

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)**
March and April 2016

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its April 7 meeting, the GMPB:

- Launched the stakeholder review of the Regional Centers Framework. This project is looking at how the region plans for and supports all types of centers. The update will develop consistent designation criteria and procedures that help achieve vibrant urban places for people to live and work. The Board approved the composition of a stakeholder working group that will develop recommendations on the centers framework and report back this fall. Following the regular meeting, the policy board hosted a joint work session exploring the region's centers.
- Recommended certification of comprehensive plans for Burien, Darrington, DuPont, Fircrest, Ruston, and Snohomish, and conditional certification of plans for Arlington, Granite Falls, Stanwood, Lakewood, Pacific, and Pierce County. PSRC reviews and certifies 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. There was substantial discussion about Pierce County's request for full certification rather than conditional certification. The final vote was 9-7 in favor of conditional certification, with Councilmember Lynne Robinson representing Bellevue and voting for conditional certification. The conditional certification was due to Pierce County having large areas unassigned for purposes of future annexation or incorporation and for having growth targets in the unincorporated urban area greater than anticipated by VISION 2040. The issue is anticipated to generate additional discussion at the Executive Board.
- Viewed an abbreviated presentation about development of the Spring District in Bellevue. The Spring District is a 36-acre planned mixed-use urban neighborhood on the old Safeway Distribution Center site in the BelRed Corridor. The district's 16 city blocks will feature commercial, educational and residential projects, including hotels, restaurants and local shops. Greg Johnson, President of the Wright Runstad Company, described the latest developments and ongoing construction in the district. David Maddox of the University of Washington talked about the plans for the University of Washington's Global Innovation Exchange to open there in 2017. The Spring District light rail station is scheduled to open in 2023.

In other business, the GMPB:

- Heard a brief overview on the public review process and next steps for the draft Sound Transit 3 (ST3) plan.
- Received information about the American Planning Association's Great Places designation - applications are due April 29.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for Thursday, June 2.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its April 14 meeting, the TPB:

- **Was briefed on the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Draft System Plan.** The ST3 plan would spend \$50 billion over 25 years to expand light rail, commuter rail, and bus transit to meet growing demand throughout the region. Light rail would be extended north, south, east and west for a total of 112 miles - about the same scale as Washington DC's metro system. Sound Transit is currently seeking feedback on the proposal.
- **Discussed the National Highway Freight Network being established as part of the FAST Act.** The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act directs \$6.3 billion of federal funding to the states to invest in freight infrastructure over the next five years. PSRC is leading a process for the designation of the Critical Urban Freight Corridors to be added as a subset of the national network. PSRC is using a combination of available data sources and the established planning frameworks in current plans to examine gaps. This work is being overseen by the FAST Freight Advisory Committee.
- **Heard a presentation on the status of the viaduct replacement.** The viaduct will need to be closed for approximately two weeks to allow the boring machine to tunnel beneath the structure. In coordination with the City of Seattle and King County, WSDOT is preparing for the significant regional traffic impacts expected from the closure, and will provide advance notice and updates for the public. WSDOT has announced the closure will begin April 29, 2016.

In other business, the Transportation Policy Board:

- Was briefed on current and future transportation technology and discussed how the region can prepare for potential changes.
- Recommended authorizing a change in Transportation 2040 project status for the City of Bellevue NE Spring Boulevard Multi-Modal Corridor--Zone1B Project. Currently, the Spring Boulevard candidate project in Transportation 2040 consists of a single project between 116th and 124th Avenues NE. The City proposes to divide the corridor into three distinct segments: Zone 1A (116th to the west abutment of the bridge over the Sound Transit-owned segment of the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC)), Zone 1B (west abutment of the ERC bridge to 120th Avenue NE), and Zone 2 (120th to 124th Avenues NE). The Zone 1B is moving toward implementation and has met the criteria to request a status change. The City of Bellevue is requesting a status change to Approved for Zone 1B only at this time. This change will allow the City to proceed to construction of Zone 1B in advance of Sound Transit's East Link construction in this immediate vicinity.
- Recommended Distribution of PSRC Funds to Contingency List Projects. Of these contingency list grant awards, one is indicated for a City of Bellevue project, titled the Hospital Station Area Multi-Modal Connections project. Through City staff negotiation with the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the County will take over lead agency status for this grant. The grant, to be fully matched by County funds, will 1) complete the design of a grade separated crossing of NE 8th Street along the alignment of the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC), and 2) complete the design of the interface between the planned ERC trail and the Wilburton (a.k.a. Hospital) light rail station.

City staff will continue to coordinate with the County on the project, including on the development of a potential three-party interlocal agreement between the City, County and Sound Transit for the design and ultimate implementation of these grant-funded project elements. Such an agreement may also include other trail coordination and implementation issues in the vicinity and along the longer ERC alignment.

- Recommended approval of a Routine Amendment to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Recommended Certification of Comprehensive Plans for Burien, Darrington, DuPont, Fircrest, Ruston, and Snohomish.
- Recommended Conditional Certification of Comprehensive Plans for Arlington, Granite Falls, Stanwood, Lakewood, and Pacific.
- Referred a discussion on the Certification of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to the Executive Board.

The May meeting of the TPB has been cancelled due to Alaskan Way Viaduct construction activity. The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for Thursday, June 9.

REGIONAL TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At its March 18 meeting, the Committee:

- Heard a presentation from Sound Transit staff on Equitable TOD and the ST3 System Plan. ST staff discussed how planning for TOD is proposed to be part of the early analysis for ST3, including dedicated funding in the bus rapid transit and light rail transit projects for identifying potential TOD sites around future stations. This analysis would help inform decisions about station location and property acquisition for construction purposes to create better opportunities for TOD.
- Received an update on the Regional Centers Framework Update Project. PSRC staff have been working with stakeholders, consultants and a technical advisory group through this research phase to determine how centers are developing and what factors are important for success. In the next phase of the project, PSRC is forming a stakeholder working group to review the existing framework for designating regional growth centers and manufacturing industrial centers. The stakeholder working group will be developing recommendations related to existing criteria and process for designating these centers as well as establishing consistent criteria for locally designated centers. The stakeholder working group will include the members of the technical advisory group that has been working with PSRC staff on the research phase as well as additional representatives from counties, tribes and the military. Bellevue PCD staff serve on the technical advisory group and will also serve on the stakeholder working group.
- Received a very brief update on the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) Fund. The fund has been established and is being administered by a third party with oversight from PSRC. The enabling legislation for ST3 funding calls for Sound Transit to contribute \$20 million toward a revolving loan fund for affordable housing related to TOD, if ST3 is approved by the voters. It has

not yet been determined whether the Sound Transit contribution will be to the REDI fund or another fund. There will be future discussion about that item.

- Briefly shared news about different projects by their respective jurisdictions and agencies related to TOD. Bellevue Councilmember Vandana Slatter talked about the recent NAIOP Challenge for TOD at the BelRed/130th station site. The challenge was jointly sponsored by Bellevue and Sound Transit and the team from UW won the competition over teams from Portland State and University of British Columbia.

At a special meeting held on April 15 the Committee:

- Received a presentation on the ST3 Draft System Plan from Sound Transit. The Committee was asked to provide feedback on the draft plan specific to the intent of SB 5987 to strengthen creation of equitable TOD and affordable housing and how that will be implemented through the ST3 system plan and other ST board policy and agency administrative procedures. The discussion was a continuation of the previous Committee meeting where Sound Transit staff presented its proposal to include TOD analysis in the planning for ST3 projects. The Committee will send a comment letter on equitable TOD and implementation of the requirements of SB 5987 to Sound Transit by the April 29 comment deadline.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Friday, June 17.