

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:  
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)  
*May 2018***

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its May 3 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Received a briefing regarding the VISION 2050 public opinion survey conducted in March 2018, including comparisons with surveys conducted in 1993 and 2003.** In all three surveys, respondents were asked what they liked best and least about living in the region and answered with open-ended responses. The cost of living has replaced transportation as the region's top dislike. Transportation and homelessness were nearly tied for second place. But overall, most residents (65%) view quality of life as good or excellent in the region. This was a statistically valid survey of 2,000 residents in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, and it will inform the VISION 2050 planning process.
- **Recommended that the PSRC Executive Board approve an update to the PSRC's Designation Procedures for New Regional Centers.** The update to the procedures reflects the criteria for the new regionally designated centers adopted in the Regional Centers Framework Update. Downtown Bellevue is the City's only currently designated growth center, but there may be future opportunities to have additional centers (such as Bel-Red) designated under the new framework and criteria. The criteria are reflective of the Executive Board's policy direction in the Centers Framework Update and support Downtown Bellevue as a designated growth center.
- **Discussed the VISION 2050 scoping report, including the scope of review of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.** The VISION 2050 scoping report establishes the broad framework for updating the plan, including documentation of issues that may be discussed in the plan and the proposed environmental analysis. The scoping report was scheduled for adoption at this meeting, but was postponed until June 7. The Pierce County representative requested more robust discussion about a fundamental change in the regional growth strategy due to a growing jobs and housing imbalance. The current scoping report outlines five alternatives that would be examined to update VISION 2040 to VISION 2050, but none of those alternatives includes a reset of the growth strategy. The PSRC staff committed to bring back proposed language to include in the scoping report to address these concerns. Bellevue has been supportive of the current regional growth strategy, and Bellevue staff will continue to monitor this potentially difficult conversation with Pierce County closely.
- **Heard a reminder that the PSRC's General Assembly will be held on Thursday, May 31 at the Sanctuary in Seattle.** The PSRC General Assembly includes all mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers of the PSRC member jurisdictions. Each elected representative is a voting member of the General Assembly, which meets at least annually to vote on major decisions, establish the budget, and elect new officers. Information regarding the General Assembly can be found [here](#).

The next meeting is an extended meeting of the GMPB and is scheduled for June 7.

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

At its May 10 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended projects to receive the PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds.** Approximately \$27.5 million of additional funding is available for 2018-2020 FHWA projects due to project cancellations and cost savings. Federal allocations were also higher than originally estimated. Projects were selected from prioritized contingency lists, and the PSRC is working with project sponsors to ensure the region's overall delivery targets are met. The City of Bellevue did have a project on the King County contingency list, the 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Final Design project. Bellevue declined the contingency due to the timing of its availability because the design of this project will be substantially complete by the time these contingency funds become available.
- **Discussed the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) State Facilities Action Plan Update.** The State Facilities Action Plan identifies needs and proposed actions for state transportation facilities. The WSDOT, in partnership with the PSRC, has begun advancing the plan, including the formation of the I-5 System Partnership. The goal of the I-5 System Partnership is to optimize the performance of Interstate-5, develop transportation solutions, and prioritize the movement of people and goods. Councilmember John Stokes and Councilmember Janice Zahn have been invited to participate in this forum. The WSDOT has also begun preliminary discussions regarding the needs of priority state route projects beyond those funded by the Connecting Washington Statewide Transportation Funding Package.
- **Discussed the VISION 2050 scoping comments and initial results from a public opinion survey.** The Scoping Report provides a range of policy issues that will guide the update to the VISION 2040 plan. These issues include the regional growth strategy, housing, social equity and displacement, and climate change. The PSRC conducted traditional outreach activities to prepare for the VISION 2050 planning process and worked with a consultant to gauge public sentiment about growth and planning in the region. The survey revealed that cost of living (29%), homelessness (12%) and traffic (10%) are seen as the worst things about the region—a significant change since 2003 when traffic congestion/lack of transportation options (52%) topped the list.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for June 7.