

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

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its October 6, meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received an update on work to create a new regional economic strategy**, including data showing job gains, surging population and projected growth for different sectors. The presentation described the draft regional vision, goals and strategies. The goals and strategies complement many of Bellevue's efforts focusing on global markets and building on the strength of existing industry clusters. Bellevue is also promoting competitiveness and innovation in the updated strategy. Over the next few months, PSRC will continue to develop the strategy based on board feedback and outreach with regional partners. A draft strategy will be released for public comment in January 2017.
- **Discussed the conditional certifications for the comprehensive plans of six small cities** (Bonney Lake, Carnation, Covington, Gig Harbor, North Bend and Snoqualmie). The cities were planning substantially above adopted countywide growth targets for housing and jobs. A related issue is how well the cities' plans align with VISION 2040 and the relatively small amount of growth that is planned to occur in these cities (i.e. small cities are expected to remain relatively small for the long term). GMPB board members discussed this issue at a recent joint workshop with the King County Growth Management Planning Committee (described earlier in the GMPC update). In November, PSRC staff will bring back options for consideration, including whether to recommend modifying any of the conditional certifications. Although this issue does not have immediate implications for Bellevue, the role of PSRC certification and consistency with VISION 2040 could ultimately affect how regional transportation funding is allocated.
- **Received a briefing on the *Taking Stock* project.** Over the past year nearly all local plans have been updated and reviewed, and now the PSRC is reviewing how well the process worked. The results will inform the next update of VISION 2040 expected to begin in 2018. The GMPB discussed key questions, including:
  - Policy areas where local plans have successfully advanced VISION 2040
  - Local challenges in planning and plan implementation
  - Feedback on PSRC's local plan review and certification process
  - Identification of issues to be further addressed in a VISION 2040 update

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for Thursday, November 3.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its October 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended Authorizing a Change in Transportation 2040 Project Status and TIP Programming for WSDOT's I-405 Corridor: Renton to Bellevue Project.** The I-405 Renton to Bellevue project will reduce congestion and improve safety along one of the state's most congested

sections of highway. This project will connect a 40-mile system of express toll lanes to improve speed and trip reliability. The Renton to Bellevue project was funded in the 2015 statewide Connecting Washington transportation package. The project will add new capacity to create a two-lane express toll lane system between SR 167 in Renton and Northeast 6th Street in Bellevue. This action will advance the project towards construction.

- **Recommended Adoption of the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** The draft 2017 – 2020 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 public comment period for the draft TIP is September 8 through October 27.
- **Discussed the 2016 Transit Integration Report.** The 2016 Transit Integration Report is the third annual report from the PSRC documenting transit coordination activities underway and anticipated in the region. The Report also reflects legislation passed in 2016, which requires the WSDOT to submit an annual report documenting transit coordination in Puget Sound – and created a Transit Coordination Grant program. The grants must be proposed jointly by two or more transit agencies, are intended to encourage joint planning and coordination, and must include measurable outcomes. The report highlights recent case studies of transit integration and opportunities for future integration. The East Link light rail extension is identified as an upcoming integration project.
- **In other business, the TPB:**
  - Heard an update on the Transportation 2040 Update: Summary of Board Engagement sessions.
  - Received a briefing on the Regional Economic Strategy

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for Thursday, November 10.

*Note: The TPB did not have a quorum at the October 12 meeting. All actions voted to be recommended to the Executive Board will appear on the consent agenda at the November 10 meeting.*