

# Regional Project Evaluation Committee

March 25, 2022



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Announcements
- Approval of February Meeting Summary
- TPB Debrief



Puget Sound Regional Council

## Regional Project Evaluation Committee Agenda

Date: **March 25, 2022** from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Online Meeting Only: Use Zoom Connection Information Provided Below

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1. **Introductions and Announcements (9:30)**
2. **Approve Meeting Summary for February 25, 2022\***
3. **Transportation Policy Board Debrief (9:40)**

The 'At Work' report for the Transportation Policy Board meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022 is available on the PSRC website at: <https://www.psrc.org/tpb-meetings>:
4. **Discussion: Project Extensions and Annual Delivery Target (9:45)**

Staff will report on the requested 2022 obligation date extensions, current obligation delivery, and next steps in the rebalancing process over the next few months to ensure the region meets its 2022 annual delivery target.
5. **Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan Public Comments and Board Amendments (10:05)**

Staff will provide an overview of the public comments received on the draft Regional Transportation Plan and the discussions occurring at PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards. Particular focus will be provided on comments and amendments related to project evaluation and funding.
6. **Discussion: Project Selection Process (10:45)**

A brief status report on the project selection process will be provided.
7. **Other Business (10:55)**
8. **Next Meeting: 2022 Project Selection Presentations: April 21-22, 2022 (Times TBD)**
9. **Adjourn (11:00)**

\*Supporting materials attached



# 2022 Project Delivery

Reminder: 14 projects requested extensions:

- 45-Day Extensions: \$5.3m total
- 1-Year Extensions: \$15m total

➤ Delivery status as of February 28, 2022

- *~17% delivered*

➤ With extensions, increased estimate and preliminary advancements, gap to delivery:

- *~\$16m*



# Rebalancing and Next Steps

- Finalizing extension requests
- Reviewing advancement potential
- Update and review of existing contingency lists
- Target of May board action for any rebalancing needs
  - Information by April RPEC meeting
  - Advanced projects or new funding awards will have until July 15<sup>th</sup> for obligation deadline



# RTP Public Comments Overview

- 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

43<sup>rd</sup> 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

LIACs

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

All comments and a full report posted on PSRC's website:

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/rtp>

- 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



# PSRC Planning Background

## Local policy and project implementation

- Individual projects move forward and seek funding
- PSRC – grantor; high level policy / scope review
- WSDOT / FHWA-FTA / Resource agencies – detailed design and regulatory requirement reviews



- Multicounty Planning Policies, Regional Growth Strategy, state and federal laws
- Local policies, growth targets, plans
- Multiple modes, issues addressed – safety, congestion, bike/ped, TDM, transit, freight, preservation, etc.



# Public Comments – Three Groups

## 554 Delineated 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%)



# Comments Elevated for Board Review– Key Topics

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



# Comments Elevated for 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



# Comments Elevated for Board Review – Climate/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



# Comments Elevated for Board Review – RTP Project Evaluation

## *Board direction for evaluation of future projects submitted into the next RTP*

- 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



# Comments Elevated for 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



# Comments Elevated for 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



# Comments Elevated for 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



# Comments Elevated for 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



# Comments Elevated for 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)



# Additional Outreach



**Virtual Outreach Meetings**



**Survey**



**Online Open House**



**Personal Interviews**



**Virtual Public Meetings**



**Social Media**



**Community Focus Groups**



**Equity Advisory Committee**



**Employer / Business / Military Interviews**



# Board Member Proposed Amendments (by 3/4)

- Request to Transportation Policy Board members
- By March 4<sup>th</sup> to submit amendments above and beyond what was provided in public comment
  - *to allow advance board review prior to the March 10 TPB meeting*
- Amendments received from:

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



# Proposed Amendments – Key Topics

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



# Board Amendments – Processing and Next Steps

- Crossover / similarities to many of the topics already addressed in public comment & topics flagged for board review
- Staff conducting outreach to clarify where necessary

*Staff preparing a packet of “Amendment Packages” for 3/31 TPB meeting*

- *will combine similar / related proposals for easier processing*
- *will provide additional staff assessment*
  - *e.g., impact to work program, authority/scope issues, issues already addressed, etc.*



# Combined Public Comment / Amendment Topics

- Bicycle/Pedestrian
- Big Ideas
- Climate
- Coordinated Mobility Plan / ADA Transition
- Equity
- Project Amendments
- Project Evaluation
- Project Selection
- Safety
- Water Quality



# Next Steps

## March

- Additional Transportation Policy Board meeting on March 31

## April

- Staff will begin work on technical and administrative corrections for final plan
- Transportation Policy Board recommendation on plan to Executive Board
  - *Any further direction to staff on edits / amendments to plan*
- Executive Board review of recommendation and amendments to plan
  - *Additional Executive Board meeting if needed on May 12 for final recommendation to General Assembly*

