

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)
*July 2021***

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At its June 24 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Five agencies submitted seven projects for routine amendment into the Regional TIP. The projects were reviewed by PSRC staff and determined to be consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The projects included:
 - Community Transit: Swift Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Orange Line, connecting Mill Creek and Lynnwood.
 - King County: Rapid Ride H Line, connecting Burien to Downtown Seattle.
 - Shoreline: N 175th Street, Stone Avenue N to I-5 street improvements.
 - Sound Transit: Lynnwood Link Extension, connecting Lynnwood to Northgate.
 - Sound Transit: Federal Way Link Extension, connecting Angle Lake Station in SeaTac to the Federal Way Transit Center.
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): I-5/S 375th Street to S 178th Street - Seismic Retrofit in King County.
 - WSDOT: I-90/Lacey V. Murrow and Homer M. Hadley Bridges - Electrical Rehab between Seattle and Mercer Island.
- **Approved a project status change in the RTP.** Kitsap Transit requested to change the status of the Silverdale Transit Center Phase I and II Project from “Candidate” to “Approved.” This project will provide a multi-modal transit center near SR-3 and SR-303 in Silverdale.
- **Discussed the RTP update.** Under federal and state law, PSRC is required to develop a financially-constrained RTP every four years. The RTP must include a financial plan demonstrating how maintenance, preservation, and operations investments can be funded over the life of the plan. The financial plan must include system-wide estimates of costs and revenue sources that are reasonably expected to be available.

PSRC estimates that the region will need to spend about \$303 billion by 2050 for system improvements, maintenance, and preservation with current law projected to generate about \$254 billion in revenue. New revenue options include new local sources, new transit and ferry fees, new state fees and facility tolls and user fees.

- **Discussed the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) update.** The RES is the region’s economic development plan and supports VISION 2050, the region’s long-range plan for growth. The RES includes three overarching economic development goals: expanding

economic opportunity, maintaining global competitiveness, and sustaining quality of life. PSRC staff is preparing an update to the RES, with adoption anticipated at the end of the year.

The Executive Board met July 22 and a summary will be included in the September Regional Issues packet. The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for September 23. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)

At its July 1 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended the Executive Board approve the City of Black Diamond's request for extension of conditional certification of the Comprehensive Plan.** PSRC conditionally certified the City of Black Diamond's 2019 periodic update of the comprehensive plan on February 6, 2020. The February 2020 action included a deadline of December 31, 2020. In December, PSRC received a letter from the city requesting a six-month extension on the conditional certification deadline and the GMPB approved this extension in January. The GMPB recommended approving an extension to allow the city to work with PSRC staff to address the conditions and resubmit the amended plan for full certification.
- **Approved releasing the draft of the Regional Affordable Housing Strategy for public comment.** 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 GMPB is leading the development of the Regional Housing Strategy. The GMPB developed a work plan for the project, reviewed the Regional Housing Needs Assessment in detail, and in May and June discussed draft strategies to address housing supply, stability, and subsidy. The GMPB directed PSRC staff to release the draft Regional Housing Strategy to engage stakeholders and solicit public comment in review of the draft document.
- **Received a briefing on planning for stormwater parks.** The GMPB received a briefing and update on the stormwater parks project. As part of the briefing, Kitsap County staff shared their experience in developing Manchester and other stormwater parks. PSRC was awarded a Puget Sound National Estuary Program grant of almost \$200,000 by Puget Sound Partnership and the Environmental Protection Agency to help catalyze the development of new stormwater parks. The next part of the project will provide technical assistance for the planning of up to four new stormwater parks, ideally one in each county. Findings from this work will be summarized in a guidance document on planning for stormwater parks that could facilitate additional stormwater park development in the region.
- **Received an update on the application process for membership on the Regional Transit-Oriented Development Advisory Committee (RTODAC).** At its May meeting, the Board adopted an updated charter for the RTODAC. The updated charter restructures the committee from a body of elected officials to a staff-level one. Bellevue staff applied for a position on the

RTODAC. The 21-person committee will include representatives from government, business, and nonprofit organizations from across the four-county region.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for September 2. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the PSRC Executive Board.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD (TPB)

At its July 8 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP.** WSDOT submitted the I-90/Westbound East Fork Issaquah Creek Bridge seismic retrofit project in Issaquah for routine amendment into the Regional TIP. The project was reviewed by PSRC staff and determined to be consistent with VISION 2050 and the RTP.
- **Recommended approval of a project status change in the RTP.** The City of Seattle submitted requested changing the status of the Madison BRT Project from “Candidate” to “Approved.” This project will include new concrete pavement, re-channelization to add transit lanes, and new elevated bus station platforms along the future RapidRide G Line connecting downtown Seattle and the Madison Park neighborhood.
- **Recommended approval of Black Diamond Conditional Certification Extension,** as described above.
- **Received a briefing from the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).** Created by Legislature in 2007, the PSP is a stakeholder group dedicated to the restoration and protection of Puget Sound. PSP is preparing to update its Action Agenda for 2022-2026. PSP measures ecosystem health and progress toward recovery goals identified in the Action Agenda. Insufficient funding is the greatest barrier to Puget Sound recovery. PSP staff encouraged TPB members to become engaged in PSP’s work, including development of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda.
- **Discussed the RTP financial strategy.** The TPB directed staff to proceed with plan analysis using draft financial strategy assumptions and Regional Capacity Projects list. For the draft financial strategy, 84 percent of the plan expenditures are anticipated to be covered by current law revenue, while 16 percent requires new or expanded revenue resources. PSRC staff will continue finalizing regional capacity project descriptions, researching maintenance and preservation needs, and monitoring member agency financial plan updates.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for September 9. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (EDD) BOARD

At its July 6 meeting, the EDD Board:

- **Adopted its Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget and Work Program.** In February, the EDD Board reviewed a draft of the budget and work program. The document includes ongoing administrative, managerial, and operational efforts related to the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA's) requirements for Economic Development Districts, implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy, and management of the board's CARES Act grant to support disaster recovery and resilience coordination. The 2022-23 Budget and Work Program includes expected revenues and expenditures of \$588,000.
- **Discussed regional workforce recovery planning.** The EDD Board received a presentation from Asaph Glosser, who is leading the effort on behalf of PSRC under a \$400,000 grant from the EDA. The project is designed to strengthen economic recovery, support equity, and build resilience into the region's workforce. It is designed to gather actionable labor market information, create customized regional occupational projections, and develop data products which can help connect workers and job-seekers in the region with high-wage, in-demand occupations. The project began in June and a final report is scheduled for completion by March.
- **Discussed the Economic Development Element Guide under development by PSRC staff.** This document is intended to assist local jurisdictions with the upcoming 2024 comprehensive plan update process. The guide will explain the purpose of the economic development element in comprehensive plans, describe the importance of data and strengths-weaknesses analysis for economic development, and brief planners on the policymaking process.
- **Discussed outreach for the RES, including its new online engagement tool.** As described above, PSRC staff is preparing an update to the RES and adoption is anticipated later this year. PSRC staff engaged in various regional recovery planning efforts to identify new challenges, opportunities, and strategic directions. These areas include equity, health, childcare, regional job distribution, housing and homelessness, business recovery support, and industry competitiveness and resilience. Over the summer, staff will use an online engagement tool to facilitate outreach with EDD Board members, stakeholders, and the public. Feedback will be implemented into the draft strategy expected to be released for public comment this fall.

The next meeting of the EDD Board is scheduled for October 6. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDD Board.