

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

At its July 22 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Adopted a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) submitted the I-90/Westbound E Fork Issaquah Creek Bridge Seismic Retrofitting project for routine amendment in the TIP. The project was reviewed by PSRC staff and determined to be consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- **Authorized a change in the RTP project status for Seattle's Madison Bus Rapid Transit Project.** The Madison Bus Rapid Transit Project will add transit lanes and new elevated bus station platforms along the future RapidRide G Line connecting downtown Seattle and the Madison Park neighborhood. The City of Seattle submitted a request to change the status of the Project from "Candidate" to "Approved." This action is a routine administrative change.
- **Approved Black Diamond conditional certification extension.** Conditional certification status for the City of Black Diamond's comprehensive plan is in effect until it is amended to ensure consistency with the RTP. The City is coordinating with regional partners to address discrepancies between the City's growth targets — which are expected to far exceed 2035 targets — and anticipated growth. The final approval of these amendments is on hold as the City processes a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal. The Executive Board granted Black Diamond an additional six months to process the SEPA appeal and adopt the comprehensive plan amendments.
- **Approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding distribution to the Bremerton and Marysville Urbanized Areas (UZA).** ARPA was signed into law on March 11. Approximately \$901 million is available for distribution to the region's transit agencies. The Bremerton UZA, served by Kitsap Transit, was apportioned approximately \$28 million for transit funding. The Marysville UZA, served by Community Transit, was apportioned approximately \$6 million for transit. ARPA distribution discussions have been prolonged within the Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA to address questions related to equitable distribution. This item was on the agenda for the September 23 Executive Board meeting. A summary will be provided in the October Regional Issues packet.

After completing all business items on the agenda, the Executive Board adjourned to a joint board workshop called “Building a Foundation for Racial Equity.”

The Executive Board met on September 23. A summary will be included in the October Regional Issues packet. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD (GMPB)**

At its September 2 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended that the Executive Board approve the Administrative Procedures for Regional Centers.** VISION 2050 and the Regional Centers Framework, adopted by the Executive Board in 2018, describe the region’s policies for designating and evaluating Regional Growth Centers and Manufacturing/Industrial Centers. The Framework also calls for PSRC to develop administrative procedures for monitoring centers.
- **Received a briefing on a recap of the Joint Board Workshop on Racial Equity and an update on the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC).** PSRC created a work plan to help incorporate equity into agency work and provide resources to help jurisdictions elevate equity in the 2024 local comprehensive plan updates. The work plan will include a suite of tools and resources co-created with a committee of members that represent the perspective of those most impacted by PSRC’s policies and plans. PSRC staff briefed the GMPB on elements of the work plan, including learning opportunities and the EAC. The formation of the EAC was recommended by the Ad Hoc Equity Advisory Design (AHEAD) Group, an eight-person group of government and community organization leaders. The EAC will ensure that racial equity is centered in PSRC work. PSRC received 26 applications for new committee members.
- **Received a briefing on the Regional Housing Strategy.** In July, the GMPB released the draft Regional Housing Strategy for public review and comment through August 13. PSRC received comments regarding racial inequities, the current housing crisis and need for support, and the ongoing need for monitoring. An updated draft of the Regional Housing Strategy, with revisions, will be shared in advance of the October GMPB meeting. The GMPB will consider recommending draft Regional Housing Strategy changes to the Executive Board. GMPB action may be deferred to the November meeting if additional time is needed.
- **Received a briefing on the relaunched Regional Transit-Oriented Development Committee (RTODC).** The RTODC serves as an advisory committee to the GMPB. The RTODC’s new charter, adopted by the GMPB in May, restructured the committee to better align with VISION 2050. The committee will act as a technical working group focused on performance monitoring, documentation of promising practices, and general support of local efforts to take equitable TOD from theory to practice. The RTODC is comprised of 21 technical experts from across the region. Prior to the transition in May, Bellevue Councilmember Janice Zahn

represented the City on the RTODC. Under the new membership model, PSRC invited Mayor Robinson to represent the GMPB. Bellevue Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale is Mayor Robinson's alternate on the GMPB and will serve as alternate on the RTODC.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for October 7. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

### **REGIONAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RTODC)**

The RTODC met on September 17. A summary will be included in the October Regional Issues packet. The next meeting of the RTODC is scheduled for December 3. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the RTODC.

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

At its September 9 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional TIP.** Three agencies submitted five 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 proposed for routine amendment to the TIP are:
  - City of Seattle: Northgate to Downtown Transit Improvement along King County Metro Route 40
  - Snohomish County: SE 132<sup>nd</sup> Street/134<sup>th</sup> Place SE/Cathcart Way Overlay
  - Snohomish County: 164<sup>th</sup> Street SW Overlay
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: SR 167/SR 516 to S 277<sup>th</sup> Street – Southbound Auxiliary Lane in Kent
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-405/Ripley Lane Stream Connection in Renton
- **Recommended approval of Transit Safety Targets required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).** In 2018, FTA published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule, which requires certain operators of public transportation systems that receive federal funds under FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grants to develop safety plans. PSRC worked with transit agencies and the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) to develop a set of regional transit safety performance targets that incorporate agency-specific targets. The PSRC Region Transit Safety Targets include measurements for fatalities, injuries, safety events and system reliability.
- **Discussed the RTP preliminary analysis results.** The 2022 RTP is under development. It will extend the planning horizon to 2050 and provide a blueprint for improving mobility as the region grows. PSRC staff presented an analysis of the draft 2022 RTP financial strategy and project list. The presentation covered the analysis geographies, transit boardings and access, truck travel, delay per household, mode of transportation and miles driven per household. Next steps include a future conditions visualization tool and further detail on climate.

- **Discussed equity related to the RTP.** The TPB was briefed on PSRC's work to develop a Regional Equity Strategy, the new EAC, the joint board workshop on equity held in July and the incorporation of equity in PSRC's transportation work programs. The TPB met in small groups to discuss how to incorporate equity into the RTP.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for October 14. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.