



**DATE:** April 24, 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 March 23 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved Increased Contract Authority for Low Voltage Contractor.** In January, the Executive Board approved authorization for low voltage cabling installation in PSRC's new office space. However, after receiving higher than anticipated estimates, PSRC requested an increase from \$121,000 to \$185,000.
- **Approved Contract Authority for the 2023 General Assembly.** This action authorizes the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts for space rental, catering and audio/visual expenses related to the 2023 General Assembly on May 30. The total budget is not to exceed \$30,000.
- **Adopted 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: 4<sup>th</sup>/Argo Railyard Bridge Replacement Planning Study
  - Seattle: Seattle Center Monorail Station Reconfiguration
  - Tukwila: 42<sup>nd</sup> 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
- **Approved Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding Distribution Methodology.** The Executive Board approved revisions to the methodology used to distribute PSRC's funding. For the past six months, a working group of Transportation Policy Board (TPB) members and transit agency leadership met to review the methodology. The approved methodology includes a direct equity formula distribution in lieu of a regional competition.
- **Released the Public Participation Plan for public comment.** PSRC has worked with the Equity Advisory Committee to update the Public Participation Plan. The draft has an enhanced focus on equity, updated goals, desired outcomes, guiding principles and a suite of new techniques and tools for engagement. The draft Public Participation Plan is available for review on PSRC's website and for public comment from March 23 to May 8.



The plan will be revised based on public comments and will return to the Executive Board for final adoption this spring.

- **Provided feedback on the Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center Application.** On February 27, PSRC received an application from Kirkland to designate a 564-acre center focused around Kirkland's historic downtown. PSRC is reviewing the application and preparing a designation report. If ultimately approved, the Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center would be the second designated regional center in Kirkland and the 30th regional growth center in the central Puget Sound region. PSRC will finalize the designation and plan certification reports based on the feedback received.
- **Heard a briefing about PSRC's summer youth engagement program.** The Summer Planning Academy (SPA) will begin in July 2023. The first cohort of SPA will feature 20 students; the application period is now open. The program is open to any high school students 16 years and older and will educate students on planning topics in the region. The application for SPA is open through May 15.

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

### **Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

At its April 13 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP.** Five agencies submitted seven projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
  - Bellevue: Bellevue Way and NE 4th Street
  - Bellevue: NE 8th Street
  - King County Department of Transportation: Baring Bridge 509A Replacement
  - Mountlake Terrace: Transit Connection Corridor Project
  - Sound Transit: At-Grade Safety Enhancements
  - Sound Transit: Series 3 Light Rail Vehicles
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-90/West Village Park & Schneider Creeks – Fish Passage
- **Recommended certification of Kitsap County Countywide Planning Policies.** PSRC reviewed the countywide planning policies (CPPs) and found they address the VISION 2050 multicounty planning policies and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- **Recommended authorizing a change in the RTP project status for Sumner's Stewart Road Corridor Completion: White River Bridge Project.** The City of Sumner



has submitted a request to change the status of the Stewart Road Corridor Completion: White River Bridge Project from "Candidate" to "Approved."

- **Recommended authorizing a change in the RTP project status for WSDOT's SR 9 and SR 204 Intersection Vicinity Improvements Project.** WSDOT has submitted a request to change the status of the SR 9 and SR 204 Intersection Vicinity Improvements Project from "Candidate" to "Approved."
- **Recommended advancing the RTP minor amendment to the Executive Board for approval.** The current RTP was adopted in May 2022; however, some project changes have occurred that require a plan amendment. Seven agencies representing eight projects have requested off-cycle amendments to the RTP. The projects are either 1) new and not yet evaluated or, 2) modifications to the scope and cost of existing projects. The City of Bellevue submitted an amendment for the 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Mobility Improvements Project.
- **Recommended advancing the 2023 project tracking and delivery actions to the Executive Board for approval.** PSRC must meet its annual funding delivery target or risk losing any unused portion of funds to other regions in the state. Four supplemental funding actions are needed to assist the region in meeting the annual delivery target:
  - Project extension recommendations
  - Project exception requests
  - Policy addition to provide additional tools to achieve delivery of funds
  - Supplemental funding action that funds immediately ready-to-go contingency projects, including the Bellevue College Multimodal Connector and the 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE (Stage 4) – NE 16<sup>th</sup> Street to Northup Way Multimodal Corridor Completion project.
- **Discussed the climate change implementation strategy.** Beginning this summer, an expert panel will review PSRC's 2030 climate analysis, sensitivity tests and results. This fall, the panel may provide recommendations on revisions to the core analysis, and/or revisions on additional sensitivity testing. Tentative action on a Climate Change Implementation Strategy is proposed for December.
- **Discussed the transit access work program.** The RTP adopted in 2022 calls for continued work to improve transit access throughout the region. PSRC will review transit access resources to help identify potential improvements to transit access assessments and next steps. PSRC plans to recruit an ad hoc working group to assist in the review and evaluation of existing tools, resources and data through use of several case studies representing different contexts and transit access challenges within the region.



The next TPB meeting is scheduled for May 11. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

### **Economic Development District (EDD) Board**

The EDD Board has not met since the last IA packet on March 23. The next EDD Board meeting is scheduled for June 7. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDD.

### **Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)**

At its April 6 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Certified Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies.** The board acted to certify Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies consistent with VISION 2050 multicounty policies and the Regional Transportation Plan. Kitsap County and its cities adopted and ratified an update to their countywide planning policies to align with PSRC's Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2050. PSRC staff coordinated with countywide staff in the review of the plan and drafted the certification report. The plan will be certified by the Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board in their upcoming meetings.
- **2024 Comprehensive Plan and Certification Outreach.** The board was briefed on current and planned outreach activities and support for the 2024 comprehensive plan updates. Cities and counties are well into the required period comprehensive plan updates. PSRC has been publishing a series of guidance documents and collaborating with Commerce and MRSC on webinars to support local efforts. These resources are available on the PSRC website. The next upcoming webinar is aimed specifically at answering questions local elected officials and planning commissioners have about comprehensive planning
- **PSRC Youth Engagement Program - Summer Planning Academy.** The board was briefed on a new summer youth engagement program called Summer Planning Academy (SPA), beginning in July 2023. The program will introduce individuals to the planning process and profession at an early age, engage young people to provide input on PSRC's policies and programs, and promote equity in the region by recruiting and engaging youth from diverse backgrounds. The program is open to rising high school students in the region 16 years and older. With successful completion of the SPA, students will be eligible for a \$500 scholarship. The application is open through May 15.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for May 4. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.