

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*October 2020***

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At its September 24 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved a routine amendment adding five projects to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).** The projects were reviewed by the PSRC staff and were determined to be consistent with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transportation Plan, including:

King County:

- **Eastrail Hospital Station Area Multi-Modal Connections, located in Bellevue, and renamed the “NE 8th Street Overcrossing Project.”**
 - This project is a component of the larger Eastrail Project.
 - Updating the project in the TIP allows the project to move into construction.
 - Lake Forest Park: State Route (SR) 104/40th Place NE Roundabout
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): Washington State Ferry Reduction Gear Preservation Project
 - WSDOT: SR 522/NE 145th Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – this route will serve north Seattle, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville.
 - Sound Transit: Everett Link Extension Model Code Partnership
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- **Authorized a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan project status for the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail (ELST), South Sammamish B Segment project.** King County submitted a request to change the status of the project from “candidate” to “approved” status. This project will construct a 3.6-mile paved regional trail segment in Sammamish between SE 33rd Street and Inglewood Hill Road. The project will be the final developed segment of the ELST, a 11.2-mile regional trail through Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah. The project is estimated to cost about \$55 million. It is funded through the King County Parks Levy. This action is a routine administrative change and is typically included on the consent agenda when the project cost is less than \$100 million.
 - **Authorized a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan project status for the Canyon Road East Southerly Extension, 196th Street East to 208th Street East Project.** Pierce County submitted a request to change the status of the project from “candidate” to “approved” status. Again, this is a routine, administrative matter.

- **Recommended adoption of VISION 2050 to the General Assembly.** Last December, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) unanimously recommended adoption of VISION 2050 to the Executive Board. Prior to the Executive Board's action, the Board reviewed and voted on several proposed amendments:
 - PSRC staff prepared amendments regarding COVID-19 and racial equity. The amendments describe the COVID-19 pandemic and implications for the region, including the pandemic's disparate impacts on people of color and low-income populations. The amendments provide context and background information for VISION 2050 within several of the Plan's chapters.
 - Members proposed wording adjustments, including a condemnation of anti-Asian racism.
 - The wording adjustments were accepted, and the COVID-19 and racial equity amendments were unanimously adopted.
 - King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci proposed several edits related to housing, including two new action statements related to housing choice and housing production. Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson proposed an adjustment to Councilmember Balducci's amendment regarding affordable housing and the distribution of federal transportation funding. Mayor Robinson's amendment recognizes the importance of preserving affordable housing and supports affordable housing that serves a range of income levels. Mayor Robinson's amendment was adopted. The amendments were unanimously approved.
 - Snohomish County proposed that its growth strategy allocations be changed to match the draft plan released for public comment last July. The amendment would increase the population growth threshold for Snohomish County's rural areas from 13,000 to 25,000. The "core cities" and "cities and towns" allocations within Snohomish County would be reduced by the same amount.
 - This amendment was supported by Pierce County and Snohomish County representatives but opposed by King County Executive Dow Constantine and north King County jurisdictions.
 - In a weighted vote, the Executive Board did not adopt Snohomish County's amendment.

The General Assembly will consider adoption of VISION 2050 on October 29.

The Executive Board met on October 22. A summary will be included in the November Regional Issues packet.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its October 15 meeting, the GMPB:

Approved the deadline extension for the Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center Application. Last December, PSRC received an application from the City of Kirkland for designation of Greater Downtown Kirkland as an Urban Regional Growth Center. PSRC staff reviewed the application materials for consistency with the designation procedures criteria and found the urban hub meets many of the criteria to be designated a regional growth center. However, the city has not completed an adopted center plan for the new Greater Downtown Kirkland center that met the designation criterion and requirements for subarea plan certification. Kirkland submitted a letter on August 28 detailing how the city plans to meet center planning requirements through two planning efforts: the Moss Bay neighborhood plan update and the I-405 Bus Rapid Transit Station Area Plan. When those plans are completed, the city will revise the urban center boundaries and adopt the necessary subarea plans and comprehensive plan amendments in 2021. An updated market study and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documentation will be completed as part of this work.

Discussed the update of the PSRC Plan Review Manual. The draft VISION 2050 plan calls for PSRC to support efforts to update countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, and infrastructure and utility plans by updating the Plan Review Manual, including plan certification guidance (RC-Action-1). Within the central Puget Sound region, local governments and PSRC have worked together to develop an overall process for reviewing and certifying local, countywide, and transit agency policies and plans. A set of materials, compiled in a Plan Review Manual, provides details on the review and certification process, background, and framework. The manual was last updated in 2014, prior to the 2015-2016 local plan updates. Updating the Plan Review Manual is an important early step in VISION 2050 implementation, as counties and cities have already begun work to update countywide planning policies, which are due in December 2021 (MPP-RC-13). Local comprehensive plans must be updated by June 2024.

In addition to updating the manual to reflect VISION 2050 policy direction, there is an opportunity to update materials to address comments from previous comprehensive plan review cycles. This work will be supported by convening a Plan Review Working Group comprised of local planning staff and state agency partners to review and provide feedback on the draft materials and approach. The work group includes 12 staff participating from Bellevue, Seattle, Redmond, King County, among others to inform the update process. Emil King, Assistant Director, from Community Development is representing Bellevue in the staff work group. PSRC anticipates a total of five meetings between October and January 2021.

Discussed early findings from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Housing access and affordability are key policy areas in VISION 2050, the region's long range plan for growth. VISION 2050 calls for the region to better assess and address housing needs through a coordinated regional housing strategy and a regional housing needs assessment. A new housing action in the draft VISION 2050 plan (H-Action-1) directs PSRC to develop a regional housing strategy, including a regional housing

needs assessment. The regional housing strategy is intended to serve as a “playbook” of regional and local actions to move towards the region’s goal to preserve, improve, and expand its housing stock to provide a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices and promote fair and equal access to housing for all people. The GMPB received a briefing from PSRC staff on early findings from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). This will inform the actions included in the Regional Housing Strategy.

Based on feedback from the GMPB, RSC, and Regional Transit Oriented Development Advisory Committee (RTODAC) and direction set in H-Action-1, staff developed a work plan to identify general direction for the project, issues to address, roles and responsibilities, and timeline. Additional findings from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment will be available for review and discussion at the November GMPB meeting. PSRC boards and committees will begin discussing potential strategies to address the gaps identified in the needs assessment in 2021.

Discussed the open non-voting positions on the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) and GMPB Board. The TPB and GMPB are looking for interest group representatives to serve as non-voting members. Each board has openings in the categories of organizations that represent business or labor and community or environment. The seats are for three-year terms and PSRC seeks and encourages racial diversity in its boards to develop a more holistic perspective of regional problems and solutions. The deadline for applications is Friday, November 13.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for November 19.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its October 8 meeting the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the 2019-2022 TIP.** Bellevue and WSDOT submitted six projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP. The projects were reviewed by the PSRC staff and were determined to be consistent with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transportation Plan. These routine amendments and projects are described above.
- **Recommended certification of the Regional Center Subarea Plans for Bellevue, Burien, Puyallup Downtown and Puyallup South Hill,** as described above.
- **Recommended authorizing a change in the Regional Transportation Plan project status for the I-405 NE 132nd Street Interchange project.** WSDOT submitted a request to change the status of the I-405 NE 132nd Street Interchange Project from “candidate” to “approved” status.
- **Recommended adoption of the draft 2021-2024 TIP.** Federal and state legislation requires the PSRC to prepare the regional TIP, which lists all projects using federal transportation funds

and all regionally significant projects. The PSRC adopts a new TIP after allocating federal funding every two years.

The Executive Board approved the 2023-2024 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding distribution in July. PSRC staff incorporated these awards into a draft 2021-2024 TIP. The draft also incorporated contingency funding awards made in June. In September, the TPB unanimously approved releasing the draft TIP for public comment and received two comments. The Executive Board will consider adopting the TIP on October 22. The PSRC will process amendments to the 2019-2022 TIP until the new TIP is adopted.

- **Discussed the Regional Transportation Plan update.** The PSRC is preparing a major update to the plan this year, with completion scheduled for 2022. The Plan describes how the region will implement the transportation policies and goals established in VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan. Under federal and state law, the PSRC is required to develop a Regional Transportation Plan every four years.

As part of the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan development, the region will establish performance measures to assess the draft Plan's consistency with the VISION 2050 goals. Some standard performance measures include:

- Daily vehicle miles traveled
- Daily vehicle hours of delay
- Mode shares – the proportion of trips taken by single-occupant vehicle, carpools, transit, walking, and bicycling
- Air quality

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for November 12.

REGIONAL TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTODAC)

At its September 18 meeting the RTODAC:

Discussed the VISION 2050 Equity Implementation including the Regional Equity Strategy.

Equity is a key policy area in VISION 2050, the region's long range plan for growth. A new action (RC-Action-3) in the draft VISION 2050 plan directs PSRC to develop a regional equity strategy, intended to make equity central to PSRC's work and to support the 2024 local comprehensive plan updates. Based on feedback from PSRC policy bodies, and regional stakeholders, PSRC staff will identify the general direction for the Regional Equity Strategy, issues to address, roles and responsibilities, and timeline.

Discussed early findings from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Housing access and affordability are key policy areas in VISION 2050, the region's long range plan for growth. VISION 2050 calls for the region to better assess and address housing needs through a coordinated regional housing

strategy and a regional housing needs assessment. The regional housing strategy is intended to serve as a playbook of regional and local actions to meet the region's goal to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock to provide a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices and to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people.

Discussed Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Region's Economy. Unemployment claims remain high in many regional industries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While several industries are not yet permitted to operate under the Governor's phased reopening strategy many essential industries or those in early phases are still experiencing a high volume of unemployment claims. The Economic Development team at PSRC is using this data to help coordinate regional efforts for recovery. The RTODAC received a briefing from PSRC staff on the regional claims by industry and trends relating to the industries that have had the greatest impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This information will help inform the update to the regional economic development strategy.

Discussed the status of Vision 2050. Following the Growth Management Policy Board's (GMPB) recommendation made in December, VISION 2050 was reviewed by the Executive Board at the beginning of the year before the Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders were enacted. The Executive Board resumed review of VISION 2050 in July and the plan is anticipated to be adopted at an October 29 supplemental General Assembly meeting. The RTODAC received a briefing on the status of Vision 2050.

The next meeting of RTODAC is scheduled for December 4.