1201 Third Avenue**, which is expected to take place in early 2024. Ten separate properties were viewed, multiple offers were solicited, and PSRC ultimately executed the new lease in July 2022. The new space features a larger, more flexible board room, and includes amenities and space that will better support the hybrid work environment envisioned for the future.
- **Discussed VISION 2050 and PSRC's work to support housing planning across the Puget Sound**. PSRC staff have undertaken a number of efforts to support implementation of plan, including:
 - The **Regional Housing Strategy**, which was adopted in 2022 and identifies roles for PSRC, cities, counties, and other stakeholders to play in the housing planning process. The document also includes a playbook of regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock in the region.
 - A **statistically-valid survey** conducted by PSRC and the Department of Commerce to gauge public interest in new housing strategies. The data has been made available to local communities, and is intended to support PSRC and its jurisdictions as they update the housing elements of their comprehensive plans.
 - A **housing opportunities by place typology**, which showcases actions that can be taken to improve housing availability based on the size, housing needs, market conditions, demographics, and growth expectations of the place. This work is underway and will be made available later this spring.
 - A **local implementation survey**, to explore what housing tools are being developed and used in PSRC's member jurisdictions. The survey results will be made available later this month.
- **Discussed the update to PSRC's Regional Equity Strategy**. This strategy is intended to make equity more central to PSRC's work and support local comprehensive plan updates. It also provides guidance and training for staff to ensure the agency effectively uses its roles to advance racial equity. Based on feedback from PSRC and other regional boards and committees, the strategy will include components focused on capacity-building, data and research, community engagement, and best practices.



- **Discussed the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) delegation** which will be visiting the Puget Sound region from May 14-19. PSRC is leading this work with the Washington State Department of Commerce and Greater Seattle Partners.

Mayor Robinson has been invited to co-host an evening reception as part of the ACE program. Mayor Birney (Redmond), Mayor Sweet (Kirkland), and Mayor Millman (Woodinville) will also be co-hosting this event. The reception will take place Monday, May 15 from 5-7pm at Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville. More information about this event and the broader program will be available as soon as details are finalized.

The next EDD Board meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDD.

Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

At its March 2 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received a briefing on Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center Application.** PSRC staff reviewed a draft application from the City of Kirkland to designate a 564-acre center focused on Kirkland's historic downtown. PSRC staff is reviewing the application and preparing a designation report in coordination with staff from the city. If PSRC designated the Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center, it would be the second designated regional center in Kirkland. The Board will be asked to take action at a future meeting.
- **Received a briefing on the 2022 Housing Tools and Incentives Survey.** PSRC fielded a survey of local jurisdictions in the summer of 2022 – the Housing Incentives and Tools Survey (HITS). The survey's goal was to understand how housing tools, incentives, and strategies are being used and which are having the biggest impact on increasing housing development and affordability. The Board was briefed on the findings from the survey.
- **Received a briefing on Growth Management Act Projections, Growth Targets, and Land Use Forecast.** PSRC staff provided the Board with an update on how the most recent population projections align with PSRC's forecast, the previous state projections, and adopted growth targets. The Board was briefed on the 2022 Office of Financial Management Growth Management Act projections and implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy through growth targets.
- **Received a briefing on the Public Participation Plan Update.** PSRC maintains a Public Participation Plan to establish consistent procedures to ensure people have reasonable opportunities to be involve themselves in the regional planning process. The



plan provides examples of the tools and techniques the agency may use to communicate with the public. Public Participation Plans are a federal requirement for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The Plan was last updated in 2018. Staff have been working with the Equity Advisory Committee to update the agency's Public Participation Plan. A draft version is being reviewed by PSRC boards this month with the goal of releasing the plan for public comment from March 23 to May 8, 2023. The new draft Public Participation Plan has an enhanced focus on equitable engagement, updated goals, desired outcomes and guiding principles, and a suite of new techniques and tools for engagement.

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