

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

*January 2016*

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its January 7, 2016 meeting, the GMPB:

- Recommended certification of the Central Issaquah Plan, replacing previous provisional status adopted by PSRC's Executive Board in June 2015. One of the requirements for becoming a full-fledged regional growth center is to develop a subarea plan. Issaquah envisions the center will become a vibrant, walkable urban community with convenient access to shopping, jobs, and open space.
- Recommended certification of comprehensive plans for the cities of Kent, Kirkland, Lake Stevens, Marysville, Medina, Mukilteo, Roy and Sammamish and conditional certification of comprehensive plans for Bonney Lake, Carnation, and Milton. PSRC is responsible for certifying that local comprehensive plans are consistent with the Growth Management Act, VISION 2040, and Transportation 2040. Conditional certification means the jurisdiction needs to do a limited amount of additional work to bring the plan into full certification.
- In other business, the GMPB received a legislative update from the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Washington State Association of Counties on potential legislative proposals that relate to growth management and VISION 2040. The Committee was also briefed on PSRC's FY 2016-2017 budget and work program.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its January 14 meeting, the TPB:

- Heard a presentation from Washington State Department of Transportation regarding the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV program. The complete SR 520 project is now fully funded, thanks to the Washington Transportation package. The project is estimated to cost \$4.56 billion—\$90 million less than originally anticipated. The first phase of the new bridge is scheduled to open in April, and will be the world's longest floating bridge. The first segment of the west approach of the bridge is expected to open in 2017, and work on the remaining portion will begin in 2018. This project is conditionally approved, and WSDOT will return to the TPB in the spring for final approval.
- Distributed additional Federal Transit Administration funds. PSRC distributes funds based on estimates of what funds will be available. The final FTA funds for 2015 have come in \$7.7 million higher than anticipated, and the TPB distributed these excess funds to 20 regional transit projects, one of which is the Regional Transportation Improvement Program that is currently out for public comment. The new project is recommended for \$325,843 of design and engineering for the remodel of Skagit Transit's new maintenance facility. Skagit Transit is eligible for PSRC funding because of the commuter services it provides to Snohomish County.

- Recommended 2016 project selection policies and procedures. The TPB will kick off a project selection funding process this year for \$700 million in PSRC funds. The draft policy framework continues to focus on support for centers and corridors, strengthens criteria for health and equity, and asks for more information on innovation. The money comes from both the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations. For the FHWA side, there would be \$56 million in set asides for preservation, Kitsap County's adjustment and bicycle and pedestrian projects. The remainder would be split 50/50 between a regional competition and competitions among the four countywide groups. The FTA funding would largely be distributed to transit agencies based on an earned share competition, with a smaller amount for a regional competition. A PSRC volunteer project selection task force recommended several changes be made to the policies and procedures that guide this process. The TPB approved these policy changes, with the addition of frequent check-ins to determine how the new procedures are working.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for Thursday, February 11.