

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)**
September 2016

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its September 1, meeting, the GMPB:

- **Learned about “Age Friendly Cities” from representatives of the City of Puyallup, which recently became the first city in Washington to receive that designation from AARP based on criteria established by the World Health Organization.** An age-friendly city provides support to older people so they can age actively, live securely, enjoy good health and participate fully in their communities. Puyallup is working to make the city a better place for residents of all ages through its policies and projects. Bellevue has multiple programs that have similar objectives. For example, Parks and Community Services has activities at every city community center designed to help “aging adults” be more active to promote physical health and social interaction. Fire has a “fall prevention program” to prevent injuries that can reduce mobility and personal independence.
- **Discussed direction from the PSRC Executive Board to review the issues raised by some small cities regarding “conditional certification” of their comprehensive plans.** Six cities (Bonney Lake, Carnation, Covington, Gig Harbor, North Bend and Snoqualmie) received conditional certification this year because the cities were planning substantially above adopted growth targets for housing and jobs in a way that is inconsistent with regional policies in VISION 2040. The Executive Board asked the GMPB to review these issues and report back by the end of the year. Discussion of this topic will continue at the GMPB’s October and November meetings. The King County members of GMPB have also been invited to a joint workshop with the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) on September 28 to delve into the interrelationships of the Growth Management Act, VISION 2040, growth targets and local comprehensive plans. There are potential implications for all jurisdictions in King County if there are changes to growth targets and/or the regional growth strategy that ultimately affect how and where growth and regional transportation funding is allocated.
- **Received a briefing on housing trends the region is experiencing in terms of substantial new housing development and increases in home prices and rents.** Local jurisdictions and housing providers are challenged to provide housing that meets the needs of households at all income levels. The presentation described recent data on market conditions, regional trends in housing stock, cost and impacts on households, and how our region compares with other metropolitan areas. This is another in a series of briefings on different trends in the region that will inform the update of VISION 2040. The pressures of growth and escalating costs for housing are not unique to Bellevue or to this region.
- **Voted to recommend the development of a Regional Open Space Conservation Plan and to accept a grant of \$200,000 to fund the work.** This is partly an outgrowth of the work of the Regional Open Space Strategy, which the GMPB received a briefing on in July, and looking at open space in a regional context as part of the VISION 2040 update.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for Thursday, October 6.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its September 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Released the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public comment.** The PSRC is recommending projects to receive nearly \$700 million in PSRC funds and is encouraging public comment on a \$4.5 billion draft regional TIP that includes most all major projects underway in the region through 2020. The draft TIP includes the projects approved by the Executive Board in July to receive PSRC's 2018-2020 Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds, as well as projects with local, state and other federal funds expected to be utilized between 2017 and 2020. The draft TIP includes the following funding awards for Bellevue:
 - Large Jurisdiction Category:
 - \$5.5 million for NE Spring Blvd Zone 1A construction
 - 124th Avenue NE PE/Design is second on the contingency list with a recommendation of \$2 million
 - Non-motorized Category:
 - \$2 million for PE/Design funds for King County's Department of Natural Resources & Park's Eastside Rail Corridor segment through Bellevue (this is a King County award that benefits Bellevue directly as all of the funds will be spent on the Bellevue trail segment)
 - \$675,000 for construction of King County Metro Access to Transit Eastgate Way bike improvements (though this is a King County Metro award, this benefits Bellevue directly as the entirety of the funds will be spent in Bellevue)
 - \$400,000 for Mountains to Sound Greenway (Sunset Ped Bridge to Lakemont Blvd) PE/Design
 - \$739,000 for construction of 112th Ave NE Ped/Bike improvements is first on the contingency list
 - Preservation Category:
 - \$1.5 million for construction of the BelRed Road overlay

The public comment period closes October 27. The Executive Board is scheduled to approve the final 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program on October 27.

- **Agreed that the Sound Transit Phase 3 System Plan conforms to regional plans.** 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, as well as the transit-oriented development requirements of Senate Bills 5987. The review also requires Sound Transit to assemble a benefit-cost analysis. The review process was policy based and incorporated a system-level evaluation of ST3 investments.
- **Conducted a board engagement session on Transportation 2040-related climate change and technology.** TPB Chair Rob Johnson has requested that the TPB engage in interactive discussions regarding key issues to be addressed in the 2018 update of the Transportation 2040 plan, which will begin later this year. The small group discussion in September focused on climate change and technology and will provide high level direction to PSRC staff to inform the forthcoming plan update.

In other business, the board:

- Recommended a Transportation 2040 Project Amendment and Approval Request for WSDOT's I-5: Mounts-Old Nisqually Road to 41st Division Drive JBLM project.

- Recommended approval of a project tracking exception request for the City of Port Orchard's Tremont Street Widening Project.
- Recommended authorizing a change in Transportation 2040 Project Status for three projects.
- Recommended adoption of a routine amendment to the 2015-18 Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for Thursday, October 13.

REGIONAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)

At its September 16 meeting, the RTODAC:

- **Held a Legislative Round Robin.** Committee members shared their jurisdiction's or organization's priorities for the 2017 state legislative session that relate to TOD. Some common themes were affordable housing – specifically tied to Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding and the Housing Trust Fund, increased funding for local multimodal infrastructure projects and prioritizing funding for projects connected to high capacity transit and congestion relief.
- **The committee received a presentation on the Lynnwood's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) TOD Technical Assistance Initiative Grant.** The FTA partnered with Smart Growth America (SGA) to offer technical assistance and support services to communities to provide guidance and/or other resources for enhancing TOD within transit corridors, or around a public transportation station. These services are offered at no cost to successful applicants. This is a new assistance initiative and Lynnwood was one of nine cities selected in the first year (2015-2016), and one of three that received in-depth assistance. In-depth assistance can consist of on-site training, development of planning and policy framework, community outreach and/or remote support for policy development, and can last up to a year as necessary. The intent of this initiative is to provide technical assistance and share TOD expertise and resources to better leverage federal investments, such as the FTA investments in Sound Transit. With Lynnwood Link expected to open in about seven years, Lynnwood requested assistance to build upon the plan for its City Center. The city of Lynnwood updated the committee on its process and work-to-date with the FTA TOD Technical Assistance Initiative.

Bellevue transportation staff is looking into this grant opportunity to determine if current city projects could be an appropriate fit under this initiative.

- **Received an update on the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) Fund Update.** The REDI fund is a revolving loan fund to acquire properties for new and preserved affordable housing in close proximity to transit in the tri-county area of King, Pierce and Snohomish. This is a regional effort with partners from King County, City of Seattle and A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), of which Bellevue is a member, to address the regional affordable housing crisis. All public entity partners contributed seed money totaling \$2.5 million. In addition, the state Legislature provided another \$2.5 million for a total of \$5 million in public funds. This, coupled with private funding of approximately \$16 million, brings the total of the REDI fund to approximately \$21 million. Partners are in the final stages of formalizing agreements and the fund should be operational by the end of the year.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 16.