

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

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its November 2 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended full certification of the comprehensive plans for South Prairie, Wilkeson and Tukwila.** The GMPB found that the three plans are consistent with regional policies and conform to the Growth Management Act requirements for transportation planning. These were originally conditionally certified.
- **Heard a brief update on the comments received so far on the draft centers framework proposal.** The comment period closed on November 8. The Bellevue City Council approved an interest statement on November 6 that was the basis for Bellevue's comment letter on the draft centers framework proposal. Bellevue also participated in a joint comment letter with King County, Seattle, and a few individual Sound Cities Association member cities. The joint letter was consistent with the interest statement approved by Council and reinforced Bellevue's individual comment letter. The Board will receive a full report on the comments and could potentially act on the draft centers framework at its next meeting on November 30.
- **Received an overview of VISION 2050, including the project schedule and work tasks.** Board members provided feedback to guide development of the scope of work for VISION 2050. VISION 2050 will consider many changes since VISION was last adopted in 2008, including recent population increases and job growth forecasts, major commitments to building transportation infrastructure, and lessons learned from VISION 2040. The VISION 2050 project will start with formal scoping in early 2018, followed by research and development of plan alternatives, revised policies and actions, and environmental analysis. Adoption of VISION 2050 by the PSRC General Assembly is scheduled for spring 2020.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 30.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its November 9 meeting, the TPB:

- **Released the Transportation Alternatives Program projects for public review.** The PSRC recently conducted a competitive process to award funds from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives program. This program provides funding for community-based transportation improvements, such as bicycle/pedestrian facilities, historic preservation of transportation assets, and environmental mitigation. The TPB approved 12 projects for a total of \$17.5 million. This was a very competitive year with 65 applications. Bellevue's Mountain to Sound Greenway Trail project from 132nd SE to 136th Pl SE was not funded, but is seventh on the contingency list. The public comment period closes on January 25, 2018.

- **Recommended additional special needs funding.** The TPB recommended awarding \$178,712 to six projects on the 2016-2017 PSRC Special Needs Transportation Contingency List. The PSRC manages the fair and equitable distribution of the FTA special needs funds to the urbanized area in the region through the PSRC's Coordinated Grant Program. This funding provides transportation services for seniors, people with disabilities and low-income individuals. There were additional funds available due to a higher than anticipated apportionment of special needs funds plus program funds returned from projects approved earlier in the biennium.
- **Approved the release of the Regional Transportation Plan for public comment.** The TPB has been briefed throughout the year on key elements of the draft Regional Transportation Plan, which will be an update to the Transportation 2040 Plan. The Board has been briefed on the financial strategy, performance results, and other key plan updates. At this meeting, the TPB was briefed on the public engagement efforts and directed staff to release the Plan for public comment on December 14.
- **Received a briefing on Federal Safety Performance Management Targets.** In 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published the Safety Performance Management Measures Final Rules. Pursuant to these rules, the Washington State Department of Transportation was required to report statewide targets by August 2017. Metropolitan Planning Organizations such as the PSRC have until February 2018 to establish targets for their planning area. The final rule establishes performance measures based on five-year rolling averages on all public roads, including: number of fatalities, rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The TPB discussed the statewide targets and proposed PSRC targets. It is anticipated that the Board will be asked to recommend adoption of the targets in January 2018.
- **Received a briefing on the 2017 Transit Integration Report.** The region has six main transit agencies: five local providers and one regional transit authority. The purpose of the Transit Integration Report is to increase awareness of ongoing transit coordination activities and opportunities in the region. The report also satisfies reporting requirements for the Washington State Department of Transportation to submit an annual report documenting transit coordination efforts in the Puget Sound region.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for January 11.