

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:  
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)  
*October 2019***

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its October 3 meeting, the GMPB:

Received status update from staff on VISION 2050. Board members commented in detail on continuing work on the following: the Regional Growth Strategy numbers; the new climate change chapter; fiscal sustainability issues, specifically services for counties with larger rural and urban unincorporated areas; and military installations and airport planning policy.

The next GMPB meeting will continue the VISION 2050 discussion. An organized comment matrix will be provided to members on October 24. In order to facilitate a productive discussion PSRC staff asked Board members to identify any additional amendments by November 4.

The next meeting of the GMPB is scheduled for November 7.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)**

At its October 10 meeting, the TPB:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Three agencies submitted six projects this month for routine amendment into the TIP. These projects were awarded local, state and federal funding through various processes. The projects were reviewed by the PSRC staff and were determined to be consistent with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transportation Plan.

The projects approved for routine amendment to the TIP include:

- King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP): Foothills Trail (South) and White River Bridge
- The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): I-90/Homer M. Hadley Bridge – Anchor Cable Replacement
- The WSDOT: I-90/Lacey V. Murrow Bridge – Anchor Cable Replacement
- The WSDOT: State Route (SR) 509/28th Avenue/24th Avenue S to S 188th Street – SR 509 Completion Stage 2
- The WSDOT: SR 513/Montlake Bridge –Deck Replacement

- **Recommended changing the status of the Foothills Trail (South) and White River Bridge Replacement project from “candidate” to “approved” status.** This project will develop a 1.2-mile paved regional trail segment and bridge between the cities of Enumclaw and Buckley through unincorporated King County. The total cost of this project is \$19 million.
- **Recommended changing the status of the Downtown Redmond Link Extension project from “candidate” to “approved” status.** This project will build upon East Link Extension, which ends at the Redmond Technology station at NE 40th Street and SR 520 in Redmond. The Downtown Redmond Link Extension will add a station at Marymoor Park and one in downtown Redmond.
- **Discussed SR 99 tolling and the “Seattle Squeeze,”** which refers to the period of transition between 2018 and 2023 when private and public construction projects will constrain the transportation system in Seattle. Major topics included:
  - Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel. In March, Sound Transit and King County Metro (Metro) buses were permanently rerouted out of the tunnel and onto surface streets in Seattle. This included Sound Transit Route 550. Since then, ridership on Route 550 has decreased from nearly 10,000 trips a day to about 7,200. About 1,000 of the displaced trips have shifted to other transit services, but about 2,000 trips are no longer taken on transit due to additional travel time and different access points to bus stops.
  - SR 99 Tunnel. Tolling in the SR 99 tunnel will begin November 9. Toll rates will range from \$1 to \$2.25 per trip for drivers using with a Good To Go! Pass. Drivers without the pass will pay an extra \$2 per trip.
  - Connect 2020. As part of East Link construction, Sound Transit must connect the new light rail line to the existing tracks at the International District Station. Sound Transit is calling this project “Connect 2020.” As part of this project, Sound Transit will close parts of the International District station during a 10-week period in early 2020. During the closure, Link service will operate as two lines. One line will run from the University of Washington to Pioneer Square, and the other will run from Angle Lake to Pioneer Square. There will also be three weekend closures of all downtown Seattle stations, one each in January, February and March. On these weekends, shuttle buses will connect riders from SODO to Capitol Hill and all intermediate stations. Sound Transit is conducting a multi-phased public outreach campaign so that riders know their options and can plan ahead. Public outreach began in earnest this month and will continue through project completion.
- **Discussed the PSRC’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Program.** The PSRC adopted its Regional Transportation Plan last year. The Plan contains policies and investments to support a sustainable, multimodal transportation system for people and goods. As an appendix to the Regional Transportation Plan, the Active Transportation Plan provides guidance and information to advance the Regional Transportation Plan’s bicycle and pedestrian policies.

The PSRC staff provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan tasks, including:

- Policy inventory – the PSRC is creating an inventory of counties' and jurisdictions' adopted bicycle and pedestrian policies. The inventory will provide a comprehensive overview of policies within the region and serve as a resource for governments considering active transportation policies.
- Bicycle and pedestrian survey – the PSRC conducted a survey of counties and jurisdictions to determine how much data is available regarding bicycle and transportation infrastructure. The PSRC also asked whether the member governments have counted the bicyclists and pedestrians using that infrastructure.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for November 14.