



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

March 9, 2023

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:
<https://www.psrc.org/watch-meetings>.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph announced that the Transportation Policy Board meeting would be hybrid, allowing for remote and in-person attendance. The meeting will be live streamed, and a call-in number provided for members of the public to listen.

Mayor Ralph welcomed new members and alternates to the board:

- Councilmember Megan Dunn, Snohomish County, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (member)
- Christine Cooley, Executive Director, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (alternate).
- Mayor Andy Ryder, Lacey, Thurston Regional Planning Council (member)
- Marc Daily, Executive Director, Thurston Regional Planning Council (alternate)
- Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, Sound Transit (member) representing regional transit
- Mayor Kim Roscoe, Fife, Sound Transit (alternate) representing regional transit

A quorum was established by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The board heard public comment from the following individuals:

- Alex Tsimerman, SUA

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ralph informed the board that PSRC will hold a joint board session Friday, April 28 that will cover how to apply ACT (Affirm, Counter, Transform) as a tool to address challenging conversations about racial equity and educate others about the topic.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Robin Koskey, PSRC, provided an update on the current legislative session. Ms. Koskey discussed the governor's proposed budget and bills related to housing, transportation, and climate.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held February 9, 2023
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Ryan Mello and seconded by Councilmember Jan Schuette to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION ON FTA FUNDING DISTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that during the distribution of pandemic relief funds to the region's transit agencies in 2020 and 2021, the Executive Board raised questions about the distribution methodology, specifically related to equity. The Transportation Policy Board was directed to continue these discussions. In June 2022 a small working group was formed comprised of board members and transit agency leadership. The working group met six times and developed revisions to the distribution methodology for PSRC's Federal Transit Administration funding to improve equity. Ms. McGourty gave further background on the details of the working group meetings, reviewing the group's key principles for an equitable distribution of funding.

Ms. McGourty provided background on PSRC's historic funding allocation methodology, which is based on the federal formula. She detailed how federal funding is allocated to the region based on data entered into the National Transit Database. There are four distinct funding sources and multiple transit agencies in the region, and the current methodology disaggregates the federal formula to determine each transit agency's funding share, referred to as the earned share distribution.

Ms. McGourty summarized that 86% of the funds have been historically distributed via the earned share distribution and 14% historically distributed via a regional competition and a preservation set-aside.

Ms. McGourty shared that the working group reviewed the funding methodology in great detail and aligned around a commitment to equity and support of local service. She noted the compromise to develop the recommendation to maintain the 86% earned share distribution process but change the regional portion of funds to be distributed based on a new equity formula distribution.

The 14% would be distributed based on populations served by each transit agency. Ms. McGourty described the methodology which considers equity populations within a one-half mile walkshed of all bus stops and a one mile walkshed of all rail stops, with an adjustment for ferry services. The ferry service adjustment would allow ferry services to receive funding consistent with the existing process.

The working group also had an additional recommendation for the reporting and monitoring on the use of funds to improve equity. Ms. McGourty shared that each agency will identify a list of projects that will use the funds. Those projects will come back to the board for final approval before moving into the TIP. There will also be a monitoring component to continue to monitor transit and equity related data in the RTP dashboard. PSRC will work with the Transportation Operators Committee to identify the level of detail required of projects, and metrics for a baseline for future comparison.

The recommendations have been signed by all members of the working group to demonstrate support. However, a minority report from three members was also included which states a preference for a larger percentage to be apportioned via the equity formula. Key points for the minority report were shared with the board.

Working group members noted that the recommendation demonstrates significant progress and a step forward, but there is still more work to be done to improve equity and a need to continue this work into the future. The process and the commitment shown was greatly appreciated.

ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Kate Kruller and seconded by Mayor Mary Lou Pauly that the Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve the recommended revisions to the methodology used to distributed PSRC's FTA funding, as described in this memo and summarized in Attachments A and B. The motion passed unanimously.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVIVE I-5

Tom Pearce, WSDOT, gave a broad overview of the Revive I-5 10-year project plan which encompasses many projects to repair the aging freeway. He provided details of the improvements being made and the schedule and also discussed the challenges of implementing repair projects while keeping freeways open. He reviewed how WSDOT is coordinating with other agencies and other projects.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Michele Leslie, PSRC, shared that PSRC's Public Participation Plan establishes procedures to ensure people have reasonable opportunities to be involved in the regional planning process. PSRC has worked with the Equity Advisory Committee to reframe the plan.

Noah Boggess, PSRC, shared details of the Regional Equity Strategy which had a goal to create equitable engagement guidance and led to significant updates to the public participation plan. Noah reviewed amended goals of the plan and new additions such as best practices for equitable engagement. The EAC helped shape these new practices.

The Draft Public Participation Plan will be shared with all PSRC policy boards. The Executive Board will be asked to release the plan for public comment at its March meeting and adopt the final plan at its June meeting.

Members discussed how equity data is collected and how specific populations will be engaged. Staff shared that PSRC collects equity data and conducts engagement on specific planning processes, but the Public Participation Plan is more general and provides guidance on how that outreach is to be conducted. PSRC also is developing an equity tracker.

TRANSPORTATION DATA COLLECTION AND INVENTORY WORK PROGRAM

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, shared that the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was developed with a greatly enhanced set of data. Additional work is required to update the various data sets that will support the next RTP.

Ms. Barnes shared the applications of the inventory information. It supports the transportation visualization tool, monitors measures to meet federal requirements, and supports analysis of metrics and trends of the RTP.

The transportation inventory data collected by PSRC falls into two different categories. The first category of data is collected and assembled directly by PSRC. The other category of data is collected by other entities with whom PSRC collaborates. PSRC also collects data to support the financial strategy of the RTP. Staff have prepared a timeline for preparation, data collection and analysis for each data inventory area. Ms. Barnes reviewed the high-level draft schedule timeline.

Ms. McGourty shared that PSRC developed new and expanded inventories that supported the RTP. This was a collaborative effort of PSRC and member jurisdiction staff. At future meetings the board will be briefed on updates of the data and analysis.

Members discussed interests in specific data sets related to electric vehicles and safety. Ms. McGourty noted that data is collected at the regional scale at higher thresholds, and does not include data on local level data and conditions. PSRC can work with local jurisdictions, so they have the support to do their own data collection.

FHWA TARGETS AND PROJECT DELIVERY

Ms. McGourty shared that today's presentation would provide an overview of annual project extension requests and the adopted process to achieve federal delivery

requirements, and provide an update on a recently convened project delivery working group. The board is then scheduled to take action on 2023 project delivery at its April meeting.

Ms. Barnes provided an overview of the 2023 extension requests process. PSRC staff, in collaboration with WSDOT and the chairs of the Regional Project Evaluation Committee and the four countywide transportation forums, has been reviewing submitted requests for consistency with adopted project tracking policies. Recommendations on the extension requests will be brought to the board for action at its April meeting.

Ms. Barnes reviewed the project tracking policies which include a five-step process for rebalancing and supplemental funding actions if necessary to meet the delivery target. PSRC is in the process of this rebalancing exercise and will bring a recommendation to the board in April.

Ms. Barnes reviewed current action steps to address delivery challenges and measures to enhance communication on project delivery status. She also provided an update on the progress of the project delivery working group. The group is currently focused on recommendations for last minute 'emergency' measures.

Mayor Dana Ralph reminded members that the agenda packet included a flyer on the VISION 2050 Awards Nominations. Nominations are due April 1, 2023.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT

See attached attendance roster.

GUESTS and PSRC STAFF ATTENDING

(As determined by staff)

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC
Jennifer Barnes, PSRC
Josh Brown, PSRC
Nancy Buonanno-Grennan, PSRC
Gil Cerise, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Piset Khuon, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Casey Moreau, PSRC

Transportation Policy Board - March 9, 2023							
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members			✓
King County	2	CM Girmay Zahilay	1	Associate Members			
		CM Dave Upthegrove	1	Island County	1	COMM Melanie Bacon	
		Vacant Alt				COMM Jill Johnson Alt	
		Vacant Alt		Thurston Regional Planning Council	1	MYR Andy Ryder, Lacey	1
Seattle	2	CM Dan Strauss	1			Marc Daily	
		CM Alex Pedersen	1	Public Agency Members			
		CP Debora Juarez Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1	CM Megan Dunn	
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson	1			Christine Cooley Alt	
		CM Janice Zahn Alt		Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1	Vacant	
Cities/Towns	3	CM Kate Kruller, Tukwila	1			Vacant Alt	
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair	1	WA Transportation Improvement Board	1	Vacant	
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1			CM Sam Low, Snohomish Co. Alt	
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt		PSRC Committees			
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt	1	Regional Staff Cmte.	1	Jesse Hamashima, Pierce Co.	1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt				Chip Vincent, Renton Alt	
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1	Doug McCormick, Snohomish Co.	1
		Vacant Alt				Shane Weber, Bremerton Alt	
Kitsap County	1	COM Robert Gelder	1	Transportation Operators Cmte.	1	Peter Heffernan, King County	1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt				Lindsey Sehmel Alt, Pierce Transit	
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1	Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor			
		CP Jeff Coughlin Alt	1	WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/25	1	Sheri Call	1
Cities/Towns	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard	1			Vacant Alt	
		CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl Alt	1	Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1	Vacant	
Local Transit	1	MYR Becky Erickson, Poulsbo	1			Vacant Alt	
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt	1	Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/25	1	Lorelei Williams, WSP USA	1
Pierce County	1	CM Ryan Mello, Vice Chair	1			Amy Grotefendt, Enviroissues Alt	
		CM Dave Morell Alt		Master Builders of Pierce County exp. 12/31/23	1	Jessie Gamble	
Tacoma	1	DEP MYR Kristina Walker	1			Jason Gano Alt	
		CM Olgy Diaz Alt		Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment			
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton		Seattle Aging & Disability Services exp. 12/31/23	1	Dinah Stephens	1
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt				Vacant Alt	
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County	1	Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1	Vacant	
		MYR Daryl Eidinger, Edgewood Alt	1			Vacant Alt	
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead	1	Public Health Seattle/ King County exp.12/31/23	1	Darrell Rodgers	1
		CM Strom Peterson Alt				Shawn Frederick, SNOHD Alt	
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1	Transportation Choices Coalition exp. 12/31/23	1	Hester Serebrin	
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt				Alex Hudson Alt	
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1	Non-voting	16	Non-voting members present	8
		CM Stephanie Vignal, Mill Creek Alt	1	Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members			
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1	State Legislators	87	Districts within PSRC's boundary	
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt					
Regional Transit	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton	1				
		MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife Alt					
Federally Recognized Tribes							
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	1	CM John Daniels, Jr.					
		Vacant Alt					
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Andrew Strobel					
		Robert Barandon Alt					
Suquamish Tribe	1	CM Luther (Jay) Mills					
		CHRMN Leonard Forsman Alt					
Statutory Members							
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle	1				
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt	1				
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jerry Litt	1				
		COM Nicole Grant Alt	1				
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew					
		Todd Lamphere Alt	1				
Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)							
House Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant				Abbreviations	
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt				CHRMN Chairman	
		REP Dan Griffey, R				CM Councilmember	
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt				CP Council President	
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant, D				COM Commissioner	
		SEN Mark Mullet, D Alt				MYR Mayor	
		Vacant, R				DEP MYR Mayor	
		Vacant, R Alt				SEC Secretary	
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	22			ASST SEC Assistant Secretary	
		Total Voting members present	31			REP Representative	
						SEN Senator	