

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

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its October 5 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Approved release of the draft Regional Centers Framework Update.** The GMPB devoted virtually the entire meeting to discussion and direction on the Regional Centers Framework Update. PSRC staff presented a revised draft proposal incorporating comments and previous direction from the GMPB. PSRC staff requested additional input from the GMPB and direction on when to release the draft proposal for public comment. The GMPB directed staff to solicit comments on the following specific issues on which the GMPB has not reached consensus:
  - Timeline for conducting the subarea planning relative to the next update of Vision 2040 and local comprehensive plans;
  - Standards and requirements for re-designation of existing centers;
  - Criteria for countywide center designation; and
  - Whether to establish a requirement for a minimum percentage mix of land uses (e.g. residential and commercial) for regional and countywide growth centers.

The GMPB directed staff to release the draft proposal to the public for a 30-day comment period, with the focused questions. Comments are due November 8. The GMPB will receive a briefing at the November 2 meeting on comments received to date and a final briefing and recommendation for action at the November 30 meeting. The GMPB recommendation will then be forwarded to the PSRC Executive Board for final action.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for November 2.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its October 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Received a briefing on the Transportation 2040 Plan Update and its implications to climate change.** In March 2016, the TPB provided direction for continued staff work on the region's Four-Part Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy as part of the Transportation 2040 plan update. At its May 2017 meeting, the TPB held a breakout session to discuss the Four-Part GHG Strategy in greater detail. There was consensus that the categories in the strategy are the things to continue to focus on: potential emission reductions due to land use changes, roadway usage fees/pricing, transportation choices, and employing new technologies.

The policies and investments advanced in the update to Transportation 2040 were analyzed over the summer. At the October meeting, PSRC staff presented the resulting emissions reductions for both traditional air pollutants and GHG. In short, the modeling showed that implementing the Four-Part strategy could result in 2040 emissions at 24% below 2006 levels. Additional efforts on each of the four parts of the strategy, especially new technology investments, could increase the potential GHG emission reduction levels to a range of 52-75% by 2040.

- **Received a briefing on other plan elements of the Transportation 2040 Update process.** The TPB has been briefed throughout the year on key elements of the draft Transportation 2040 Plan update, including September's briefing on the results from the modeling of the draft Plan update. At the October meeting, PSRC staff summarized what has been accomplished on the following topic areas as part of the Transportation 2040 Plan update:
  - **The regional freight strategy.** Continue to convene stakeholders, support state and regional freight planning efforts, improve data, and prepare for VISION 2050.
  - **The coordinated transit-human services transportation plan.** Next steps are to address key regional mobility needs, including access to healthcare; sustainable funding; institutional barriers; and efficiency in transportation services for populations with special needs.
  - **The active transportation plan.** Implement strategies to:
    - Address barriers to walking/biking;
    - Promote the completion of networks and connections to destinations;
    - Support data collection;
    - Share best practices in planning, design, and implementation; and
    - Communicate active transportation benefits.
  - **A transportation demand management action plan.** Regional strategies include the expansion of demand management programs, enhancing the existing system, and maximizing new investments.
  - **Maintenance and preservation.** Explore regional asset management planning.
  - **A transit access and parking strategy.** Provide data and support to transit agencies implementing long range and system plans, and study new corridors for potential high capacity transportation as part of VISION 2050.
  - **Preparing for advancing transportation technology.**
    - Convene a Transportation Technology Working Group to help the region prepare for and foster emerging technologies, and
    - Update the Regional Intelligent Transportation System Implementation Plan to better reflect existing conditions, current needs and projected changes due to emerging technologies.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for November 9.