



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

June 8, 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.

Chair Ralph welcomed new members and alternates to the board:

- Dr. Faisal Khan, Seattle King County Public Health (non-voting member)
- Dennis Worsham, Snohomish County Health Department (non-voting alternate)

Chair Ralph thanked outgoing members:

- Transportation Choices Coalition has resigned their position from the board.
- Jesse Hamashima, Pierce County, PSRC Regional Staff Committee, shared he would be retiring, and this would be his last TPB meeting.
- Commissioner Jerry Litt, Washington State Transportation Commission, shared that his term on WTC would be completed at the end of July and this would be his last TPB meeting.

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 asked that members of the board participate in today's discussion by turning on their videos.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that the board is continuing to be briefed on the key policy focus areas from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) including climate, safety, equity and access to transit continue. She directed members to the Transportation Work Program Tracker information item in the agenda packet. It is a useful tool for members to view progress on the workplan and provide feedback.

Ms. McGourty shared that federal funding is available through a variety of programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) as well as the Inflation Reduction Act. She shared details of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program administered through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The region will receive roughly \$1 million to develop a climate action plan which will assist local jurisdictions to compete nationally for \$4.6 billion of implementation funds. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will lead this effort. There is a consortium of agencies, including PSRC, that have been working together to develop the work program that has been submitted to the EPA. Ms. McGourty shared key deliverables required under this program including developing a priority climate action plan by March 2024. The first notice of funding for the competitive implementation grant is expected later this year.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held April 13, 2023
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Recommend Approval of FTA Project Tracking Extensions
- d. Recommend Certification of the Greater Downtown Kirkland Regional Growth Center Subarea Plans

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

2023 FTA ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed the process for distributing Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. Funds are initially distributed through PSRC's project selection process and are based on estimates. When Congress releases the actual allocation of funding each year, PSRC is required to reconcile what has been programmed with actual amounts received, referred to as the annual adjustments process. During the adjustments process, PSRC works with transit agencies to determine revisions or additional funding to projects.

Ms. Gutschow provided an overview of the FTA formula programs and methods of distribution. She reviewed the standard process which was used to distribute the 2023-

2024 funds. She shared how policy decisions made earlier this year updated the process so that moving forward new regional funds will be used for an equity formula allocation. The equity formula allocation will be used for the distribution of regional 2025-2026 funds and additional regional 2023 funds. The earned share distribution process will remain the same.

Ms. Gutschow explained that PSRC received an additional \$85 million in 2023 funds due to final allocations under the BIL. An additional \$77.8 million of funds will be distributed to earned share projects and an additional \$7 million in regional competitive funds will be distributed through the equity formula allocation.

Ms. Gutschow provided details on the recommended funding adjustments which include five new projects being released for public comment. Further information on the breakdown of the adjustments was included in the agenda packet.

ACTION: The motion was made by Commissioner Jerry Litt and seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller that The Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve the adjustments and additional FFY 2023 FTA earned share funds to the list of projects as shown in Attachment B. The motion passed unanimously.

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

Robin Koskey, PSRC, reminded the board that the Executive Board had approved recommendations to the State Legislature in December. During the session, PSRC staff spent time providing information to legislators on the impact of potential housing bills. This year, the legislature made policy changes and historic investments in affordable housing and homelessness this year.

Ms. Koskey shared details from the transportation budget. It included a workforce shortage study on impacts of licensing requirements with a focus on the shortage of commercial drivers and transit operators. She also outlined investments for I-5 planning and ultra-high-speed-rail.

Ms. Koskey reviewed housing investments in the budget that covered a housing trust fund, the Covenant Investment Act, Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP), the Washington State Housing Finance Commission's Land Acquisition Program and Transit Oriented Development.

She also acknowledged concerns of local jurisdictions to implement policy changes. She shared that funding is available in the Department of Commerce's budget to provide direct assistance to local governments. PSRC will provide information on how Commerce will make those funds available.

Ms. Koskey also reviewed legislative updates on commercial aviation and bills that did not make it forward in this legislative session. PSRC will host a webinar on June 28 with

further details on the legislative session. She also shared details on the middle housing bill and other bills the legislature considered on housing supply, stability, and subsidy.

ADA TRANSITION PLANNING RESEARCH

Jean Kim, PSRC, shared that the RTP directs PSRC to elevate the work of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition planning. Initial research by PSRC staff included Title II and ADA transition plan related requirements. Additional research included a survey of PSRC members agencies on the status of their self-evaluation assessment and ADA transition plan as well as interviewing Northwest ADA Center and Washington State Department of Transportation.

Ms. Kim provided an overview of the ADA, including requirements for public entities. Agencies with 50 or more employees must develop a transition plan which serves as a guide to agency efforts to provide equal access and to make facilities more accessible. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has delegated WSDOT to monitor and enforce compliance with ADA of any entity receiving state and/or federal funding through WSDOT.

Ms. Kim reviewed ADA Transition Plan requirements and what an ADA transition plan should include. She reviewed minimum requirements and noted that plans must be updated on a regular basis.

Nick Johnson, PSRC, reviewed FHWA's process to achieve ADA compliance. He discussed the outcome of non-compliance and how jurisdictions must implement a transition plan, using the self-evaluation as a steppingstone.

Mr. Johnson shared that to complete an ADA Transition Plan Inventory, PSRC distributed a ten-question survey to jurisdictions in the region. The survey was conducted April-May 2023. Mr. Johnson gave examples of key questions from the survey. He reviewed initial results, noting that a total of 80 responses were received or 94% of the jurisdictions completed the survey. In general, larger jurisdictions were more likely to have an ADA Transition Plan. Following the survey, PSRC staff reviewed a sample of completed ADA Transition Plans from member jurisdictions. He shared initial findings, noting that plans do vary, with some plans being phased and some including more suggested elements such as cost estimates or community engagement.

Mr. Johnson asked for feedback from the board on next steps for PSRC's work program. Staff suggested that PSRC continue monitoring and partner with WSDOT on education for member agencies.

SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATES

Gary Simonson, PSRC, provided background on the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A). The board was previously briefed on the grant in December 2022. The grant funds regional, local and tribal initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious

injuries. The grant has two distinct funding categories, with funds split between planning and implementation grants. Local jurisdictions must demonstrate that they have met the SS4A action plan criteria to be eligible for implementation grants.

PSRC was awarded a consolidated planning grant to develop a Regional Safety Plan and serve as grant administrator for member sub-recipients (Burien, Everett, Kent, Redmond, Tukwila and Pierce County). PSRC is in the process of finalizing agreements with subrecipients. Subrecipients will receive pass through funds from PSRC to develop their own safety action plans. PSRC will use grant funds for consultant support to develop a Regional Safety Plan and increase staff capacity to support grant-funded activities.

PSRC will be applying for further funding to support the development of additional safety action plans. Members were surveyed for their interest and ability to match funds for the second round of the SS4A grant. Staff are in the process of reviewing those responses and will reach out to potential partners soon. Mr. Simonson noted that the Department of Transportation is prioritizing jurisdictions with higher rates of fatalities and underserved populations.

Mr. Simonson reviewed details of the upcoming June 29 Regional Safety Summit. The summit will provide the opportunity to engage on key transportation safety issues, needs, challenges and opportunities. It is also a key first step in the development of the Regional Safety Plan. The board was encouraged to register and attend the summit.

PSRC FUNDING UPDATES

Ms. McGourty, PSRC, shared upcoming PSRC funding programs. The call for projects for the Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program has been released. The program is a set-aside from each project selection process specifically supporting rural town centers that have state highways running through the main street. The program has \$6.1 million in funding. Projects will be brought to the board at its meeting in September.

Ms. McGourty highlighted the Transportation Alternatives Program which is a set-aside at the national level with PSRC having project selection authority. Eligibility of the program includes bicycle and pedestrian investments, preservation of historic transportation resources and environmental mitigation activities. An estimated \$25 million is available in 2024-2026 funding. The call for projects was recently released. The board will receive information on the projects at its September meeting.

Ms. McGourty shared that PSRC created a new \$6 million set-aside for an Equity Pilot Program in the 2022 project selection process. The Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) has reviewed the criteria and provided feedback on how to conduct a pilot. Ms. McGourty gave an overview of the equity pilot schedule. The competition is scheduled to launch in September. The recommendations will be reviewed with EAC in November and December. TPB will be briefed on the process at its December meeting and is tentatively scheduled to adopt the policy framework in January 2024.

Ms. McGourty noted that today's earlier presentation discussed the FTA Equity Formula Allocation. The board approved maintaining the earned share distribution process. Regional funds will now be distributed via the equity formula allocation rather than a regional competition and preservation set-aside. The purpose is to be intentional about serving equity focus populations. PSRC staff were directed to work with the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) to ensure that funds are being used to improve and support equity. Ms. McGourty outlined the procedures established by the TOC and noted further information was available in Attachment A of the agenda packet. She also reviewed monitoring and reporting for the outcomes of the equity formula allocation.

Board members will receive future updates on the Equity Pilot and the FTA Equity Formula allocation.

Chair Ralph recommended board members review the Transportation Work Program information item included in the agenda packet.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT

Attachment A - Attendance Roster.

GUESTS and PSRC STAFF ATTENDING

(As determined by staff)

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC
 Jennifer Barnes, PSRC
 Nancy Buonanno-Grennan, PSRC
 Gil Cerise, PSRC
 Sarah Gutschow, PSRC
 Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
 Nick Johnson, PSRC
 Piset Khuon, PSRC
 Jean Kim, PSRC
 Robin Koskey, PSRC
 Kelly McGourty, PSRC
 Casey Moreau, PSRC
 Gary Simonson, PSRC

Attachments:

A – Transportation Policy Board June 8, 2023, Attendance Roster

| Transportation Policy Board - June 8, 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 | |
| Seattle | 2 | CM Dan Strauss | | | | Marc Daily | 1 |
| | | CM Alex Pedersen | | Public Agency Members | | | |
| | | CP Debora Juarez Alt | | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency | 1 | CM Megan Dunn | 1 |
| Bellevue | 1 | CM Jennifer Robertson | 1 | | | Christine Cooley Alt | |
| | | CM Janice Zahn Alt | 1 | 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 | 1 | PSRC Committees | | | |
| | | 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 | 1 | Regional Project Evaluation Cmte. | 1 | Doug McCormick, Snohomish Co. | |
| | | Vacant Alt | | | | Shane Weber, Bremerton Alt | |
| Kitsap County | 1 | Vacant | | Transportation Operators Cmte. | 1 | Peter Heffernan, King County | |
| | | COM Charlotte Garrido Alt | | | | Lindsey Sehmel Alt, Pierce Transit | |
| Bremerton | 1 | MYR Greg Wheeler | | Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor | | | |
| | | CP Jeff Coughlin Alt | | 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 | | Vacant exp. 12/31/25 | 1 | Vacant | |
| Local Transit | 1 | MYR Becky Erickson, Poulsbo | | | | 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 | | | | 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 | 1 | | | Vacant Alt | |
| Local Transit | 1 | CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County | | Vacant exp. 12/31/25 | 1 | Vacant | |
| | | MYR Daryl Eidinger, Edgewood Alt | 1 | | | Vacant Alt | |
| Snohomish County | 1 | CM Jared Mead | | Public Health Seattle/ King County exp.12/31/23 | 1 | Dr Faisal Khan, Seattle-King County | |
| | | CM Strom Peterson Alt | | | | Dennis Worsham, Snohomish Co. Alt | |
| Everett | 1 | CM Ben Zarlingo | 1 | Vacant exp. 12/31/23 | 1 | Vacant | |
| | | MYR Cassie Franklin Alt | | | | Vacant Alt | |
| Cities/Towns | 1 | CM Jan Schuette, Arlington | 1 | Non-voting | 16 | Non-voting members present | 6 |
| | | 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 | | | | | |
| WA Trans. Commission | 1 | COM Jerry Litt | 1 | | | | |
| | | COM Nicole Grant Alt | | | | | |
| WSDOT | 1 | Robin Mayhew | 1 | | | | |
| | | Todd Lamphere Alt | | | | | |
| Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum) | | | | | | Abbreviations | |
| House Transportation Cmte. | 2 | Vacant | | | | CHRMN Chairman | |
| | | REP Jake Fey, D Alt | | | | CM Councilmember | |
| | | REP Dan Griffey, R | | | | CP Council President | |
| | | REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt | | | | COM Commissioner | |
| Senate Transportation Cmte. | 2 | Vacant, D | | | | MYR Mayor | |
| | | SEN Mark Mullet, D Alt | | | | DEP MYR Mayor | |
| | | Vacant, R | | | | SEC Secretary | |
| | | Vacant, R Alt | | | | ASST SEC Assistant Secretary | |
| Voting | 32 | (Quorum = 14) Quorum Total | 19 | | | REP Representative | |
| | | Total Voting members present | 24 | | | SEN Senator | |