



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 from 9:30-11:00 am

1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30) – Ben Bakkenta, PSRC

2. Reports (9:35)

- a. Meeting Summary for November 16, 2023*
- b. PSRC Announcements and Updates

3. Discussion Item (9:45)

- a. 2024 WA State Legislative Session Update* – *Robin Koskey, PSRC*

4. Discussion Item (10:00)

- a. Department of Commerce Services and Planning Resources* – *Dave Andersen, WA State Department of Commerce*

5. Discussion Item (10:30)

- a. Regional Centers Monitoring Scope of Work* – *Maggie Moore, PSRC*

6. Information Item

- a. Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program (FY2024-2025)*

7. Next meeting: February 15, 2024

8. Adjourn (11:00)

*Supporting materials attached.

Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join via a smart device or web browser, go to <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/83726448083?pwd=iVit3lFSd4A6zfGRrBimEmmZobu3EP.1> and enter Meeting ID: 837 2644 8083 and Passcode: 728915.
- To join by phone, call 833 548 0282 US Toll-free or 877 853 5257 US Toll-free and enter Meeting ID: 837 2644 8083 and Passcode: 728915.
- العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact/language-assistance>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee Meeting Summary

Date: November 16, 2023

Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website:

<https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings>.

Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

Introductions and Announcements

Ben Bakkenta, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Participants were asked to view the meeting attendance on the “chat” feature on Zoom, and phone-in participants were asked to identify themselves verbally.

Reports

Co-Chair Ben Bakkenta welcomed the committee members and provided short updates on upcoming policy and Executive Board meetings and review the status of ongoing projects in the work program.

He shared that PSRC has held the last hybrid meeting at Waterfront Place, and that PSRC’s move is scheduled for December 16, 2023. All meetings will be virtual through the end of the year, with the goal of resuming hybrid meetings in the new space at 1201 Third Avenue at the Executive Board meeting on January 25.

Discussion: PSRC 2024 Recommendations to the State Legislature

PSRC staff have begun work to support the adoption of recommendations to the Washington State Legislature in advance of the 2024 legislative session. PSRC staff briefed the Regional Staff Committee on the process to adopt legislative priorities and sought feedback on potential legislative policy items.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org.

Discussion: Amtrak Cascades Preliminary Service Development Plan

WSDOT, in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is preparing a Preliminary Service Development Plan (SDP) to study possible alternatives for enhancing the Amtrak Cascades service between Portland and Vancouver, BC, over the next 20 years. At the November 16th meeting, Paul Kreuger, Systems Planning Engineer with WSDOT’s Rail, Freight, & Ports Division, provided an overview of the work, including the service levels under consideration for the updated plan.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at bbakkenta@psrc.org.

Discussion: Regional Safety Plan Update

PSRC staff has developed a draft scope of work for the Regional Safety Plan, which is being developed through funding awarded by the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. The Regional Staff Committee was briefed on the draft scope of work at the November 16 meeting.

You can find the presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Gary Simonson, Senior Planner, at gsimonsons@psrc.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Members and Alternates Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Triangle Associates
Gil Cerise, PSRC
Gary Simonson, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Katie Enders, PSRC
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC
Shaun Kuo, PSRC
Paul Krueger, WSDOT
Jason Thibedeau, PSRC
GAH
Josh Brown, PSRC
Brian Parry, SCA
Maggie Moore, PSRC
Laura Benjamin-LaPitz, City of Bellevue

PSRC Regional Staff Committee - Attendance Roster

Jurisdiction	Member		Jurisdiction	Member	
King County	2 Ivan Miller, King County Executive Office		Federal, Regional, State, Tribal & Other Agencies		
	McCaella Daffern, King County		FHWA	1 Matthew Pahs, Community Planner	
	Rebecca Maskin, Demographer Alt			Vacant Alt	
	Valerie Kendall, King County Alt		FTA	1 Ned Conroy, Community Planner	
At-Large	2 Arun Sambataro, Equity & Social Justice	R		Vacant Alt	
	Kwame Simmons, Policy Advisor Alt		Health	1 Vacant	
	Dan Cardwell, King County			Richard Gelb, King County Alt 1	R
	Vacant Alt			Jennifer Halverson Kuehn, Tacoma/Pierce Health Alt 2	
Transit	1 Peter Heffernan, King Co Metro Gov. Relations	R	Ports	1 Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs	R
	Chris Arkills, King Co Metro Gov. Relations Alt			Deirdre Wilson, Northwest Seaport Alliance Alt	R
Economic Dev.	1 Ashton Allison, King Co Exec Office, Econ Dev		PSCAA	1 Amy Fowler, Policy Manager	
	Hugo Garcia, King County Exec Office, Econ Dev			Kathy Strange, Air Quality Programs Director Alt	
Seattle	2 Michael Hubner, Long Range Planning		Puget Sound	1 Larry Epstein, Deputy Director	
	Jonathan Lewis, SDOT	R	Partnership	Dan Stonington, Planning Manager Alt	
	Patrice Carroll, Planning & Comm Dev Alt		Sound Transit	1 Matt Shelden, Planning & Innovation	
	Joanna Valencia, SDOT Alt			Alex Krieg, Planning & Integration Alt	
Bellevue	1 Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, Comm Dev		Tribal	1 Vacant	
	Katie Kuciemba Halse, Transportation, Alt	R	Representatives	Vacant Alt	
Cities/Towns	3 Vacant		US EPA	1 Susan Sturges	R
	Bob Sterbank, City of Snoqualmie, Alt			Erik Peterson Alt	
	Brian Davis, City of Federal Way		US HUD	1 Vacant	
	Jeff Churchill, City of Redmond, Alt	R		Vacant Alt	
	Diana Hart, City of Kirkland, Alt	R	WA Dept. of	1 Chris Green	
	Andrea Snyder, City of Issaquah, Alt	R	Commerce	Marie Davis	
Kitsap County	1 Eric Baker, Policy		WSDOT	1 Thomas Noyes, WSDOT	R
	Jeff Rimack, Alt			April Delchamps, WSDOT Alt	
At-Large	1 Heather Wright, Planning Director		PSRC Committees		
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt		PSRC Co-Chair	1 Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning	R
Transit	1 Edward Coviello, Kitsap Transit		BPAC	1 Thomas Noyes, WSDOT	R
	Vacant Alt			Eric Goodman, Community Transit, Alt	
Economic Dev.	1 Joe Morrison, KEDA		FAC	1 Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs	R
	Vacant Alt			Vacant Alt	
Bremerton	1 Andrea Spencer, Comm Dev, Co-Chair		RPEC	1 Doug McCormick, RPEC Chair	
	Garrett Jackson, Planning Manager, Alt			Shane Weber, RPEC Vice Chair	
Cities/Towns	1 Nick Bond, Comm Dev., Port Orchard	R	SNTC	1 Susan Carter, SNTC Chair	
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt			Vacant Alt	
Pierce County	1 Vacant		TDM	1 Jennifer Hass, Community Transit	
	Vacant Alt			Sarah Spicer, City of Seattle, Alt	
At-Large	2 Tiffany Speir, Lakewood, Planning	R	RTOC	1 Vacant	
	Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake, Planning	R		Vacant Alt	
	Ryan Windish, Sumner, Alt		R = Remote attendance		
	Angelie Stahlnecker, Milton, Alt				
Transit	1 Vacant				
	Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit, Alt				
Economic Dev	1 Rob Allen, Economic Development	R			
	Vacant Alt				
Tacoma	1 Peter Huffman, Planning & Dev Svcs				
	Vacant				
Cities/Towns	1 Kendall Wals, Puyallup				
	Chris Larson, Fife, Alt	R			
Snohomish County	1 Mike McCrary, PDS Director				
	David Killingstad, Planning & Development	R			
At-Large	2 Kelly Snyder, Director, Co-Chair	R			
	Ken Klein, Executive Director				
	Jay Larson, Public Works Supervisor, Alt				
	Joshua Dugan, Exec Operations Officer, Alt				
Transit	1 Roland Behee, Director of Planning				
	Melinda Adams, Everett Transit Alt				
Economic Dev	1 Neepaporn Bounjaktha, Economic Dev				
	James Henderson, Economic Dev Alt				
Everett	1 Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director	R			
	Becky Ableman McCrary, Long Range Planning Mgr				
Cities/Towns	1 Russ Wright, Lake Stevens, Comm Dev. Director	R			
	Patricia Love, Stanwood, Comm Dev. Director, Alt.				
Total Members	51		Attended	24	



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

January 18, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications

SUBJECT: 2024 Washington State Legislative Session Update

IN BRIEF

At the meeting on January 18, Robin Koskey, PSRC Director of Government Relations and Communications, will brief the Committee on PSRC's legislative priorities and proposed legislation PSRC will be tracking in the 2024 Legislative Session.

DISCUSSION

On January 8, the Washington State Legislature kicked off its short 60-day legislative session. Legislators will pass a supplemental budget, and key issues are expected to include behavioral health, addressing the opioid crisis, housing supply, affordability and homelessness, transportation budget and ferries and climate change. Over 800 bills were pre-filed in advance of the session.

Data staff will also demonstrate the mapping tool created to visualize the impact of the Transit Oriented Development Bills, [House Bill 2160](#) (Reed) and [Senate Bill 6024](#) (Trudeau).

Attachment 3a summarizes PSRC's adopted Recommendations to the WA State Legislature.

Lead Staff

Contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at 206-971-3602 or rkoskey@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Recommendations to the 2024 State Legislature

Recommendations to the 2024 State Legislature



Puget Sound Regional Council

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) supports adoption of state legislation that advances solutions to achieve a thriving, racially equitable and sustainable Puget Sound region through leadership, visionary planning, and collaboration.

Keep the Region Moving

VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan lay out a foundation for completing regional transportation investments and future work to strengthen connections to and between the region's centers. PSRC supports:

- Sustaining the transportation investments made with Move Ahead Washington during the 2021 legislative session
- Developing an equitable road usage charge (RUC) system through the work of the Washington State Transportation Commission to generate necessary revenue to eventually replace the gas tax, fund the state's long-term transportation needs, including multimodal connections and introduce revenue flexibility
- Funding and policies to restore, improve and modernize the Washington State Ferries system to ensure reliable cross-sound service and reduce environmental impact
- Maintaining agreed upon state and local funding split decisions as agreed upon by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) workgroup

Increase Housing Choices and Affordability

PSRC's Regional Housing Strategy identifies coordinated strategies, policies, and actions to expand housing options, create greater affordability, and promote fair and equal housing access to address the housing affordability crisis in our state. The PSRC region needs to build 800,000 more homes by 2050 and 20% of these homes need to be affordable to people earning less than half of the Area Median Income. Action is needed to address racially discriminatory housing policies and increase homeownership for Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) households. PSRC supports legislation and funding to in three action areas:

- **Supply:** Build more housing of different types as soon as possible
- **Stability:** Provide opportunities for residents to live in housing that meets their needs
- **Subsidy:** Create and sustain long-term funding sources to create and preserve housing for very low-income households and unhoused residents

Significantly Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan outline how state, regional, and local partners can act in coordination to reduce emissions in the region and prepare for climate impacts. PSRC supports state legislation to respond to the urgent environmental, health, economic and equity threat of climate change in alignment with the essential components of regional long-range planning:

- Transit-focused land use
- Multimodal transportation choices
- Pricing the transportation system
- Decarbonization of the transportation system, including improvements to freight and passenger vehicles and fuels

Sustain a Strong Economy

VISION 2050 and the Regional Economic Strategy plan for economic growth and opportunity that creates widespread prosperity and living-wage jobs to help sustain the region's economy. PSRC supports continued investments in:

- Workforce development programs to meet the needs of employers and a growing economy
- Critical infrastructure to support economic development, including broadband
- Clean energy industry technology like Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), offshore wind, fusion, hydrogen and other emerging technologies

For more information, please contact:

Robin Koskey

Director of Government Relations & Communications
RKoskey@psrc.org
206-798-4462



Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. PSRC is composed of nearly 100 members, including the four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies and Tribal governments within the region.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

January 18, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning

SUBJECT: Department of Commerce Services and Planning Resources

IN BRIEF

Over the last several years, the Washington State Department of Commerce has assumed new functions and responsibilities, including expanded work on housing, climate change, and support for local comprehensive plan periodic updates.

DISCUSSION

At the meeting on January 18, Commerce will brief the committee on the agency's structure, staffing, resources, and services available to local jurisdictions.

Next Steps

More information about the Washington State Department of Commerce can be found on their [website](#).

Lead Staff

Contact Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at 206-971-3286 or bbakkenta@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

January 18, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Maggie Moore, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Centers Monitoring Scope of Work

IN BRIEF

The committee will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft scope of work for the regional centers work program, including plans and timelines for redesignation and monitoring called for by the [Regional Centers Framework](#).

DISCUSSION

Centers are the hallmark of VISION 2050 and the Regional Growth Strategy. They guide regional growth allocations, advance local planning, inform transit service planning, and represent priority areas for PSRC's federal transportation funding.

The region has designated 30 regional growth centers. These are locations of the region's most significant business, governmental, and cultural facilities and are planning for growth. The region's 10 designated regional manufacturing/industrial centers are locations for more intensive industrial activity. Both regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers are focal points for planned growth, economic development and transportation infrastructure investments.

REGIONAL CENTERS FRAMEWORK

In 2018, PSRC's Executive Board adopted the [Regional Centers Framework](#) to identify more consistent criteria for regional centers. This includes developing a framework to track performance and outcomes of centers over time, providing guidance on planning for centers, and the redesignation of existing centers.

Based on criteria in the Framework, PSRC staff are starting early work to define data needs and components of the monitoring and redesignation process. The committee will discuss the scope of work for this multi-year process.

MONITORING AND REDESIGNATION PROCESS

PSRC staff conducted outreach on the scope in 2023, collecting feedback from the Growth Management Policy Board, Regional Staff Committee, Regional TOD Committee, and the Freight Advisory Committee.

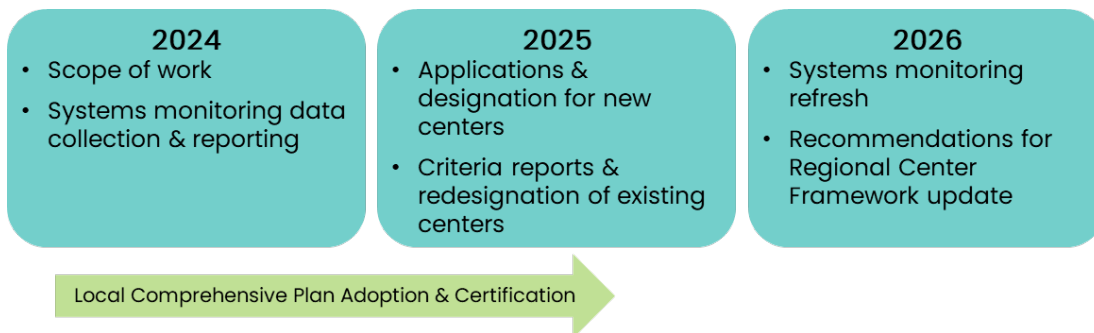
The draft scope of work in Attachment A incorporates board and committee feedback and highlights the three key outcomes for this process:

- Evaluate the success of the system of centers
- Consider designation applications for new regional centers
- Confirm designation of existing centers with a clear redesignation process

The system monitoring will take place throughout 2024 to gather data on how the region's centers are achieving desired outcomes. Data categories include growth, mobility, housing, environment, social equity and opportunity, economic development, public health, and urban form. A refresh of this data collection and system report will be completed in 2026 to reflect local comprehensive plan updates and other related work.

In 2025, PSRC staff will issue a call for applications for new regional centers. Staff will review applications and provide recommendations to the Growth Management Policy Board and Executive Board in late 2025.

Existing regional centers will be evaluated in 2025 for their alignment with Regional Centers Framework requirements. Criteria reports will be developed for each center based on existing criteria and presented to the Growth Management Policy Board and to the Executive Board for redesignation.



ONLINE CENTERS PROFILES

Existing data on regional centers will be available in the forthcoming centers profiles. This online dashboard replaces profiles last updated in 2013. Data in the center profiles comes from the WA Office of Financial Management, US Census Bureau American Community Survey, and PSRC. Data includes measures on demographics, housing, transportation, and urban form. All data in the profiles is available for download and can be used for centers planning by local jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

At the January committee meeting, PSRC staff will engage the committee in answering the following questions:

- Does the draft scope of work adequately cover needed steps for successful centers monitoring and redesignation?
- Is there any additional information that may be needed for successful monitoring of the system of centers?

NEXT STEPS

The Growth Management Policy Board will review and give direction to proceed on the scope of work at their February meeting. If needed, PSRC staff will incorporate board and committee feedback in the draft scope of work for the centers monitoring process. PSRC will continue to update and seek feedback from the committee as work progresses.

LEAD STAFF

For more information, contact Maggie Moore, Senior Planner, at mmoore@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Regional Centers Monitoring and Redesignation Draft Scope of Work



Regional Centers Monitoring and Redesignation | Draft Scope of Work

January 2024

Purpose

The [Regional Centers Framework](#) (2018) established criteria and planning expectations to ensure regional centers are developing as thriving and connected communities with sufficient market potential to accommodate new jobs and residents. At the time, several existing centers did not meet all adopted requirements.

The redesignation process will evaluate individual regional centers to determine how they meet criteria, planning the jurisdiction has completed, and redesignate as appropriate.

The monitoring process will evaluate how the region's system of centers is meeting regional objectives and determine whether updates to the framework may be needed.

Outcomes

Evaluate the success of the system of centers:

- Is the region achieving desired outcomes from the system?
- Does the region have the right number of centers?
- Are any changes needed to the Regional Centers Framework or in future updates to VISION 2050 to better achieve the desired outcomes for centers?

Consider designation applications for new regional centers:

- Should any new regional centers be designated?

Confirm designation of existing centers with a clear redesignation process:

- Are individual centers meeting the criteria?
- How should the board address centers that don't meet criteria or have limited market potential?

Process and Timeline

Scoping

Products & Process:

- GMPB and PSRC committees provide initial direction on project scoping (Q3-Q4 2023)
- GMPB and Executive Board review final scope of work (Q1 2024)

System Monitoring

Products & Process:

- PSRC staff collect and analyze data based on existing data sources and local centers planning (Q1-Q3 2024)
- PSRC staff develops an initial system report evaluating how the regional system of centers is achieving desired outcomes (Q4 2024)
- PSRC staff updates system report to reflect comprehensive plan updates, growth targets, and revised capacity (Q1-Q3 2026)
- GMPB provides recommendations to the Executive Board on future updates to the Regional Centers Framework (e.g. density criteria, types of centers) (Q4 2026)

Key Questions:

- Is the region achieving desired outcomes from the system of centers?
 - Data categories include growth, mobility, housing, environment, social equity and opportunity, economic development, public health, and urban form
- Does the region have the right number of centers?
- Are any changes needed to the Regional Centers Framework or in future updates to VISION 2050 to better achieve the desired outcomes for centers?

New Center Application & Designation

Products & Process:

- PSRC staff issue call for applications and conduct outreach for new candidate centers (Q2-Q3 2025)
- Interested jurisdictions submit completed center applications (Q2-Q3 2025)
- PSRC staff review applications and provide recommendations to GMPB and Executive Board for designation (Q3-Q4 2025)
- GMPB makes recommendations and Executive Board takes action on any center designations (Q4 2025)

Key Questions

- Should any new regional centers be designated?

Criteria Reports for Individual Centers & Center Redesignation

Products & Process:

- PSRC staff develop draft criteria reports for individual centers on alignment with Regional Centers Framework requirements (Q1-Q3 2025)
- Jurisdictional staff review draft criteria reports and provide any additional context to support board review

- GMPB evaluates existing centers for redesignation and makes recommendations to Executive Board (Q4 2025)
- Executive Board takes action on centers redesignation (Q4 2025)
 - General Assembly action to update VISION 2050 may be required if changes impact regional geographies

Key Questions:

- Are individual centers meeting the criteria?
- How should the board address centers that don't meet criteria or have limited market potential?

Timeline



For more information, please contact Maggie Moore, Senior Planner, at MMoore@psrc.org



Puget Sound Regional Council

INFORMATION ITEM

January 18, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager

SUBJECT: Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program (FY2024-2025)

IN BRIEF

At its January meeting, the Regional Staff Committee will be given information on the Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program FY2024-2025.

DISCUSSION

PSRC's Biennial Budget and Work Program was adopted in May 2023 and covers July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

The proposed supplemental budget reflects revenues and expenditure of \$44,837,000, including approximately \$9.8 million in increased carryover grants from the previous biennium that have been added since adoption in May 2023. As a reminder, grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis and are earned only after completion of the work. A full draft budget is available online at <https://www.psrc.org/about/budget>.

Throughout the month of January, the draft supplemental budget information will be provided to the Executive Board, Economic Development Board, Growth Management Policy Board, Transportation Policy Board, and the Regional Staff Committee. PSRC staff will bring any comments received to the February 22nd meeting of the Operations Committee. In March the Operations Committee will be asked to recommend approval of the budget by the Executive Board and in April, the Executive Board will recommend the budget for adoption by the General Assembly to be held May 30, 2024.

Lead Staff

For more information, please contact Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager, at 206-971-3292, or awerfelmann@psrc.org.