

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:  
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)  
May 26, 2015**

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

The GMPB did not meet in May due to the PSRC General Assembly meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2015. Main topics include City of Issaquah's application for designation as a regional growth center and a status report on PSRC's review of local Comprehensive Plans.

**REGIONAL TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)**

At its May 8, 2015 meeting, the RTODAC:

**Received a briefing on the PSRC Centers Framework Update Project.**

PSRC staff will be updating the Centers Framework ahead of the update of VISION 2040. This is timely (and was accelerated by PSRC) given the recent discussion about military facilities and the Arlington-Marysville request as well as regional growth center designation applications from Issaquah and University Place. All of those highlight the need for revisiting the policies and criteria for classifying and qualifying regional and sub-regional (or local) centers in the context of VISION 2040. The purpose of this work is NOT to revise the criteria at this time, but to lay the groundwork for future discussion leading to the update of Transportation 2040, Regional Economic Strategy and VISION 2040.

**Received a briefing on creation of an equitable TOD property acquisition fund in the region.**

Several actions in the Growing Transit Communities (GTC) Strategy call for the development of a TOD property acquisition fund. The GTC Partnership included a TOD Fund subcommittee that met from 2011-2013 and produced a white paper making the case for a regional TOD Fund. Since late 2013, a work group has been developing a business plan and funding framework for the TOD Fund, now called the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) Fund.

During fall 2014 and continuing into 2015, representatives of several potential public sector investors in the REDI Fund have been meeting with staff from PSRC and Enterprise Community Loan Fund to advance the initiative. Regional partners on this working group include City of Seattle, A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), and the counties of King, Pierce, and Snohomish. To date, the partners have identified commitments for public catalyst investments totaling approximately \$2.5 million. The partners have also been seeking an additional \$2.5 million in catalyst investment capital from the State of Washington, with the goal of reaching a total public investment of \$5 million, which would enable an overall leveraged REDI Fund of approximately \$25 million.

The public sector investors have developed a draft mission and goals statement, along with proposed terms and governance structure for the REDI Fund. With support from the adopted PSRC

Recommendations to the 2015 Legislature, the above-mentioned regional partners and others are continuing efforts to identify and secure a commitment from the State of Washington to contribute additional seed capital that would enable the REDI Fund to scale up to serve the entire region.

**The Advisory Committee also Received briefings on:**

- PSRC's Housing Work Program
- Implementation Reports from Redmond, Bellwether Housing and PSRC as updates on implementation of the Growing Transit Communities strategies by signatories to the compact.

The next meeting of the RTODAC is scheduled for September 11, 2015.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its May 14, 2015 meeting, the TPB:

**Recommended \$1.8 million in funding for special needs transportation projects.**

The projects will help seniors and people who are disabled get to doctor appointments, grocery shopping and other important activities. The recommended projects include King County's Sustain Hyde Shuttles, Disabled Veterans Transportation, Pierce County's Beyond the Borders, and the Northshore Senior Center.

**Reviewed the draft 2015 Transit Integration Report.**

Ensuring effective coordination and integration among and between transit agencies is essential in avoiding customer confusion and duplicative and/or conflicting services. The purpose of this annual report is to increase awareness of ongoing transit coordination activities occurring in the region. The 2015 Transit Integration Report features stories on recent coordination activities as well as integration actions that are currently underway. It is also influenced by the release in September 2014 of Getting There Together, a transit integration report focused King County Metro and Sound Transit.

**Received a briefing by King County Metro and Sound Transit staff on integration between Metro's Long-Range Plan and Sound Transit's System Plan.**

An outcome of Getting There Together was a commitment to fully integrate Metro's long-range planning and Sound Transit's system plan development efforts. Sound Transit began system plan development after the Sound Transit Board approved an update to the long-range plan in December 2014, and Metro's long-range planning effort kicked off in early 2015.

**Received a briefing by WSDOT and Community Transit staff on recent interagency discussions focused on enhancing speed and reliability of transit trips along I-5 between Everett and Seattle.**

Travel times on the I-5 corridor between Everett and Seattle are longer than ever for an Everett Seattle trip during the morning rush hours. The peak is spreading both in time and distance. High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, which carry very large numbers of people compared to adjacent lanes, are failing to meet the recognized peak 45 mph performance standard. To address these conditions, WSDOT and Community Transit have been working together to identify short term actions to implement to improve this commute, including adding more and larger buses and the potential of operating buses on freeway shoulders to bypass congested conditions.

**In other business, the Board:**

- Recommended a routine amendment to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.
- Recommended authorizing a change in project status for Pierce County's Canyon Road East.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for June 11, 2015.