

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*December 2018***

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its November 1 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Directed staff to prepare the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for VISION 2050.** This work will include analysis of three growth alternatives:
 - Stay the Course: A “no action” alternative under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) that would continue the VISION 2040 shares of growth in a straight line to 2050, encouraging growth within urban areas and within centers.
 - Transit Focused Growth: Directs a greater amount of growth (75%) to areas with existing or planned high capacity transit.
 - Reset Urban Growth: Assumes the region would see less growth near transit and regional centers compared to the other two scenarios.

The environmental review process will study the impacts and trade-offs of the growth patterns through SEPA. The analysis will inform the development of a preferred alternative. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released in February/March 2019.

- **Reviewed potential changes to the Economy and Public Services Chapters of VISION 2050.** The changes to the chapters include: updating key information, streamlining and making it more visually appealing, improving the organization, updating the narrative text and creating better maps, graphics and photos.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for November 29.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its November 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Changed the Regional Transportation Plan project status from “candidate” to “approved” for the Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension project.** Although the cost of the Lynnwood Link Extension project has increased from \$2.4 billion to \$2.8 billion, the project is fully funded and anticipated to be complete in 2024.
- **Recommended approval of the regional priority rankings for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) 2019-2021 Consolidated Grant.** The PSRC

regional priority rankings will be incorporated into the WSDOT's project selection process, increasing the likelihood that highly-ranked projects will be funded. The WSDOT's grant competition awards funding from a variety of federal and state sources for special needs transportation, which serves people unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation due to age, physical or mental disability, or low income. Several of the high-ranking projects would expand or support existing special needs transportation services in Bellevue.

- **Discussed the 2018 Transit Integration Report.** Since 2014, the PSRC has prepared annual reports on transit integration to increase awareness of ongoing transit coordination activities and opportunities in the region. The 2018 report highlights investments made at regional transit hubs and describes next steps stakeholders will take to continue coordination, such as:
 - Transit agencies are collaborating to design the next generation of the ORCA regional transit fare system.
 - Transit agencies are working with the WSDOT and the State Legislature to explore pricing for commuter parking at the WSDOT-owned park-and-ride facilities.

TPB members made suggestions for 2019 Transit Integration Report topics, such as regional fare enforcement policies. Bellevue Councilmember Jennifer Robertson suggested the 2019 report include an update on King County Metro's and Sound Transit's bus rapid transit projects.

- **Discussed the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Board's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.** The State Legislature passed the CTR law in 1991 that requires employers to encourage and provide incentives for workers to drive alone less often to reduce carbon emissions and reduce traffic especially during peak hours. The CTR Board, established by the CTR Law, directs overall policy and funding for the program. In July, the Board adopted its 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, Expanding Travel Options: Faster, Smarter, and More Affordable. The plan is designed to build upon the State's CTR program to reduce drive-alone trips.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for December 13.