

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)**
March 2017

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its March 2 meeting, the GMPB:

- Recommended that the Executive Board certify the 2016 comprehensive plan update for the city of Poulsbo. The board reviewed the plan and found that it conforms to the Growth Management Act and is consistent with regional plans and policies.
- Heard a briefing on health and planning in the region from Board members Dr. Anthony Chen (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department) and Dr. Susan Turner (Kitsap Public Health District). They highlighted data showing disparities in life expectancies across the region and how the built environment and the way we travel affects human health. Infrastructure decisions and policies can help reduce air and water pollution, increase access to recreation opportunities and healthy foods, and create more walkable communities. Board members shared some local efforts to improve health in their communities, including safe routes to schools, parks and recreation programs, and redevelopment of the Ruston waterfront park.
- Received a presentation on different regional perspectives of affordable housing from a panel including Rob Van Tassell (Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington), Paul Purcell (Beacon Development Group) and Arthur Sullivan (A Regional Coalition for Housing). The panelists discussed projects being built in the region, incentives for mixed-income development, the challenges of financing these types of projects, and approaches being used by different cities in the region. The presentations help set the stage for future consideration of housing policies in the next update to VISION 2040 and to support more effective strategies for increasing the supply of affordable housing locally and regionally. The examples provided reinforced Bellevue's approach to developing a comprehensive strategy to address the different facets of affordable housing.

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

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its March 9 meeting, the TPB:

- Heard a briefing on the Transportation 2040 Regional Transit Network. The PSRC is working with the region's transit agencies, all of which have recently completed or updated long-range plans, to develop a sketch of the regional transit network today, in 2025, and in 2040. New analysis tools show how far people can travel on transit by location in 2016 compared to 2040 after new investments have come online. In addition, the PSRC is working to update its special needs coordinated human services plan.
- Discussed the Transit Access and Parking strategy, which will be included in the Transportation 2040 plan update. Transportation 2040 does not currently include a regional access to transit and parking strategy. The Board identified the need to create such a strategy as a result of growing transit demand and overcrowded parking facilities. The strategy will focus on two premises: 1) that, given

the added certainty of the location and type of transit as indicated in the regionally integrated future transit network, making sure that as many people as possible can access transit will be increasingly important; and 2) that there are many ways to make it easier for people to access transit (e.g. new sidewalks or bike lanes, improved bus-rail integration and easy transfers, parking, etc.).

The strategy is expected to cover access and parking separately. Although parking is just one element of access to transit, it is a growing transit access issue in the region. The regional transit parking supply grew by 5 percent from 2010 to 2016, while demand for those spaces grew by 9 percent. Because regional commuter parking has some unique and specific policy considerations that need to be addressed as part of the strategy, the TPB identified it as a specific focus area. These policy considerations include, the existence of dozens of very full transit parking facilities, the trade-offs inherent in constructing new transit parking supply, and the opportunities for innovative approaches to transit parking supply and demand. The PSRC will update current and planned transit parking supply in the regional travel demand model, to ensure the correct technical information is included within the plan.

The PSRC parking strategy is expected to:

- Identify new transit parking supply anticipated by 2040;
- Document approaches and policy issues to managing transit parking demand;
- Include an analysis of future supply for gaps and an analysis of performance of a managed network of facilities; and
- Highlight innovative approaches for maximizing existing and planned parking supply.

The PSRC access strategy will:

- Identify improving access to transit as a regional priority;
- Treat access to transit comprehensively;
- Document and leverage existing work and tools, both at PSRC and across the region; and
- Indicate locations where there will be substantial transit activity in the future as access opportunity areas.

In other business, the board:

- Recommended adoption of a Routine Amendment to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Recommended certification of the Comprehensive Plan Update for Poulsbo.

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

REGIONAL TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)

At its March 17, 2017, meeting the Committee:

- Received a briefing from PSRC staff of the recommendations from the Centers Framework Stakeholders Working Group. The information included recommended alternatives for designating regional growth centers, manufacturing industrial centers and military facilities and highlighted where the additional criteria in the various options align with recommendations of the Growing Transit Communities (GTC) work, particularly in the context of supporting transit communities, concentration of growth, affordable housing and availability of transit. Regional transportation

funding is based in part on designation of regional growth centers. Downtown Bellevue is designated as a regional growth center and metropolitan city at the top of the centers hierarchy and that does not change under the alternatives being proposed. At this time there are no recommendations regarding regional funding; however, an updated framework that redefines the types and tiers of centers will have implications for regional funding after the 2017 funding cycle.

- Received an update on progress and preliminary results of the analysis regarding the regional economic benefits of transit-oriented development (TOD). The analysis is exploring whether the region is benefitting from TOD and it is intended to support the Transportation 2040 update. Benefits being analyzed include reduced local infrastructure costs, lower transportation costs, walkability, reduced land consumption, lower energy consumption and reduced greenhouse gases. Preliminary analysis indicates that these factors are trending in the positive direction. Additional work will be done and it may include disaggregating the information by subarea. The Committee will receive an update at its June 2017 meeting.
- Heard a presentation from PSRC staff on a proposal to gather and summarize higher level data on 1) implementation of GTC recommendations across multiple signatories and 2) performance of transit communities in achieving desired outcomes for a regional TOD monitoring report. Since completion of the GTC work in 2013 the region has relied on a voluntary system for jurisdictions to report data for monitoring progress on implementing the recommendations of the GTC. The reporting has been incomplete at best and as an alternative, PSRC staff would collect information for a select set of regional and sub-regional measures. The information will be useful to Bellevue in tracking growth of TOD in the city's designated areas (Downtown, BelRed, Wilburton, and East Main).

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 16.