



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

**October 12, 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 9:32 a.m. by Mayor Mary Lou Pauly. Mayor Pauly shared that Chair Mayor Ralph and Vice Chair Councilmember Mello were unable to attend the meeting and she would serve as Chair. Mayor Pauly 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.

A quorum was established by roll call.

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

Joe Kunzler provided public comment.

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

Mayor Pauly commented that Kelly McGourty will share details of the November in-person TPB meeting.

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

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reported that the Executive Board approved the updated non-voting membership parameters discussed in September. Ms. McGourty then reminded the board that PSRC will be moving offices at the end of the year. The TPB will meet remotely in December and January during the move. The November meeting will be in-person; members are encouraged to attend at PSRC's offices. A remote option will be available for those that cannot travel.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held

September 14, 2023

- b. Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Recommend a Change in Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for Two Projects

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

### **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PROJECTS FOR RURAL TOWN CENTER AND CORRIDORS PROGRAM AND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDING**

Mr. Doug Cox, PSRC, provided background on the RTCC program. It is a two-stage process with each county recommending up to three projects to compete regionally. He shared that there were eight applications received requesting \$8.42 M with a total of \$6.09 M available of 2025-2026 FHWA funds. Mr. Cox also gave an overview of the TAP program. He shared that a total of 31 applications requesting \$45 M were received with \$23.6 M of 2024-2026 funds available.

Mr. Cox reviewed the process for convening committees for both the RTCC and TAP programs and the development of unanimous project funding recommendations.

Ms. Gutschow gave an overview of the types of projects recommended for funding for both RTCC and TAP. She noted that no public comments were received and the outlets which PSRC used to distribute the information to the public in September.

Next steps are for the TPB to recommend approval to the Executive Board. PSRC staff will continue to monitor public comment and share any received with the Executive Board at its October meeting. The Executive Board is then scheduled to take action on the funding recommendation and review any public comment.

**Action: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Robertson that The Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program and Transportation Alternatives Program funding to the list of projects identified in Attachments A and B, along with the recommended prioritized lists of contingency projects. The motion passed.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2024 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE**

Robin Koskey, PSRC, reminded the board that PSRC's role is to provide data and background information to jurisdictions and the legislature. Generally, PSRC is neutral on legislation unless the Executive Board takes action. In 2022, Data staff provided

analysis on the middle housing bill and transit-oriented development bill. She noted that there will be additional TOD bills this year.

For PSRC's 2024 recommendations to the legislature, staff recommend following the same priority areas as the previous year. The agenda packet included 2023 recommendations. Ms. Koskey acknowledged that this year's recommendation will also recognize ferries. The 2024 recommendation process will also include briefing the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC). PSRC Policy boards have been briefed at meetings earlier in the year. PSRC's Executive Committee will review draft recommendations in November with proposed adoption at the December Executive Board meeting.

Members suggested workforce development and noted that educational institutions have partnered to develop curriculum related to specific industries. It would be helpful for the legislators to set aside money to support and/or build institutions for workforce development.

Members shared that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) relies on robust revenue, including developing a Road Usage Charge (RUC). If the legislature does not take action on a RUC, an interim step will be needed.

Members shared that text for an exchange program for leaders could be strengthened. Members also noted that they are concluding work on comprehensive planning for the next 20 years. If the legislature continues to give new targets and zoning mandates, it will impact the jurisdictions' ability to meet timelines.

Members shared that legislation on transit-oriented development (TOD) was appreciated. Members expressed appreciation for inclusion of ferries in the legislative priorities.

Members shared that it was important to make TOD workable and not add to the burden of local government. Funding to support additional infrastructure was an important component. There was discussion on the middle housing bill and how to make TOD workable.

## **CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM**

Sara Hetrick, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), gave an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program being administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CPRG program is comprised of two phases, the first for planning grants and the second phase is a competitive grant program for implementation of measures identified in phase one. PSCAA is the lead agency for the regional planning grant. Ms. Hetrick covered the CPRG timeline and key deliverables as well as the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

Ms. Hetrick gave an overview of the CPRG Phase 2. The goal is to implement measures to achieve significant greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. She discussed

applicant eligibility, deadlines and funding tiers. Ms. Hetrick also provided examples of transportation GHG measures.

PSCAA will partner with the Department of Commerce, who is leading the state planning grant, to host a broad stakeholder meeting in mid-November. Jurisdictions and agencies will be invited to share interests to pursue Phase 2 implementation grants.

Ms. McGourty shared that the PCAP is the trigger to open the gates for Phase 2 funding. The PCAP will be developed by March and include a broad range of potential emission reduction strategies across all sectors. Ms. McGourty noted that the EPA is seeking deep emission reductions so smaller scale individual projects may not be as competitive for Phase 2 grants. PSCAA and PSRC will work to keep agencies informed as this work progresses and provide support for Phase 2 submittals. Ms. McGourty noted this is a one-time opportunity for funding, not a continuous program.

Members asked when proposals would be due and to what level of detail would the design need to be done in order to apply for federal funds. Ms. Hetrick shared that Phase 2 applications are due April 1, 2024. The EPA has not given guidance on the level of detail needed in applications; however, she did share that documenting the GHG reduction potential from each of the projects would be important.

Ms. McGourty shared that the upcoming meeting in November will be a helpful step forward. Members will be briefed as information becomes available. She also noted that PSRC and other agencies have tools that can assist in calculating emission reductions.

## **PREPARING FOR THE 2024 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS**

Ms. McGourty, PSRC, noted that the board was briefed on the 2024 Project Selection Process at its September meeting. She shared that PSRC has project selection authority for funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). She reviewed the amount of funding available from each federal partner, the specifications for the funding sources and distribution methods.

Ms. McGourty provided background on PSRC's Policy Framework. The board will be asked to recommend adoption of the Policy Framework at its January 2024 meeting. The Policy Framework is based on VISION 2050 policies and is consistent with the RTP. She also reviewed project evaluation criteria, based on VISION 2050 policies, and went over additional Project Selection process details such as set-asides, funding estimates, distribution splits, project tracking policies, contingency lists and limitations on applications and funding requests. Ms. McGourty called attention to the attachment in the agenda packet that displayed the changes to project selection criteria over time, noting where adjustments were made based on VISION 2050 policies or board direction.

There were significant changes made to the equity and safety criteria during the 2022 project selection process, and the policy emphasis continues to be safety, climate and equity moving into 2024. Ms. McGourty also went over details of the Equity Pilot. The EAC will provide recommendations to TPB on the equity pilot at upcoming meetings.

Ms. McGourty reviewed highlights from the 2022 FHWA Process, noting the awards by primary project type. Nearly 100% of applicable projects include safety measures identified as proven countermeasures by FHWA. In 2022 there were 8 projects that were adding general purpose capacity. She noted additional features of those projects such as scale and how they will support transit, freight, and centers.

Ms. McGourty noted that there are two key levers in PSRC's funding competitions: how the funds are distributed, including the splits between competitions and set asides, and the project scoring criteria and additional project evaluation elements.

She provided an overview of the current funding distributions and noted that set-asides are taken directly off the top of total funding and are distributed through countywide competitions. The remaining funds, roughly 33%, go to the regional competition. All competitions support centers, but the regional competition is focused on regional growth and regional manufacturing/industrial centers while countywide competitions are expanded to support local centers.

Ms. McGourty reviewed the current set of criteria, decision points and distinctions in scores between the two FHWA funding sources. She reviewed questions for the board related specifically to safety, climate and equity.

For safety, she shared that options for consideration could be to update scoring values, update safety criteria and language, and consider a requirement that agencies have a safety plan based on a Safe System Approach. Members provided initial support for each of these three considerations, but indicated more information would be needed to understand implications of the Safe System Approach and expectations of agencies.

Ms. McGourty reviewed options for consideration related to climate, including changes to the point values and potentially limiting the types of projects that may compete. She noted that this criterion is currently 20-50% of the total score and the types of projects that may result in emission reductions. Members asked if there are considerations for projects that are innovatively or creatively addressing climate – such as improving vegetation or increasing tree canopy. Ms. McGourty noted that funding does have constraints, however there could be additional points for a project with auxiliary elements. Initial feedback indicated the changes to safety and equity should continue to be the focus and tested first. Regarding the limiting of project types, members indicated more information would be needed and that it was important to fund a diversity of project types and not just transit.

Ms. McGourty reminded the board on equity that staff has been working with the EAC on the equity pilot and that their recommendations for changes to the process will be brought back to the board by December.

Ms. McGourty shared that project readiness is also a component of the criteria. She reminded the board that project delivery has been an ongoing challenge for the region and each year a supplemental funding action is required to meet the annual FHWA targets. She shared that staff is working with RPEC to discuss improvements to the project tracking policies and recommendations will be brought to the board later this year.

Additional feedback board members wished to provide over the next few weeks will be shared with the board at the November meeting. The board is scheduled to make a recommendation on the Policy Framework at its January 2024 meeting.

Members requested to keep a chart of what was suggested, what was incorporated and what needs further consideration before inclusion.

Mayor Pauly reminded the board that November will be an in-person meeting with a remote option available.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 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

Attachments:

A – Transportation Policy Board October 12, 2023, Attendance Roster

Transportation Policy Board October 12, 2023				5.a - Att. A	
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
		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	<b>Public Agency Members</b>	
		CP Debora Juarez Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson	1		1
		CM Janice Zahn Alt		Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1
Cities/Towns	3	CM Kate Kruller, Tukwila	1		1
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, <b>Chair</b>		WA Transportation Improvement Board	1
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1		1
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt		<b>PSRC Committees</b>	
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1		1
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1
		Vacant Alt			1
<b>Kitsap County</b>	1	COM Christine Rolfes	1	Transportation Operators Cmte.	1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt			1
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler		<b>Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor</b>	
		CP Jeff Coughlin Alt		WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/25	1
Cities/Towns	1	Vacant			1
		CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl Alt	1	Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1
Local Transit	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard	1		1
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt	1	Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/25	1
<b>Pierce County</b>	1	CM Ryan Mello, <b>Vice Chair</b>		Master Builders of Pierce County exp. 12/31/23	1
		CM Dave Morell Alt			1
Tacoma	1	DEP MYR Kristina Walker	1		1
		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
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt			1
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County		Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1
		MYR Daryl Eidinger, Edgewood Alt			1
<b>Snohomish County</b>	1	CM Jared Mead		Public Health Seattle/ King County exp. 12/31/23	1
		CM Strom Peterson Alt			1
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1	Vacant exp. 12/31/23	1
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt			1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1	Non-voting	16
		MYR Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, Mill Creek Alt		<b>Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members</b>	
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1	State Legislators	87
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt		Districts within PSRC's boundary	
<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 Jim Restucci	1		
		COM Nicole Grant Alt			
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew	1		
		Todd Lamphere Alt	1		
<b>Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)</b>					
House Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant			
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt	1		
		REP Dan Griffey, R			
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt			
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	SEN Marko Lias, D			
		SEN Emily Randall, D Alt	1		
		Vacant, R			
		Vacant, R Alt			
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	19		
		Total Voting members present	23		