

2022–2050

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Public Comment and Amendment Review

Regional Staff Committee
March 17, 2022



Puget Sound Regional Council

Today's Presentation

- Overview of public comments received
- Overview of the process, remaining work and timeline
- Detailed summary of what we heard
 - Top themes
 - Proposals for board review
- Brief review of additional board member amendments
- Next steps



Public Comments

Formal public comment period ran from January 13, 2022 – February 28, 2022

113 respondents

- **17** PSRC member agencies
- **22** other organizations – tribal governments, public agencies, non-profit and community-based organizations
- **74** individuals

554 individually coded comments



Comment Letters – PSRC Members

Auburn

Bellevue

Community Transit

Edmonds

Edgewood

King County Executive's Office

Kitsap Transit

Northwest Seaport Alliance

(Port of Seattle; Port of Tacoma)

Pierce County

Pierce Transit

Sammamish

Seattle

Snohomish County

Sound Transit

Suquamish Tribe

WSDOT

Woodinville



Comment Letters – Tribes / Public Agencies

Nisqually Tribe

Suquamish Tribe

Bethel School District

Environmental Protection Agency

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

WA Department of Ecology



Comment Letters – Organizations

43rd District Democrats

350 Seattle

All Aboard Washington

Cascade Bicycle Club, et al.

Climate Rail Alliance

Disability Mobility Initiative

Downtown on the Go

Hopelink

King County Rural Area UACs

Leafline Trails Coalition, et al.

Lid I-5 Steering Committee

Move Redmond

Puyallup Age-Friendly City Task Force

REI

Salmon Safe

Snotrac

ULI Northwest TOD Council



Additional Letters – after 2/28

Issaquah

Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties

Sierra Club



Process and Remaining Work

Full report posted today – inclusion in Executive Board agenda packet, and sent to TPB members

- Each individual comment coded by category and comment type

PSRC staff responded:

- Acknowledging every comment
- Providing information where applicable
- Referring to further board discussions where applicable
- Indicating when proposals are outside of PSRC's scope or authority
- Identifying comments forwarded for Board review



Public Comments – Three Groups

554 Separate Comments:

General Comments – 413 comments

- No plan changes necessary.

Technical Corrections – 100 comments

- Minor changes, corrections, clarifications to plan. No policy implications.

Board Review – 41 comments

- Potential plan or work program implications. Board direction sought.



Breakdown of Comments – 26 Categories

- Analysis Results – 8
- Aviation – 10
- Bicycle/Pedestrian – 48
- Big Ideas - 16
- Climate/Environment – 74
- Congestion – 4
- Coordinated Mobility Plan – 20
- Emerging Technologies/ITS – 9
- Equity - 19
- Ferries - 7
- Financial strategy - 29
- Freight - 26
- General Plan Support – 24
- Growth Management/VISION – 21
- Health – 3
- Maintenance and Preservation – 14
- Miscellaneous/Other – 14
- Performance Measures – 13
- Project Specific – 23
- Project Selection – 9
- Public Engagement – 2
- Safety – 31
- Streets and Highways – 23
- TDM & CTR – 5
- Transit - 71
- Water Quality - 31



Top 10 Themes

- Bicycle/Pedestrian – 48
- Climate/Environment – 74
- Financial strategy – 29
- Freight – 26
- Growth Management – 21
- Project Specific – 23
- Safety – 31
- Streets and Highways – 23
- Transit – 71
- Water Quality – 31



Public Comments – Key Themes

Bicycle / pedestrian – 48

- General **support** for accelerated improvements (30%)
- ADA Transition Plans (10%)
- Update **Active Transportation Plan** (10%)
- Real and perceived **safety** of active transportation (15%)
- **Clarifications** and suggested information to add (35%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Climate/Environment – 74

- General environmental comments (10%)
- Strong support for doing more to reduce GHG (12%)
- Request for information about 2030 GHG goals (20%)
- GHG and project selection criteria (10%)
- Greener transportation/decarbonization (8%)
- Requests for clarifications, more information (40%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Financial Strategy – 29

- Need to be **aggressive** to secure new revenues (25%)
- Requests for information and **clarifications** (25%)
- Support for **user fees** and **RUC** (30%)
- Concerns about **distribution** of funds (10%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Freight – 26

- Importance of emerging **technology** (60%)
- Requests for information and **clarifications** (20%)
- Importance to **economic vitality** (10%)
- Maintenance and preservation of **roadways** (10%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Growth Management/VISION 2050 – 21

- Importance of **Regional Growth Strategy** (50%)
- Concerns about **adequacy** of **transit funding** (15%)
- **Align** funding to support **RGS** (30%)
- Requests for information, **clarification** (5%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Project Specific – 22

- Suggested **new projects** (40%)
- Project **information** updates (50%)
- Requests for information, **clarification** (10%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Safety – 31

- Develop regional safety plan and goals to (63%)
- Prioritize in project selection (12%)
- Evaluate projects for safety (8%)
- Better analysis and data (17%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Streets and Highways – 23

- Importance of **highway** and **HOV systems** (50%)
- **Concerns** about highway and street **expansion** (10%)
- Support for **complete streets**, **multimodal** improvements (20%)
- Unique **rural roadway** conditions and needs (20%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Transit – 71

- Strong **support** for more, and faster implementation (30%)
- Support for **High-Speed Rail, Intercity Rail** (15%)
- **Opposed** to transit emphasis (6%)
- Suggested **routes** and **technologies** (20%)
- Requests for **clarifications**, information (22%)
- **Environmental** benefits (7%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Water Quality – 31

- Clarifications and technical corrections (40%)
- General support for inclusion in plan (24%)
- Importance for salmon and orca health (36%)



Board Review– Key Topics

- Big Ideas
- Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Climate & Environment
- Project Amendments
- Safety
- Water Quality
- Project Evaluation
- Project Selection



Board Review – Project Amendments

Board Direction to refine RTP Analysis

- Several project amendments were identified in public comment and in Board member amendments that will require an updated RTP analysis prior to adoption
 - Tacoma principal arterial lane conversions
 - WSDOT I-5 HOV lanes
 - Transit alignment revisions



Board Review – Climate and Environment

Board Direction for PSRC Work Program

- Develop a 2030 interim year analysis and action steps in support of the 2030 regional climate goals; monitor progress towards achievement of both the 2030 and 2050 goals



Board Review – RTP Project Evaluation

Board direction to review and update the RTP Prioritization Framework prior to next RTP development

- Develop a policy that ensures adequate bike/walk/transit/roll infrastructure is required in each RTP project
- Require a Safe Systems Approach be used for all projects
- Commit to a plan to revisit RTP Prioritization Framework



Board Review – Safety

Board Policy Discussion

- Adopt a goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries with a Safe Systems Approach as a guide

Direction for PSRC Work Program

- Develop a regional safety work plan identifying specific actions, targets, and performance measures, with particular attention to vulnerable and BIPOC populations
- Publish an annual safety progress report to track performance
- Pursue additional resources for new safety projects and programs in alignment with regional safety goals



Board Review – Big Ideas

Board Policy Discussion

- Take bolder action on lidding I-5 and work with partners to secure funding and convene regional stakeholders

Direction for PSRC Work Program

- Strengthen implementation aspects of the RTP, provide more detail on next steps, actions, and timelines



Board Review – Bicycle / Pedestrian

Board Policy Discussion

- Adopt a policy prioritizing investments in transit and sidewalk connectivity in areas with high concentrations of people with specialized transportation needs

Direction for PSRC Work Program

- Commit to analysis of ADA Transition Plans and identify a funding source to support ADA transition



Board Review – Project Selection

Board Policy Discussion on Policy Framework for PSRC Federal Funds

- Require PSRC funded bikeway projects be built to an all ages and abilities standard and develop an evaluation plan
- Require PSRC project selection competitions to have GHG reduction targets
- Require all PSRC funded projects to have VMT reduction plan
- Require 75% of PSRC funding each project selection round be targeted for bike/walk/transit/roll investments in transit sheds and growth centers, consistent with VISION 2050 RGS 65%/75% goal



Board Review – Water Quality

Board Discussion/Potential PSRC Work Program

- Partner with transportation agencies to develop a plan to avoid or mitigate impacts to salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales and ensure the transportation sector does not infringe on tribal treaty rights
- Identify and implement strategies to provide significant and sufficient treatment of stormwater from roads (addressing 6PPD-quinone contaminants)



Board Member Proposed Amendments (by 3/4)

- Bellevue
- Councilmember Balducci
- Commissioner Gelder
- Pierce County
- Seattle/King County/WA/Port of Seattle
- Tacoma
- Councilmember Upthegrove
- Representative Wicks



45 Proposed Amendments – Topics

- Ballard-Interbay Study
- Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Climate Change
- Coordinated Mobility Plan
- Equity
- Mobility (ADA)
- Project Additions
- RTP/Funding Alignment
- Safety
- Technology



Board Amendments – Processing

- Similar process to public comments –
 - Staff will line item each amendment
 - Crossover / similarities to many of the topics already addressed in public comment & topics flagged for board review
 - Staff responses pending
 - i.e., feasibility, already being addressed, board review

Staff will prepare a packet of “Amendment Packages” for 3/31 meeting – combining similar issues / topics / proposals for easier processing



Thank you.

