

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*March and April 2018***

March meeting dates are highlighted in gray. April meeting dates are highlighted in yellow

Save the Date:

The PSRC Annual General Assembly is scheduled for May 31, 2018, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Sanctuary Seattle at The Mark Seattle, 811 – 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its March 1 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended full certification for the City of Milton Comprehensive Plan.** The plan had been conditionally certified in 2016. Since then, the city amended its plan to address conditions required for full certification. The GMPB found that the plan is now fully consistent with regional policies and conforms to the Growth Management Act requirements for transportation planning.
- **Recommended extending the provisional center designation for the Sumner-Pacific manufacturing/industrial center to April 2019 to allow one additional year to complete the joint center subarea plan.** The joint planning process between the two cities, including work on floodplain management, has added complexity to the planning effort, requiring additional time to complete the plan.
- **Received a briefing from PSRC staff on the draft regional macroeconomic forecast for 2050.** The PSRC received a briefing on the long-range forecast of projected jobs, population, and households at the regional scale. It establishes the future growth assumptions for the development of the VISION 2050 plan. These growth assumptions will be a factor in allocating the next set of growth targets that King County and cities will negotiate in preparation for the next required Comprehensive Plan update in 2023. Under VISION 2040, the five designated “metropolitan cities” (Bellevue, Bremerton, Everett, Seattle and Tacoma) are anticipated to absorb about one-third of the region’s population and employment growth.
- **Received a briefing on regional trend data as background for the VISION 2050 planning process.** Below are some of the regional trends presented in the briefing; Bellevue’s growth trends are similar:
 - The region has seen a surge of new residents since 2010, reaching over 80,000 annually for the past two years.
 - Minority residents comprise a growing share of the region's population, a trend that has spread from central cities to many suburban communities.
 - By the year 2030, one in five residents in the region will be 65 or over, double the share in the year 2000.
 - Vehicle delay has grown significantly across major freeway corridors in the region, especially I-5.
 - For the seventh year in a row, more people are riding transit.

- **Discussed a proposed approach to updating the regional growth strategy for VISION 2050, including schedule, phases of work, and a process for the board to develop plan alternatives.** Board members reviewed data showing the performance of the current regional growth strategy, including distribution of actual population and employment growth since 2000 at the regional scale and in each county. VISION 2050 will be the major work item of the GMPB for the next two years. Once adopted in 2020, VISION 2050 will prompt changes to the King County Countywide Planning Policies, and it will be an important influence on the next required update of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan in 2023.

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

At its April 5, 2018 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Reviewed public comments received on VISION 2050 scoping.** During the scoping period, PSRC reached out to thousands of individuals, including five listening sessions, to gather input from jurisdictions, other stakeholders, and members of the public on the scope of the update. The agency received more than 1,330 separate comments.
- **Received a presentation on key themes of the scoping comments.** The GMPB also heard a preview of results from a statistically valid survey of 2,000 residents in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, measuring attitudes and opinions about growth and related issues for VISION 2050. The Board will receive a full briefing on the results in May after all the survey data is fully analyzed. Early results from the survey include:
 - The region's cost of living, homelessness and transportation are top dislikes of those surveyed.
 - Most believe encouraging development in urban areas and near transit is best for creating more affordable housing.
 - A strong majority (66%) say working together on a regional growth strategy is important or very important.
- **Broke up into small groups to discuss priorities for the VISION 2050 update that will guide the drafting of the scoping report.** The GMPB is anticipated to adopt a final scoping report and work plan for VISION 2050 in May.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for May 3, 2018.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its March 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Received a briefing on the public comments received on the draft Transportation 2040 plan update.** The PSRC has received more than 800 individual comments on the draft Transportation 2040 plan. The comments cover topics including equity, emerging transportation technology, toll and road usage charges, climate change, road capacity and more. A total of 152 respondents commented on the plan, including individuals, local jurisdictions, business organizations, nonprofits, and advocacy groups. All comments are posted on the PSRC website, www.psrc.org. A searchable spreadsheet of all comments by category and a draft response is provided as well. The TPB will spend its April meeting making final adjustments to the plan, with adoption by the General Assembly expected in May.

- **Received a briefing regarding coordination with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on the Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy.** The PSRC's Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy (Strategy) was first adopted as part of Transportation 2040 in 2010 with the four elements of land use, choices, pricing and technology. The Strategy has been revised to reflect the advancements since 2010 in fuel economy standards, implementation activities within the other elements of the Strategy, and the revised policies and investments contained in the 2018 draft transportation plan. It also identifies additional emission reductions that might be achieved within each of the four elements, beyond the policies and investments included in the 2018 draft plan.

The PSRC has been working closely with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on an analysis of its Strategy, and the TPB heard a presentation from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on its efforts related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will continue to provide the TPB with updates on its progress in reducing emissions.

- **In other business, the TPB:**
 - Recommended adoption of a Routine Amendment to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program.
 - Recommended Full Certification of the Comprehensive Plan for Milton.

At its April 12 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan.** The Regional Transportation Plan describes how the region is planning to improve transportation over the next two decades. The recommended plan supports the regional growth strategy, provides transportation choices, improves access to jobs, improves the reliability of the transportation system, improves air and water quality, and offers a new financial strategy to deliver investments. The Executive Board will act on the TPB recommendation on April 26, and the General Assembly is scheduled to act on the plan on May 31.
- **Recommended the streamlining the process for special needs transportation grant funding.** The PSRC and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are proposing to streamline the current coordinated grant competition for funding special needs transportation projects. The streamlined process would address issues identified by past applicants and special needs transportation stakeholders. Under the streamlined process, the WSDOT will take on more responsibility for the overall project selection process, while the PSRC will continue to identify regional priority projects and participate in the funding decision-making process with WSDOT. The Executive Board is scheduled to consider approval at its meeting on April 26.
- **In other business, the TPB:**
 - Received a presentation on performance based planning and federal target setting.
 - Recommend authorizing a change in project status, from “candidate” to “approved”, for a WSDOT project that will add an additional lane on I-5 from Seneca to Mercer in Seattle.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for May 10.

REGIONAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)

At its March 16 meeting, the RTODAC:

- **Received a briefing and engaged in small group discussions regarding VISION 2050 scoping.** The PSRC staff provided an overview of the VISION 2050 planning process, including a long-range forecast of projected jobs, population, and households at the regional level, with an emphasis on forecast growth around station areas. The RTODAC split into three groups to solicit feedback on VISION 2050 scoping as it relates to the Growing Transit Communities (GTC) Strategy recommendations (topics such as affordability, equity, parking, amenities, and density).
- **Received a briefing on Sound Transit's Draft Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy.** Sound Transit staff provided an overview of the process to update the existing 2012 TOD Policy and highlights of the draft changes. Bellevue Councilmember Conrad Lee requested that additional language be added that "Sound Transit collaborate with local jurisdictions and agencies and potential partners." The next steps are Sound Transit Executive Committee discussion on April 5 with a goal for Sound Transit Board action on the policy on April 26.

The next meeting of the RTODAC is scheduled for June 15.