



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional FTA Caucus Meeting Summary

Date: October 11, 2023 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Location: Online Meeting Only - Zoom Remote Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Clint Ritter, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:30 a.m. and took a roll call and confirmed the members and alternates present.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The summary for the July 12, 2023 Regional FTA Caucus meeting was approved as presented.

Action: King County Metro Redistribution Request

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed a King County Metro request to redistribute \$6,957,439 in Seattle-Tacoma Everett UZA FFY2024 5337 HIFG funds from its existing Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance for Electric Trolley Fleet 2023-2024 project to its new Atlantic Base Substation Replacement project.

The Caucus voted unanimously to recommend the request to the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC).

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at sgutschow@psrc.org.

Discussion: Updates on Delayed FTA and FHWA Obligations

Sarah provided an update on projects that recently experienced delays in obligating their regional FTA funds and/or “flexed” FHWA funds. She then gave an overview of projects with regional FTA or FHWA funds that were approaching six months after their estimated obligation date and had not yet transmitted or submitted the funds in a grant application. She said PSRC staff would reach out to sponsors for more information if the projects became delayed, and then present the information gathered to the committee for review and potential action at future meetings.

Chris Eilerman, City of Seattle, then presented an update on the current status of its Culture Connector project. Chris reported that Seattle Department of Transportation staff were awaiting further local decisions on local match funding availability for the project before moving forward with grant applications to obligate the project’s federal

funding. The City of Seattle would provide further updates on the project to the Caucus at its December 2023 meeting.

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at sgutschow@psrc.org.

Discussion: Distribution of 2023-2026 FTA Funds

Sarah gave an overview of the current process to distribute 2023-2024 equity formula allocation funds and 2025-2026 earned share and equity formula allocation funds. At its October 25th meeting, the TOC would be taking action to recommend the project submissions to the Transportation Policy Board.

The Caucus then discussed potential next steps for redistributing \$13,599,637 in recently returned Pierce Transit and Sound Transit FFY2023 FTA 5307 regional and flexed CMAQ funds. The preferred option would be to distribute older year funds to existing projects in exchange for freed-up 2023 funds to be distributed to other projects. The FTA funds would then be distributed via the new FTA Equity Formula. Once exchanged, the CMAQ funds would be distributed as part of PSRC's normal rebalancing and/or contingency process.

Caucus members provided input on whether they would prefer to redistribute the returned FTA funds as part of the current process for distributing 2025 and 2026 funds, redistribute the funds in a stand-alone process in late 2023 or early 2024, or wait to redistribute the funds as part of the larger 2024 Project Selection process.

Caucus members provided some initial feedback on the options presented, and then requested more information on the amounts of 2023 funding that would be available to each agency, as well as further clarification on the potential options for redistributing the FTA funds. Sarah said PSRC would follow up with the requested information and work with each agency on their preferred option for programming their redistributed funds.

Roundtable / Other Business

- David Morrison, King County Metro
- Monica Overby, Sound Transit

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

***Members and Alternates Present**

See attached attendance roster for the member or alternate representing each agency at the meeting; additional alternates present are listed below.

***Alternates, Interested Parties, and PSRC Staff Present**

Amanda Koerber, Everett Transit; Ashley Ross, Community Transit; Kenneth Wilson, Sound Transit; Leslie Rifkin, WSDOT; Sarah Strand, SDOT; Tyler Benson, Sound Transit; Wendi Gephart, Pierce Transit

PSRC: Alexa Leach, Gil Cerise, Sarah Gutschow, Kelly McGourty, Nick Johnson

**All attendees were present via remote participation.*

Regional FTA Caucus Attendance Roster

(Members and Alternates represented)

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Agency/Jurisdiction		Name
Transit Agencies		
Community Transit (1)	x	Kathryn Rasmussen
		<i>Tarin Tesfaye (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Ashley Duber (Alt.)</i>
Everett Transit (1)	x	Melinda Adams
		<i>Amanda Koerber (Alt.)</i>
King County Metro (1)		Peter Heffernan
	x	<i>David Morrison (Alt.)</i>
Kitsap Transit (1)		Steffani Lillie, Chair
		<i>Jeff Davidson (Alt.)</i>
Pierce County Ferries (1)	x	Clint Ritter, Vice Chair
		<i>Peter Lewis-Miller (Alt.)</i>
Pierce Transit (1)	x	Tina Lee
		<i>Wendi Gephart (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Roberta Vyrostek (Alt.)</i>
Seattle DOT (1)	x	Chris Eilerman
		<i>Benjamin Smith (Alt.)</i>
Sound Transit (1)		Lisa Wolterink
		<i>Kirste Johnson (Alt.)</i>
	x	<i>Monica Overby (Alt.)</i>
State		
WSDOT - Washington State Ferries (1)		John Bernhard
		<i>Todd Lamphere (Alt. 1)</i>
	x	<i>Krishan Aggarwal (Alt. 2)</i>
		<i>Leslie Rifkin (Alt. 3)</i>
Non-Voting Participants		
Intercity Transit		Peter Stackpole
		<i>Jessica Gould (Alt.)</i>
Skagit Transit		Marcy Smith

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