

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

January 2017

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its January 5, meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended certification of Comprehensive Plan Updates for Enumclaw and Mercer Island.**
- **Recommended conditional certification of the Comprehensive Plan Update for Duvall.**
- **Heard a status report on the Centers Framework Project Update.** The PSRC staff provided an update on the progress of the Stakeholder Working Group that is anticipated to complete its work later this month. The group is developing alternatives and recommendations for designating regional growth centers, manufacturing industrial centers, and military facilities at the regional and county level. The current “one-size-fits-all” framework treats all regional growth centers the same; even though downtown Bellevue has a very different role and character than the Silverdale Mall on the Kitsap Peninsula. Military facilities like JBLM are currently not recognized at all in VISION 2040. The GMPB will be receiving the alternatives and the group’s recommendation in March or April and will spend a few months discussing the alternatives before making a recommendation to the Executive Board.

This effort is important to Bellevue because the new framework will affect how regional transportation projects are scored for funding and it will inform the next update of VISION 2040 beginning in 2018.

- **Discussed the issue of conditional certification for small cities and endorsed a path for resolution.** Several small cities challenged the PSRC conditional certification of their comprehensive plan updates last spring. Since that time there has been a great deal of discussion about the issues, mostly that a handful of cities have plans for growth that are well above their targets and not aligned with their role as small cities according to the regional growth strategy in VISION 2040. For some of these cities (e.g. Covington, Bonney Lake) the amount of growth has already occurred and their plans are trying to reflect that reality. Other cities (e.g. Snoqualmie, North Bend) have planned for growth over the next 20 years based on their current capacity even though historic growth trends do not support their assumptions. The PSRC proposed, and the small cities agreed, to take formal action (e.g. resolution, council motion) that reiterates their support for VISION 2040 and to work with PSRC staff to recognize and address local conditions. The cities will also engage in the next update of growth targets and continue to work on managing growth within current boundaries.

The GMPB endorsed the proposed approach for resolving these issues with the small cities. The Executive Board is expected to take up the GMPB recommendation at their next meeting. Although the issues around conditional certification of these small cities’ plans does not directly affect Bellevue, if cities plan for substantial growth beyond their targets and their designation in the regional growth strategy, there will be additional demands on regional transportation funding that will further dilute the limited amount available for regional infrastructure investments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 3.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its January 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended Approval of the 2016-2017 Coordinated Grant Program of Projects.** The PSRC Coordinated Grant Program funds eligible projects from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 special needs transportation funds and ranks projects applying to WSDOT's Consolidated Grant Program for King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. As a Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the PSRC is also responsible for regionally ranking projects applying for special needs transportation funds from WSDOT's Consolidated Grant program.

The recommended project list includes 14 projects, which will receive a total of \$4.2 million in funding. There are also 20 projects recommended to receive regional priority rankings for the statewide WSDOT Consolidated Grant competition. Final decision on awards for projects on the list will be determined after WSDOT Consolidated Grant awards are issued in the spring of 2017.

Bellevue did not apply for a Coordinated Grant Program award. However, several of the awards would benefit organizations that operate in Bellevue including Hopelink, Sound Generations, and Catholic Community Services of Western Washington.

- **Approved the work program for the Transportation 2040 update.** The PSRC is updating its Transportation 2040 plan to meet federal and state mandates and reflect changes that have occurred in the region since the last plan adoption in 2014. PSRC staff have indicated that this update will be limited, with a robust plan overhaul expected to occur in 2022 following the completion of the VISION 2050 plan update.

The 2018 Transportation 2040 update is different from past plans in that many of the investments in the plan are fully funded. This provides a unique opportunity to showcase the investments that will be made over the plan's horizon, focus on the remaining investment needs, identify remaining funding gaps, and prepare the region for significant technology and other changes that can be anticipated by 2040 and beyond.

The Transportation 2040 work plan highlights several areas of focus, including:

- Showcasing investments,
- Addressing near term performance and funding deficiencies,
- Getting ahead on technology, climate change, maintenance and preservation, and long term funding, and
- Meeting federal and administrative requirements.

The key components that Bellevue has advocated for inclusion in the plan update, such as the need for a regional parking strategy and regional planning to prepare for how new technology will alter the 2040 transportation system, for example, are included in the work plan. Other items of regional significance include addressing gaps in local funding, completing a state facilities action plan that

identifies strategies for improving flow on HOV lanes and low cost operational improvements to address near-term congestion on I-5 and other corridors.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for Thursday, February 9.

REGIONAL TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)

At its December 16, 2016, meeting the Committee:

- **Held a discussion about legislative priorities.** The committee received a brief recap of its round robin discussion on legislative priorities from the September committee meeting. There was no action taken by the committee to recommend legislative priorities to the GMPB for its consideration. Sound Transit staff provided an overview of next steps for implementing the ST3 package recently approved by voters. This was more of an information sharing opportunity as each committee member jurisdiction/organization establishes its own legislative agenda and priorities. The themes of the discussion (i.e. state and local investment in infrastructure for TOD, providing additional tools for supporting affordable housing, especially around TOD) are consistent with Bellevue's most recent legislative interests.
- **Received a presentation about a "TOD Regional Benefits Analysis."** PSRC staff is conducting an analysis of regional benefits from TOD to inform the update of Transportation 2040. The analysis is an attempt to quantify the economic benefit of a more densely developed land use pattern in the central Puget Sound region. Findings from the analysis may help highlight the economic benefits of a compact, transit-oriented development pattern, and emphasize the importance of the Growing Transit Communities Strategy. Although the findings are regionally focused, the analysis could also be informative to cities like Bellevue that are working to implement TOD around regional transit hubs.
- **Discussed holding another Regional TOD Summit Event in fall 2017.** The committee supported a similar, successful event in 2015. The committee was supportive of the proposal and PSRC staff will work with other agencies and organizations and committee volunteers to plan and conduct the event. Objectives of the event would be to raise awareness of new resources and best practices and bring together public, private, and non-profit sector partners with shared interest in promoting the three goals of the Growing Transit Communities strategy—attracting population and housing to transit communities, creating and preserving affordable housing, and increasing access to opportunity. Bellevue participated as attendees and speakers at the previous event. This event will be another opportunity to showcase Bellevue's work in this area and strengthen local and regional partnerships for equitable transit-oriented development.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17.