

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

At its September 23 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Adopted the 2021 Title VI Plan.** PSRC is required to have a Title VI Plan, which ensures that all the agency's activities are conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner. The plan covers five program areas: (1) communications and public involvement, (2) planning and programming, (3) environmental affairs, (4) contracts, and, (5) education and training. PSRC updates the plan every three years as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- **Approved Juneteenth as a paid holiday.** Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday effective June 19. Washington state law and King and Pierce County ordinances recognizing Juneteenth as an official holiday will go into effect in 2022. The estimated fiscal impact of adding an additional paid holiday for PSRC staff is approximately \$57,000 for the fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023 biennium.
- **Adopted a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (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 are:
  - City of Seattle: Northgate to Downtown Transit Improvement along King County Metro Route 40
  - Snohomish County: SE 132nd Street/134th Place SE/Cathcart Way Overlay
  - Snohomish County: 164th Street SW Overlay
  - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region: SR 167/SR 516 to S 277th Street – Southbound Auxiliary Lane in Kent
  - WSDOT Northwest Region: I-405/Ripley Lane Stream Connection in Renton
- **Approved transit safety targets.** Safety plans, including safety targets, are required by certain operators of public transportation systems that receive federal funds under FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grants. PSRC worked with transit agencies to develop a set of regional transit safety performance targets that incorporate agency-specific targets. The PSRC Regional Transit Safety Targets include measurements for fatalities, injuries, safety events and system reliability.
- **Approved 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.

The procedures will ensure ongoing maintenance and periodic monitoring of centers is consistent across all regional centers.

- **Approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) transit funding.** Since ARPA was signed into law on March 11, PSRC worked with the region's transit agencies to develop a methodology to distribute \$901 million in FTA funds to support transit operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. After prolonged discussion related to equitable fund distribution in the Seattle-Tacoma-Everett urbanized area, the consensus recommendation included a 2.5 percent equity adjustment for Everett Transit, Pierce Transit and Washington State Ferries. While the funding recommendation was approved by the Board, members of the Pierce County delegation objected, calling the funding distribution inequitable. Members called for legislative action to increase transit funding at the state level.
- **Amended membership procedures for the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC).** The EAC will be a working group of residents, as well as governmental and community-based organizations, representing Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and other marginalized groups. The EAC will co-create data tools and planning resources, while advising PSRC committees and boards on policies and programs with an equity lens. The EAC Operating Procedures were amended to allow up to 20 members, rather than 15, to ensure adequate geographic and demographic representation. The PSRC Executive Board will finalize membership of the EAC.

The next meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for October 28. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.

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

At its October 7 meeting, the GMPB:

- **Recommended adoption of the Regional Housing Strategy to the Executive Board.** The Regional Housing Strategy is intended to serve as a “playbook” of regional and local actions that move towards the region's goals of preserving, improving, and expanding housing; providing a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices to every resident; and promoting fair and equal access to housing for all people. Following the GMPB's action to recommend the draft Regional Housing Strategy to the Executive Board, the Executive Board will consider the draft strategy on October 28, with potential action in December. Following adoption of the Regional Housing Strategy by the Executive Board, staff will work with the GMPB on implementation of the strategy, beginning in 2022.
- **Received a briefing on the RTP.** The 2022 RTP under development will address the transportation system needs and opportunities for growth expected by 2050, building from the work completed under VISION 2050. The plan will continue to address critical needs to maintain the current system and improve mobility but will also look ahead to address future challenges

with potential new investments, such as in rail, aviation, and passenger-only ferries. It will help to implement the policies and goals in VISION 2050 and assist and inform the local planning to be undertaken by cities and counties as they develop their comprehensive plans by 2024.

- **Received a briefing on the Countywide Planning Policies and Growth Targets.** Under the Growth Management Act, counties work with their respective cities to establish growth targets and adopt countywide planning policies (CPPs). In order to support the 2024 local comprehensive plan update process, CPPs and targets are expected to be updated by the end of 2021. PSRC certifies CPPs for consistency with VISION 2050, and the GMPB will have a formal role in this process following adoption by each county.

The next meeting of GMPB is scheduled for November 4. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the PSRC Executive Board.

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

At its October 14 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the 2021-2024 Regional TIP.** Three agencies submitted four 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 RTP. The projects proposed for routine amendment to the TIP are:
  - City of Federal Way: Pacific Highway Non-Motorized Corridor – 16th Ave. S (S 308th Street to S 288th Street)
  - Sumner: Stewart Road Corridor Completion – White River Bridge
  - WSDOT Olympic Region: SR 3/SR 104/SR303/SR 307/SR 308 Kitsap Co – Remove Fish Barriers
  - WSDOT Olympic Region: SR 167/I-5 to SR 161 Stage 2
- **Discussed WSDOT priorities and corridor funding.** In the current RTP approved in 2018, WSDOT investments represent approximately 13 percent of the region's total transportation investments. WSDOT provided the status of funding and implementation of major corridors in the region, as well as reporting on priorities for the upcoming RTP from 2022-2050.
- **Discussed RTP outreach.** As PSRC prepares to share the draft RTP in January 2022, staff provided an overview of the outreach and feedback received to date, including key themes. Engagement to date has included a representative public survey reaching over 1,900 residents; 22 follow-up interviews in four languages; outreach to over 230 individuals on the needs of people requiring specialized transportation services; youth engagement; and an online survey.
- **Discussed climate change.** VISION 2050 includes a goal to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources, electrifying the transportation system, and reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving

alone. Further, the plan prioritizes transportation investments that support regional GHG reduction goals. As part of the upcoming RTP, PSRC will conduct an analysis of the region's Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy encompassing land use, transportation choices, user fees and technology.

- **Discussed RTP focus area summaries and next steps.** In advance of the draft 2022 RTP release in January, members reviewed nearly two years of preparation work. Members were reminded of the data collection and visualization tool and major plan elements. Members reviewed key themes about transit, transportation demand management and active transportation. Before January, PSRC will update the Regional Capacity Projects list, refine the financial strategy assumptions and complete modeling.

The next meeting of the TPB is scheduled for November 10. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

### **REGIONAL TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) COMMITTEE**

At its September 17 meeting, the Regional TOD Committee:

- **Reviewed roles, responsibilities, and processes for the newly reorganized Committee.** This year, the Regional TOD Committee reorganized from a body of elected officials to a body of subject matter experts with a few elected officials participating. This change was made to support the new emphasis on TOD in VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan for growth. VISION 2050 focuses growth around high-capacity transit. Transitioning the committee membership to subject matter experts allows the committee to have technical discussions and provide more technical recommendations to the GMPB. The GMPB will then review the Committee's recommendations and make policy decisions. PSRC invited Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson to represent the GMPB.
- **Discussed the 2022 work plan.** Based on previous direction from the Committee, PSRC staff proposed to focus the 2022 work plan on research, convening, and guidance. Potential research tasks include monitoring key development metrics and transit access metrics in station areas, and researching potential tools not currently used in Central Puget Sound.