

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

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its September 7 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended full certification of the comprehensive plans for King County and the cities of Seattle and Lakewood.** Certification is required to be eligible for regional transportation funds administered by PSRC.
- **Received a briefing on the update of VISION 2040.** The update is scheduled to begin in early 2018, with the GMPB recommending a scope of work to the Executive Board. This will be the primary work item for the GMPB for the next two years, and it is the first major update since adoption in 2008. The PSRC is anticipating adoption of the update at the General Assembly meeting in 2020.

Population and employment growth projections will be extended to the year 2050, and recommendations on amendments to the regional centers framework currently being considered by the GMPB will also be incorporated into the updated plan. There are implications for Bellevue because the policies of VISION guide countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans.

Bellevue's comprehensive plan is required to be consistent with VISION. The regional growth strategy that is the foundation of VISION has benefitted Bellevue due to its designation as a metropolitan center and downtown designation as a regional growth center. These designations allow Bellevue to compete for PSRC transportation funding at both the county and regional levels. The next major update of Bellevue's comprehensive plan is due in 2023, and it will be required to be consistent with the updated VISION 2050 plan at that time.

- **Discussed a revised outline for the centers framework update.** Based on previous guidance from the GMPB and comments from various interests, PSRC staff presented a revised framework outline for consideration and direction from the GMPB. The outline covered the main topics of the framework update (i.e. regional growth centers, manufacturing-industrial centers, countywide centers, and military installations).

The two areas that have the most direct implications for Bellevue are regional growth centers and countywide centers. Downtown Bellevue is a regional growth center, and all the options that have been considered to date would maintain that status.

King County does not currently designate countywide centers; however, Bellevue would likely have several areas that could qualify for that designation (e.g. BelRed, Factoria, Crossroads) should that category be created and implemented in King County. Bellevue has no manufacturing-industrial centers nor major military installations. However, the criteria for designation of these types of centers have implications for Bellevue as both types of centers can also compete for regional transportation funds through the PSRC. The GMPB will receive a revised draft framework from PSRC staff for further discussion and direction at the October 5 meeting. At that time, the draft may

be prepared for public comment with the GMPB making a recommendation on the framework update to the PSRC Executive Board by the end of 2017.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for October 5.

### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its September 14 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended full certification of the comprehensive plans for King County and the cities of Seattle and Lakewood.** Certification is required to be eligible for regional transportation funds administered by PSRC.
- **Recommend approval of the 2017 Adjustment of PSRC's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds and Distribution of those funds to the FTA Regional Contingency List of Projects.** The PSRC was notified in July of the actual total allocation of 2017 FTA funds as compared to estimates included in program plans. After reconciling these amounts, there is an additional \$24.7 million available to be distributed to the FTA Regional Contingency List of Projects. The additional funds are recommended for distribution to a variety of local transit agency priorities. The Sound Transit Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility in Bellevue is being recommended for \$4.2 million in funding out of the additional FTA funds.
- **Received a briefing on the preliminary findings from analysis and modeling of the region's transportation system based on identified investments and financial assumptions in the draft T2040 update.** In July, the TPB was presented with the draft financial strategy produced by the Finance Working Group to provide region-wide transportation investments through 2040. An important component of the updated strategy is a transition to user fees in the form of road usage charges, rather than a regional system of limited access highway system tolls which was the funding assumption in the adopted Transportation 2040 plan.

After a review of the draft financial strategy in July, the TPB authorized PSRC staff to proceed with the identified investments and financial assumptions for modeling and plan analysis. PSRC staff has conducted a technical analysis to assess how the future transportation system is likely to perform given the investment and financial assumptions. Transportation 2040 topics to be presented at the October 12 TPB meeting include the elements of the plan and a discussion of climate change. The Draft Transportation 2040 Plan is expected to be released for public comment this winter.

- **Received a briefing on the Regional Centers Framework Update.** This topic and process is primarily under the guidance of the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB). Please refer to the summary of the September 7 GMPB meeting above for additional information regarding this topic.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for October 12.

## **REGIONAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

At its September 15 meeting, the Advisory Committee:

- **Received an overview of the October 11 TOD event.** PSRC staff discussed the venue (Centralia Cultural Center next to the Beacon Hill light rail station) and the range of topics and projects that will be showcased. Bellevue staff will be conducting a session on the Wilburton and Grand Connection projects.
- **Discussed data presented for the Growing Transit Communities (GTC) monitoring report.** The report is an overview of how well the GTC goals are being met for equitable TOD around high capacity transit stations. The key benchmarks for progress include increasing population and job growth, the share of transit ridership and affordable housing. Overall there has been progress for each of these benchmarks since 2010, although the distribution has been uneven across the 96 transit stations in the region. For example, Downtown Bellevue has performed very well in terms of population, job growth and transit ridership. However, the Eastside in general has not performed as well in creating affordable housing relative to the need.
- **Received a briefing from Sound Transit staff on the update of its TOD policies.** This is an outgrowth of the enabling legislation for Sound Transit to seek voter approval for ST3. Sound Transit is required to offer 80% of its surplus properties suitable for housing to agencies and organizations to develop housing. 80% of the units must be affordable to people earning 80% or less of area median income. Sound Transit is scheduled to have new TOD policies adopted by the board in April 2018.
- **Received an update on funding programs from Enterprise Community Partners, the organization managing the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) Fund.** This is the low-interest loan program for acquiring property for affordable TOD housing. The REDI Fund was established with \$5 million of public funding, including a portion from Bellevue that was part of a \$500,000 contribution from A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). An additional \$16 million in private funding was raised to establish the fund.

“Home and Hope” is a new program of Enterprise Community Partners focused on acquiring and developing tax-exempt properties for affordable housing combined with an educational center, typically a pre-school. The program may be complementary to an action in Bellevue’s affordable housing strategy to explore additional opportunities for housing on lands owned by faith-based, public and non-profit housing entities.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 15, 2017.