



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

**April 13, 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.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The board received a written comment from Stephen Clifton, City of Mountlake Terrace. The board heard public comment from the following individuals:

- Alex Tsimerman, SUA
- Jeff Betz, City of Mountlake Terrace

A quorum was established by roll call.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Ralph thanked members for their attendance and looked forward to the conversations on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) climate implementation and other action items on the agenda.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Charles Patton, PSRC, invited the board to attend the last joint board session on Racial Equity. The session will cover how to apply a communication tool known as Affirm, Counter, Transform (ACT). The tool helps navigate challenging conversations on racial equity. The hybrid event is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Members will receive an email regarding the event today where they can RSVP their attendance.

Robin Koskey, PSRC, provided an update on the current legislative session. Ms. Koskey shared details of the revenue forecast and the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget proposals. She detailed information on proposals for significant funding and investments for affordable housing, natural resources, behavioral health and transportation.

Ms. Koskey gave an overview of bills moving forward on climate and housing supply. She also called attention to those bills that did not progress. Staff will soon be offering a webinar on the legislative session to provide additional information on the bills passed and the impacts.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held March 9, 2023
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Recommend Certification of Kitsap County Countywide Planning Policies
- d. Recommend Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for Sumner's Stewart Road Corridor Completion: White River Bridge Project
- e. Recommend Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for WSDOT's SR 9 and SR 204 Intersection Vicinity Improvements Project

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

## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROJECT AMENDMENT**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reminded the board PSRC has adopted Administrative Procedures in the RTP to describe how and when the plan can be amended. She outlined the provisions in the procedures for both major and minor amendments.

Ms. McGourty shared that most investments in the RTP are programmatic, meaning they are not line-item project investments but include investments such as local system improvements and preservation and maintenance. A smaller portion of investments in the plan are captured on the Regional Capacity Projects list, which are larger scale projects modifying or changing the functioning of the regional system. The Regional Capacity Projects list is reflected in Appendix D of the RTP. Ms. McGourty provided further details of the RTP plan categories, covering constrained versus unprogrammed investments. Unprogrammed investments are included under the SEPA analysis but not included in the financial strategy and air quality conformity finding. Ms. McGourty provided further details of how projects must be in the constrained plan to move forward to implementation.

Ms. McGourty provided a high-level summary of the requested project amendments, which include six new projects requesting entry into the constrained plan and two existing projects in the adopted plan requesting modifications. She described PSRC's process for amending the plan and maintaining the RTP financial strategy. To maintain the financial constraint of the plan with the proposed amendment, four projects in the adopted plan were moved to unprogrammed to accommodate the financial impact of the project requests. The projects were selected by sponsors based on timing and current priorities.

**ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Ryan Mello and seconded by Mayor Greg Wheeler that the Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board adopt a minor amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan to reflect revisions to the Regional Capacity Project lists as identified in Attachment A. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **2023 PROJECT TRACKING AND DELIVERY**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, provided an overview of PSRC's Project Tracking Program and adopted policies and delivery. PSRC has had a project tracking program and adopted policies since 2003. The tracking program manages federal funding and has the goal to provide timely project delivery, minimize cost of delays and preserve federal funds coming into the region.

Since 2013, PSRC has had a requirement of an annual delivery target for Federal Highway Administration funds. PSRC must meet its annual allocation amount or risk losing federal funding. PSRC has implemented an extensive process to mitigate that risk. Adopted policies include very firm obligation deadlines to meet the expectations of federal partners. The policies do allow flexibility through one-time extensions and exceptions for emergency provisions. Ms. McGourty reviewed the rebalancing process required to accommodate these project extensions. The rebalancing process includes a provision for supplemental funding actions if needed to fill a gap to delivery.

For the first time, in 2022 the PSRC region did not meet the annual delivery target. The region must now deliver its 2023 allocation plus the gap from 2022 or the undelivered portion of funding will be redistributed to other areas. Ms. McGourty provided a summary of the four distinct actions before the board that would address 2023 and future years' delivery.

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, provided an overview of how PSRC's project tracking policies allow for a one-time extension for FHWA funds. She also outlined the reasons that extensions will not be granted. Ms. Barnes reviewed the schedule for the 2023 project extension requests. The process can take multiple months and includes substantial follow-up with sponsors, the Regional Project Evaluation Committee, the chairs of the four countywide forums and the Washington State Department of Transportation. She

provided a summary of 2023 extension requests, noting that further information was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Barnes summarized the 19 project extension requests recommended for approval. She also noted the two project extension requests that were denied and how carefully the denial is considered based upon adopted policies. She also provided further details into the background of the projects denied extensions. She reaffirmed how closely PSRC works with project sponsors and noted that there is no consequence for returning funds and recompeting.

**ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Ryan Mello and seconded by Mayor Greg Wheeler that the Transportation Policy Board recommends the Executive Board approve the staff recommendations for the 2023 project extension requests including the approval of 19 one-year extensions and the denial of 2 one-year extensions per the list of projects identified in Attachment 1. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Barnes reviewed how the project tracking policies include limited provisions to request an exception to adopted policies. These requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, under certain conditions. Ms. Barnes reviewed the details of the project exception request from Kitsap County. Staff determined that Kitsap County encountered circumstances outside of their control and has met the requirements laid out in the project tracking policies for an exception.

**ACTION: The motion was made by Mayor Greg Wheeler and seconded by Mayor Rob Putaansuu that the Transportation Policy Board recommends the Executive Board approve an exception in accordance with the adopted project tracking policies for Kitsap County's National STEM School project, to allow an additional 6-months beyond the previously granted 1-year extension, to December 1, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Barnes shared that to address ongoing delivery issues, staff convened a Project Delivery Working Group. Its initial focus from January through March 2023 has been last minute 'emergency' measures that can address unanticipated delivery gaps. The working group developed a recommendation for a project tracking policy addition that was further recommended by the Regional Project Evaluation Committee. The working group will continue to meet to review the overall project tracking policies and rebalancing process.

Ms. Barnes went over the details of the emergency measure, noting that it builds on existing policies and rebalancing strategies. It focuses on the ability to increase the federal shares of existing project awards, and also includes an administrative change to how that calculation will be applied during rebalancing. It grants the Executive Director authority to revisit the federal shares of awarded projects if unexpected project delivery needs arise after conclusion of the annual rebalancing process, when there is limited time to achieve the annual delivery target by the end of the fiscal year.

**ACTION:** The motion was made by Councilmember Ryan Mello and seconded by Mayor Becky Erickson that the Transportation Policy Board recommends the Executive Board approve the following additions to the Project Tracking Policies as identified in Attachment 3:

- An administrative modification to Strategy 4 of the Rebalancing and Supplemental Funding Actions policy – “Increase the Federal Share of Awarded Projects” – to apply absolute dollar amounts instead of percentage increases
- Grant the Executive Director authority to revisit the federal shares of awarded projects for additional capacity if unexpected project delivery needs arise after the initial rebalancing and supplemental funding actions are taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Barnes shared the steps followed under the adopted project tracking policies to fill the 2023 delivery gap, with a supplemental funding action of \$28 million needed. Per adopted procedures, immediately ready to go projects on the current contingency lists are recommended for funding.

**ACTION:** The motion was made by Councilmember Jan Schuette and seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller that the Transportation Policy Board recommends the Executive Board approve the supplemental funding action to the list of immediately ready-to-go contingency projects identified in Attachment 4 to assist the region in meeting the annual delivery target. The motion passed unanimously.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

Ms. McGourty summarized past board discussions and work to date, including the completion of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan climate analysis. With the policies and investments in the RTP and recent state and federal actions, emissions can be reduced 37% below 1990 levels by 2030. PSRC evaluated how much further emissions could be reduced under various sensitivity tests. Ms. McGourty then reviewed feedback to date on PSRC’s analysis.

Ms. McGourty reviewed proposed next steps. The RTP steering committee proposes that PSRC convene an expert review panel to review work conducted to date and provide recommendations. She reviewed proposed representation of the expert review panel. The scope of the expert panel is to review the work completed on the 2030 climate analysis and sensitivity tests. The panel would also review for consistency with long-range plans, regional climate goals and the Puget Sound Regional Emissions Analysis project. The Panel will assist PSRC in developing a pathway of emission reductions between now and 2050, including interim years. It could also provide recommendations on additional sensitivity testing and implementation actions.

She shared a tentative timeline for outreach to panel representatives, convening a panel and further discussions with the board.

Board members discussed adding climate justice and health expertise to the panel. Members also shared that it would be good to understand what major employers have planned for their commute policy.

### **TRANSIT ACCESS WORK PROGRAM**

Jean Kim, PSRC, shared background on PSRC's past transit access work. PSRC published transit access tools and resources in 2017. Since that time, additional data is now available, and there are more flexible transit services available. Additionally, the RTP has more emphasis to increase access to transit for underserved communities.

Ms. Kim shared that the RTP calls for PSRC to develop and update tools and resources to help identify where access to transit can be improved, particularly for bicycles and pedestrians. She reviewed the transit access work program.

Next steps include preparatory work for the Transit Access Assessment task in Spring of 2023. Staff will convene a working group to assist in the assessment, with briefings provided to committees and boards.

Members discussed inclusion of health and equity considerations. Members also discussed safety and security issues surrounding transit, and interoperability and transfer considerations.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

### **TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Attachment A - 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  
 Jean Kim, PSRC  
 Robin Koskey, PSRC

Kelly McGourty, PSRC  
Casey Moreau, PSRC  
Dr. Charles Patton, PSRC

Attachments:

A – Transportation Policy Board April 13, 2023, Attendance Roster

Transportation Policy Board - April 13, 2023							
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members			✓
<b>King County</b>	2	CM Girmay Zahilay	1	<b>Associate Members</b>			
		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	
Seattle	2	CM Dan Strauss				Marc Daily	
		CM Alex Pedersen	1	<b>Public Agency Members</b>			
		CP Debora Juarez Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1	CM Megan Dunn	1
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson				Christine Cooley Alt	1
		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, <b>Chair</b>	1	WA Transportation Improvement Board	1	Vacant	
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah				CM Sam Low, Snohomish Co. Alt	
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt	1	<b>PSRC Committees</b>			
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt	1	Regional Staff Cmte.	1	Jesse Hamashima, Pierce Co.	1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1			Chip Vincent, Renton Alt	
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski, King County		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1	Doug McCormick, Snohomish Co.	1
		Vacant Alt				Shane Weber, Bremerton Alt	1
<b>Kitsap County</b>	1	COM Robert Gelder		Transportation Operators Cmte.	1	Peter Heffernan, King County	1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt				Lindsey Sehmel Alt, Pierce Transit	
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1	<b>Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor</b>			
		CP Jeff Coughlin Alt		WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/25	1	Sheri Call	
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	
<b>Pierce County</b>	1	CM Ryan Mello, <b>Vice Chair</b>	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		<b>Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment</b>			
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton	1	Seattle Aging & Disability Services exp. 12/31/23	1	Dinah Stephens	1
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt	1			Vacant Alt	
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County		Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1	Vacant	
		MYR Daryl Eidinger, Edgewood Alt				Vacant Alt	
<b>Snohomish County</b>	1	CM Jared Mead		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	1
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt				Alex Hudson Alt	
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1	Non-voting	16	Non-voting members present	9
		CM Stephanie Vignal, Mill Creek Alt	1	<b>Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members</b>			
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1	State Legislators	87	Districts within PSRC's boundary	
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt					
<b>Regional Transit</b>	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton	1				
		MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife Alt					
<b>Federally Recognized Tribes</b>							
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					
<b>Statutory Members</b>							
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle					
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt	1				
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jerry Litt	1				
		COM Nicole Grant Alt	1				
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew	1				
		Todd Lamphere Alt					
<b>Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)</b>							
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	19			ASST SEC Assistant Secretary	
		Total Voting members present	26			REP Representative	
						SEN Senator	