



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

September 14, 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 9:31 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph announced that the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) 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 announced membership changes:

- Commissioner Christine Rolfes, Kitsap County has been appointed as a new member.
- Lindsey Sehmel, Transportation Operators Committee alternate, has departed the board.

A quorum was established by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

PSRC is recruiting for the 2024 cohort of the Equity Advisory Committee. Applications are due September 18. The committee consists of residents, entrepreneurs, and staff from government, educational, and community-based organizations with expertise in racial equity. Members were encouraged to share the application materials on the PSRC website.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that agenda item 7, Recommendations for Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program and Transportation Alternatives Program, had been updated to include projects on the contingency list, which had inadvertently been omitted. The board also received an email update with an attachment regarding agenda

item 6, Non-Voting Seats on the TPB. The board will be briefed on the attachment during the discussion.

PSRC is planning to host an in-person TPB meeting on November 9. A remote option will still be available, but members are strongly encouraged to attend in-person. The December meeting will be online only for members as PSRC makes progress on moving to a new office by January 2024.

Climate, Safety and Equity continue to be the key topics of the transportation work program. The board received a briefing at its July meeting on the equity pilot, and Ms. McGourty noted that the call for projects will launch next week. The recommendations for projects to receive funding from the pilot and recommendations for improvements to the next project selection process will be provided to the board at its November and December meetings.

Related to climate, Ms. McGourty reminded the board that PSRC concluded the 2030 greenhouse gas analysis and sensitivity tests earlier in 2023. Subsequently, members of MPOs, transit agencies, federal partner agencies and climate organizations were invited to participate in a climate expert review panel. Meetings have started with additional meetings scheduled in the upcoming months. The board will be briefed on the climate expert review panel upon its conclusion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held July 13, 2023
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Recommend a Change in Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for Four Projects
- d. Recommend Approval of an FTA Project Tracking Extension and Scope Change
- e. Recommend Certification of Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies

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

RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF NON-VOTING SEATS ON THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

Ms. McGourty, PSRC, shared that recommendations for changes to non-voting seats would apply to both the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) and TPB. The GMPB had a modification to the recommendation, which was emailed to the TPB prior to the meeting.

Ms. McGourty shared that TPB currently has eight at-large non-voting positions, four seats are for Community/Environment and four for Business/Labor category. Seats are three-year positions with staggered recruitment. Both TPB and GMPB also have predefined non-voting seats for PSRC committees and Public Agencies. Ms. McGourty shared the current TPB membership for these seats.

With seats expiring this year, staff took the opportunity to evaluate the structure of the non-voting seats and application process, which was also reviewed by the Executive Committee. Ms. McGourty outlined proposed changes to the non-voting seats:

- Add a seat for Public Health Agencies in the Public Agency category. Historically, public health agencies held non-voting seats and would go through the reapplication process every three years. Due to the importance of their participation in PSRC planning efforts, staff propose designating a specific seat for public health agencies under the public agencies category.
- Remove seats for the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) from the Public Agency category. Both agencies have experienced turnover and have been unable to fill appointed seats. The agencies would have the opportunity to submit applications for at-large seats when capacity allowed.
- Add a seat for the Equity Advisory Committee in the PSRC Committees category. The committee brings valuable perspective to PSRC's planning work. A seat would be added to recognize their contributions at the policy board level.
- Reduce the at-large number of non-voting seats from eight to six to reflect the changes above, and merge the separate categories to allow for more flexibility and types of applications.

Ms. McGourty summarized the concerns and the amendment from the September 7 GMPB meeting regarding merging the non-voting seat categories. GMPB members stated that the four distinct categories ensure representation from community, environment, business and labor. The GMPB recommended keeping the distinct categories with three seats each.

Ms. McGourty also shared challenges to recruiting for non-voting seats and planned improvements for the process. Additional staff recommendations are to no longer maintain staggered terms, and applications would be received on an as-needed basis, allowing for vacancies to be filled and the chairs to make appointments as needed. The intent is to allow more opportunities to engage with a larger pool of candidates. Staff will also consider attendance a requirement to ensure participation.

Board members shared that they agreed with the GMPB recommendation to maintain the Community/Environment and Business/Labor categories. Board members asked if TIB and FMSIB are no longer permanent seats on the board, how does PSRC ensure

expertise from those sectors, particularly freight. Staff responded that PSRC maintains relationships with these agencies, as well as with WSDOT and the Freight Advisory Committee.

Board members requested staff to reach out to TIB and FMSIB to confirm that they no longer wish to participate or do not have the capacity.

Action: It was moved by Councilmember Kate Kruller and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Robertson that the Transportation Policy Board accept proposed changes to the composition of non-voting seats as shown in the updated Attachment A and maintain TIB and FMSIB until it is confirmed that they do not wish to appoint representatives.

RELEASE PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RURAL TOWN CENTERS AND CORRIDORS (RTCC) PROGRAM AND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Cox, PSRC, provided background on the RTCC 2023 competition and an overview of applications received. He described the criteria used to score the projects and the committee formed to review the projects. The committee developed a unanimous funding recommendation with a prioritized contingency list. He noted that the criteria for both the 2023 RTCC and TAP competitions incorporated the new safety and equity criteria from the 2022 project selection process. Mr. Cox gave a high-level overview of the types of projects that applied for funds. All projects had strong connections to rural centers.

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, provided an overview of PSRC's 2023 TAP competition. The program provides funding for community-based transportation improvements. A higher amount of funding was available this year due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Staff first conducted a technical evaluation of all applications received. PSRC then convened a committee to consider the scores and additional other factors such as geographic and agency balance. The committee developed a unanimous funding recommendation and prioritized contingency list.

Ms. Gutschow gave an overview of the geographic location of the projects recommended for funding from both processes. The next step is to release the projects for public comment. At its October 12 meeting, TPB will review public comment received and make a final recommendation to the Executive Board.

ACTION: It was moved by Councilmember Ryan Mello and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker that the Transportation Policy Board should release for public comment the list of projects recommended for: identified in Attachments A and B recommended for:

- **\$6.09 million of Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program funding as identified in Attachment A, along with the**

recommended contingency project list.

- **\$23.6 million of Transportation Alternatives Program funding as identified in Attachment B, along with the recommended contingency project list.**

REGIONAL SAFETY PLAN DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK

Gary Simonson, PSRC, began the presentation sharing safety trends in the region. Since the pandemic there has been an increase in serious traffic incidents. To address the challenges, PSRC is working on developing a Regional Safety Action Plan, which was identified as an action item in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The development of the plan has been funded by an award from the U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. Staff have developed a draft scope of work for the plan incorporating feedback received during the Regional Safety Summit.

Mr. Simonson shared that the guiding principle for the plan is following a Safe System Approach, which he described. Mr. Simonson gave an in-depth overview of the Scope of Work for the Regional Safety Action Plan. He described the overall purpose of the plan and the data and analysis that will be conducted, including various typologies. The plan is intended to provide resources and toolkits to assist local agencies in identifying the most efficient and effective solutions within their area. Robust community and stakeholder engagement is planned throughout the process.

The next step for plan development is to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultant support. PSRC anticipates selecting consultants by the end of the year. The board will be updated at regular intervals as the plan is developed. The plan is scheduled for adoption in the first quarter of 2025.

Board member comments reflected the need to engage with local jurisdiction staff, and to make the data available on PSRC's website. The sharing of best practices and resources across agencies was also noted. Lastly, it was reinforced that there are different needs for different locations, and the plan should support that.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Ms. McGourty, PSRC, provided background on PSRC's project selection process for federal funds. She noted that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds are distributed through a competitive process and that Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are distributed through the earned share and new equity formula distribution. Ms. McGourty also gave an overview of the Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds and how PSRC conducts the PSRC project selection process. She also provided background on the project evaluation criteria and point values, noting variances for point values depending on funding sources. She highlighted that equity and safety criteria were strengthened in the 2022 project selection process.

Previously, a Project Selection Task Force reviewed process details such as set asides and other policy issues. For the 2024 process, the Framework will be discussed at the TPB, with a particular emphasis on the policy areas of climate, safety, and equity.

Ms. McGourty reviewed the current work on safety, climate, and equity and upcoming milestones. At its meetings October – December, TPB will have board discussions on these key policy areas for the policy framework. It is anticipated that the Policy Framework will be adopted in January 2024. The schedule would release the call for projects in February 2024 and the competition will be conducted through June 2024, with project recommendations presented to the board in July.

Ms. McGourty gave highlights of the types of projects funded in the prior process.

Members discussed the timing of the adoption of the framework and how members will provide feedback over the next three meetings.

Mayor Ralph noted a flyer in the agenda packet flyer on a PSRC event: From Pandemic to Prosperity, September 29. Registration is available online. She also noted the Transportation Work Program Tracker included in the agenda packet as an information item.

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
 Josh Brown, PSRC
 Nancy Buonanno Grennan, PSRC
 Doug Cox, PSRC
 Sara Gutschow, PSRC
 Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
 Piset Khuon, PSRC
 Alexa Leach, PSRC
 Kelly McGourty, PSRC
 Casey Moreau, PSRC
 Gary Simonson, PSRC

Attachments:

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

Transportation Policy Board - September 14, 2023				5.a - Att. A	
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members	✓
King County	2	CM Girmay Zahilay	1	Associate Members	
		CM Dave Upthegrove	1	Island County	1
		Vacant Alt		COMM Melanie Bacon	
		Vacant Alt		COMM Jill Johnson Alt	
Seattle	2	CM Dan Strauss		Thurston Regional Planning Council	1
		CM Alex Pedersen	1	MYR Andy Ryder, Lacey	
		CP Debora Juarez Alt		Marc Daily	1
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson	1	Public Agency Members	
		CM Janice Zahn Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1
Cities/Towns	3	CM Kate Kruller, Tukwila	1	Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair	1	WA Transportation Improvement Board	1
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah			
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt		PSRC Committees	
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1		
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski	1	Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1
		Vacant Alt			
Kitsap County	1	COM Christine Rolfes		Transportation Operators Cmte.	1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt			
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1	Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor	
		CP Jeff Coughlin Alt		WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/25	1
Cities/Towns	1	Vacant		Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1
		CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl Alt	1		
Local Transit	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard	1		
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt		Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/25	1
Pierce County	1	CM Ryan Mello, Vice Chair	1	Master Builders of Pierce County exp. 12/31/23	1
		CM Dave Morell Alt			
Tacoma	1	DEP MYR Kristina Walker	1	Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment	
		CM Olgy Diaz Alt		Seattle Aging & Disability Services exp. 12/31/23	1
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton	1	Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt	1		
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County			
		MYR Daryl Eidinger, Edgewood Alt		Public Health Seattle/ King County exp. 12/31/23	1
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead		Vacant exp. 12/31/23	1
		CM Strom Peterson Alt			
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo			
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt			
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington		Non-voting	16
		MYR Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, Mill Creek Alt		Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members	
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1	State Legislators	87
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt		Districts within PSRC's boundary	
Regional Transit	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton			
		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 Jim Restucci			
		COM Nicole Grant Alt			
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew			
		Todd Lamphere Alt			Abbreviations
Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)					
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	SEN Marko Lias, D			MYR Mayor
		SEN Emily Randall, D Alt			DEP MYR Mayor
		Vacant, R			SEC Secretary
		Vacant, R Alt			ASST SEC Assistant Secretary
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	16		REP Representative
		Total Voting members present	17		SEN Senator