

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

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its July 7, 2016 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received a presentation on the Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS).** Ron Sims, former Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and former King County Executive, spoke to the importance of open space for the region's environmental and human health. ROSS Executive Committee members John Owen, Principal with Makers Architects, and Tracy Stanton, Coordinator for Urban Waters Partnership, briefed board members on the draft ROSS and an open space mapping and valuation tool. The tool creates a profile of demographic, ecological and land use data by block group to quantify and evaluate the functional value of that area for open space. The ROSS group is suggesting the tool be used by the PSRC in updating VISION 2040. Because the data is available at the block level, cities could also make use of the tool for identifying and evaluating open space potential at the local level.
- **Received a briefing on the Regional Centers Framework Update.** This update is reviewing how centers are designated at the regional, county and local levels. Currently, VISION 2040 only recognizes one type of center, regional growth centers. The function and size of these vary widely. In addition, counties and cities have their own criteria for designating different centers. All of these different centers compete for regional transportation funding, even though they do not all serve the same function.

This project is intended to provide guidance for the next update of VISION 2040 to better define criteria for what constitutes a center and its role in a regional or local context. This has implications for Bellevue as it competes for regional transportation funding. The project has wrapped up the research phase and recently held two joint board work sessions. A Stakeholder Working Group is meeting through December to develop a final report with options and recommendations. Patrick Bannon, Executive Director of the Bellevue Downtown Association is representing business and Michael Kattermann, Senior Planner, is representing Bellevue in its role as a metropolitan regional growth center on the group.

- **Discussed *Taking Stock 2016*, an initiative to assess the region's comprehensive plan updates and certification process.** This effort will identify and evaluate issues that emerged through recent local plan updates and help inform the next update to VISION 2040. A working group with representation across counties and cities will provide oversight. The purpose of the project is to review and evaluate the comprehensive plan update process completed over the past year by jurisdictions in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, PSRC's role in that process and issues to address in the VISION 2040 Update. Several small cities in the Sound Cities Association have raised issues about the certification process that will be evaluated in this project; however, there are no implications for Bellevue at this time.
- **Received a presentation on travel trends in the Puget Sound region.** The PSRC is tracking regional demographic and transportation trends as part of the long-range performance-based planning process. The presentation described changes in travel behavior and growth patterns in the

region since 2006, including commute patterns and jobs-housing fit. Growth in the region is on track with VISION 2040 forecasts, with population expected to exceed 4 million next year and 5 million by 2040. Job growth is robust with Bellevue having the largest increase in the region, mostly in Downtown and the BelRed corridor. Overall, people are using more alternatives to driving alone and driving fewer miles; however, congestion is still increasing due to the increase in population of the region. The full presentation is available online at: <http://www.psrc.org/assets/14739/Travel-Trends-Presentation.pdf>.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2016.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its June 9 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of \$19 million of projects using additional federal transit funds.** The PSRC awards Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding based on conservative estimates of what will be available and distributes funding after the agency makes its annual adjustment of actual funding availability based on a formula that takes into account ridership and population served. Generally, this means additional funding becomes available for transit agencies and projects on the contingency list. As a result of this true-up, there is \$19.4 million in additional funding available that will be distributed to transit projects across the region. Noteworthy adjustments include:
 - King County Metro Transit is adjusted up by \$7.88 million, which includes significant adjustments for trolley bus replacement and bus replacement.
 - Sound Transit is adjusted up by \$6.26 million, which includes significant adjustments to Sounder/Link state of good repair and the regional express bus program.
- **Recommended approval of an update to the Section 5310 Program Management Plan.** This program, operated by the Federal Transit Association, funds enhanced mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Although Bellevue does not receive funds through Section 5310 directly, many of the City's residents benefit from programs that do. Programs like King County Metro paratransit and Hopelink's Mobilize! are two of 17 regional access programs that receive Section 5310 funds. The plan details policies and procedures for administering this funding source. This update will change the project selection criteria and clarify PSRC's management partnership of these funds with WSDOT.
- **In other business, the TPB:**
 - Was briefed on new data regarding travel trends and updated demographic data. This presentation was also provided to the GMPB, and is described in greater detail above.
 - Was briefed on a new project to analyze data available from ORCA cards.

At its July 14 meeting, the TPB:

Recommended approval of the list of transportation projects recommended to receive \$700 million in PSRC's federal funds. The project list includes recommendations for funding in the regional and countywide competitions as well as projects submitted by transit agencies for formula funds. The project

list will be finalized by the PSRC Executive Board July 28 and will be incorporated into a new Regional Transportation Improvement Program that will be modeled for air quality and released for public comment in September.

Bellevue did well in the funding competition, and is recommended to receive the following funds:

- **Large Jurisdiction Category:**
 - \$5.5 million for NE Spring Blvd Zone 1A construction
 - \$2 million for 124th Avenue NE PE/Design (second on the contingency list)
- **Non-motorized Category:**
 - \$2 million for Eastside Rail Corridor PE/Design funds for the Bellevue segment (awarded to King County)
 - \$675,000 for construction of King County Metro Access to Transit Eastgate Way bike improvements (awarded to King County)
 - \$400,000 for Mountains to Sound Greenway (Sunset Pedestrian Bridge to Lakemont Blvd.) PE/Design
 - \$739,000 for construction of 112th Ave NE Pedestrian/Bike improvements is first on the contingency list
- **Preservation Category:**
 - \$1.5 million for construction of the BelRed Road overlay
- **Recommended approval of the Critical Urban Freight Corridor Designation under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) Act.** The FAST Act establishes a new National Highway Freight Network and over five years directs \$6.3 billion in funding to freight infrastructure projects nationwide. The PSRC has led a process to designate the region's critical freight routes as part of the national network. The identified corridors could benefit from FAST Act funding.
- **Discussed the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Final System Plan and Conformity Finding Process.** Under state law, the PSRC is responsible for determining whether Sound Transit's plans conform to the region's long-range transportation and growth plans, Transportation 2040 and VISION 2040. The review process will be policy based and incorporate a system-level evaluation of ST3 investments. The report will be presented to the TPB at its September 8 meeting and finalized by the Executive Board on September 22.
- **In other business, the board:**
 - Recommended a routine amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program.
 - Discussed two Transportation 2040 Update Topics: system preservation and integrated transit.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for Thursday, September 8.