

2022–2050

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Public Comment and Amendment Review

Transportation Policy Board
March 10, 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
 - ❖ *Focus for today is initial review and feedback*



Public Comments

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

114 respondents

- **17** PSRC member agencies
- **23** 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



Process and Remaining Work

- Initial delineation of comments – *spreadsheet sent to the board yesterday*
 - Each individual comment coded by category and comment type
- PSRC working on staff response to each and every line item comment
 - 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
- Full report ready by March 17th – inclusion in Executive Board agenda packet, and will be sent to TPB members



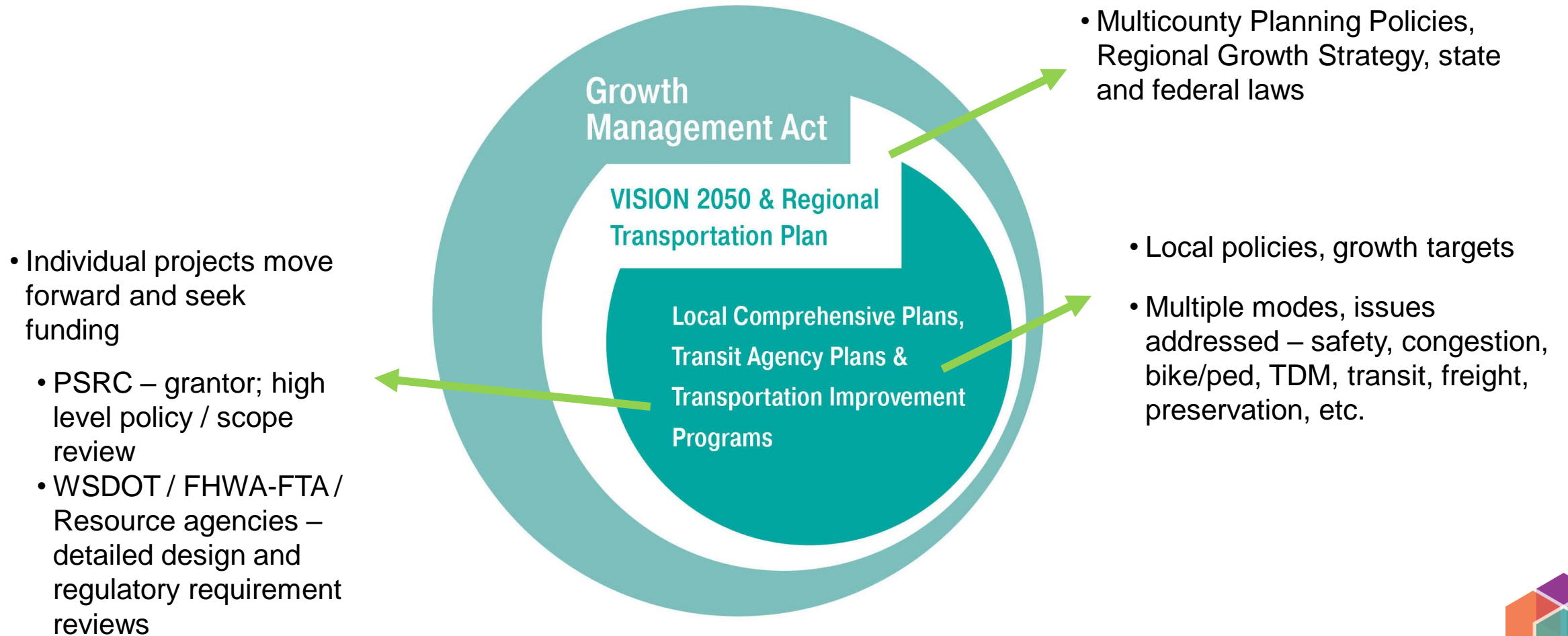
RTP Background

VISION 2050 Implementation



RTP Background

Local policy and project implementation



Public Comments – Three Groups

554 Separate Comments:

General Comments – 427 comments

- No plan changes necessary.

Technical Corrections – 92 comments

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

Board Review – 35 comments

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



Breakdown of Comments – 27 Categories

- Analysis Results – 7
- Aviation – 10
- Bicycle/Pedestrian – 54
- Big Ideas - 14
- Climate/Environment – 72
- Congestion – 4
- Coordinated Mobility Plan – 14
- Emerging Technologies/ITS – 9
- Equity - 22
- Ferries - 7
- Financial strategy - 30
- Freight - 23
- General Plan Support – 25
- Growth Management/VISION – 20
- Health – 3
- Maintenance and Preservation – 14
- Miscellaneous/Other – 12
- Performance Measures – 12
- Project Specific – 22
- Project Selection – 5
- Public Engagement – 2
- Safety – 31
- Specialized Transportation/ADA – 7
- Streets and Highways – 21
- TDM & CTR – 5
- Transit - 75
- Water Quality - 32



Top 10 Themes

- Bicycle/Pedestrian – 54
- Climate/Environment – 72
- Equity - 22
- Financial strategy - 30
- Freight - 23
- Growth Management/VISION – 20
- Project Specific – 22
- Safety – 31
- Transit - 82
- Water Quality - 32



Public Comments – Key Themes

Bicycle / pedestrian – 54

- 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 – 72

- 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

Equity – 22

- More **data**, suggestions to **improve equity analysis** (55%)
- Requests for more information, **clarifications** (35%)
- Suggestions for project selection **criteria** (10%)



Public Comments – Key Themes

Financial Strategy – 30

- 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 – 23

- 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 – 20

- 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

Transit – 82

- 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 – 32

- 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
- 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
 - Staff responses pending
 - i.e., feasibility, already being addressed, board review

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



Board Amendments – Ballard-Interbay Study

- Recognize the Ballard-Interbay Regional Transportation Study and its objectives in the plan (*Seattle/King Co./WA/Port of Seattle*)



Board Amendments – Bicycle / Pedestrian

- Support updates and analysis of the Active Transportation Plan, in addition to regional capacity projects, to close substantial gaps in the facility network (*Comm. Gelder*)
- Add a “Regional Active Transportation Network” section to Chapter 4 outlining value of completing active transportation spines and networks, regional needs, work to date, and PSRC role (*Comm. Gelder*)
- Develop qualitative/quantitative active transportation performance measures to analyze regional access to “all ages and abilities” facilities; include in regional capacity projects analysis (*Comm. Gelder*)



Board Amendments – Bicycle / Pedestrian

- Provide clarity about need for increased emphasis on HCT access projects (*Bellevue*)
- Provide information about how region's safety goals relate to the safety section (*Bellevue*)
- Update and implement the regional Active Transportation Plan, including the Leafline Trails Network (*Rep. Wicks*)



Board Amendments – Climate Change

- Include reference to 2030 greenhouse reduction goal as step to achieving the 2050 reduction goal (*Pierce Co./Tacoma/CM Upthegrove*)
- Identify actions needed to support achievement of 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal as a future work program; monitor progress towards achievement of 2030 and 2050 goals (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)
- Increase PSRC capacity to analyze resiliency and environmental justice impacts and to engage affected populations. Consider hiring an environmental/climate justice specialist (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)



Board Amendments – Climate Change

- Analyze whether adopted policies will achieve 2030 greenhouse reduction targets/develop strategic plan to achieve targets (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Conduct regional analysis of new growth targets for consistency with RGS; provide technical assistance (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Develop Climate Implementation Strategy. Continue to collaborate with PSCAA and other regional and state partners to develop an implementation plan to achieve both 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals. (*CM Balducci*)



Board Amendments – Coordinated Mobility Plan

- Add following to Coordinated Mobility Plan as high priority strategies (*Rep. Wicks*):
 - Prioritize land use and transportation plans and funding to create ability-friendly & age-friendly communities
 - Convene stakeholders to set a baseline service level goal for providing transit and door-to-door services within the rural context



Board Amendments – Equity

- Include displacement of people of color and low-income people in regional equity analyses, including potential mitigation measures (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)
- Develop a methodology for project level displacement risk analysis (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)
- Identify Equity Advisory Committee role in development of future Project Selection frameworks (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)
- Include a future work program commitment to analyze the equity of current transportation funding of all funds and all modes (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)



Board Amendments – Mobility

- Maintain regional list and track local ADA Transition Plans, and other active transportation plans (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Encourage local jurisdictions to package complete networks of bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA infrastructure into single project applications when seeking STP and CMAQ funding (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Support development and analysis of ADA transition plans & hire a regional ADA plan coordinator (*Pierce Co./Tacoma; Rep. Wicks*)



Board Amendments – Mobility

- Identify a regional funding source to support implementation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plans and other active transportation plans (*Pierce Co./Tacoma; Rep. Wicks*)
- Create policy addressing inclusion of adequate bike/walk/transit/roll infrastructure in regional capacity projects. Consider an “all ages & abilities” minimum standard (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)



Board Amendments – Project List

- Add three projects to Regional Capacity Project List (*Tacoma*):
 - Portland Avenue – I-5 to 72nd St E [ID 31330]
 - Orchard St/Lakewood Dr – S 56th St to S 74th St [ID 2967]
 - S 74th St/72nd St – S Cedar St to Waller Rd [3190]
- Modify S Tacoma Access Improvements project [ID 4085] to include S Tacoma Way project [ID 2977] – separated bike lanes as part of South Tacoma Sounder Station Access improvements (*Tacoma*)



Board Amendments – RTP/Funding Alignment

- Require all highway capacity project applications to estimate GHG emissions (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Set aspirational goal that each funding round will reduce GHG emissions in line with 2030 & 2050 targets (*Rep. Wicks*)
- For project selection, in alignment with Regional Growth Strategy, prioritize walking, bicycling, and ADA improvements within designated regional growth centers, and in proximity to HCT stations (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Require higher level of scrutiny for highway capacity projects in areas with higher proportions of historically marginalized communities (*Rep. Wicks*)



Board Amendments – RTP/Funding Alignment

- Make low-scoring projects ineligible for funding until resubmitted/reevaluated (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Create regional project list for smaller walk, bicycle, ADA, and transit projects (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Add language to Financial Strategy: “ Make policy decisions on collection and distribution of user fees, aligning pricing and revenue expenditures with achieving regional climate, equity, and mobility goals.” (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Sequence the RTP and Federal Funding Processes. Address alignment of RTP development and federal funding processes (*CM Balducci*)



Board Amendments – Safety

- Include development and adoption of a Safe Systems Approach/Regional Safety Plan based upon Federal National Road Safety Standards as future work program item (*Pierce Co./Tacoma*)
- Adopt a goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries; promote a Safe Systems Approach (*Bellevue*)
- Develop a regional safety work plan that identifies actions, targets, and performance indicators (*Bellevue*)
- Publish an annual regional safety progress report (*Bellevue*)
- Pursue resources for safety projects and programs (*Bellevue*)



Board Amendments – Safety

- Convene regional partners and stakeholders to set an aspirational target year for achieving zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries and develop a regional plan with best practices for achieving the safety goal. Address full spectrum of safety elements and a Safe Systems Approach (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Require all projects funded by STP and CMAQ dollars to utilize “practical design” and “Safe Systems Approach,” following best safety practices (*Rep. Wicks*)
- Require all bikeways funded through PSRC to be designed for all ages and abilities. Establish corresponding design standards (*Rep. Wicks*)



Board Amendments – Safety

- Develop Regional Safety Plan. PSRC will seek funding from US DOT to develop a regional safety plan to achieve goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on Washington’s roadways by 2030 through safety in the design, planning and funding of projects. (*CM Balducci*)



Board Amendments – Technology

- Provide additional context for emergence of autonomous vehicles in region (*Bellevue*)
- Highlight the opportunity to leverage new data source options (*Bellevue*)
- Develop framework for updating the Transportation System Visualization Tool (*Bellevue*)



Next Steps

March

- All comments and Board proposed amendments posted online at <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/rtp>
- Draft staff responses to comments and amendments: **available 3/17**
- Staff will begin work on technical and administrative corrections for final plan

April

- Transportation Policy Board recommendation on plan to Executive Board
 - *Any further direction to staff on edits / amendments to plan*
- Executive Board recommendation to General Assembly



Thank you.

