



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **MINUTES**

**Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board  
January 11, 2024  
All members remote**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph announced that all members would be participating remotely due to PSRC's office move. A video of the meeting is streamed live as well as recorded and is available for viewing on PSRC's website. A call-in number was provided on the meeting agenda for members of the public to call in by phone and listen live to the meeting.

Mayor Ralph acknowledged new members

- Councilmember Edward Wood, University Place - alternate
- Annie Tran, PSRC Equity Advisory Committee
- Julius Moss, PSRC Equity Advisory Committee
- Mayor Matt Mahoney, Des Moines
- Councilmember Rob Saka, Seattle
- Councilmember Peter Kwon, SeaTac, representing King County Other Cities and Towns has moved from alternate to member.

Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Matthew Sutherland, Transportation Choices Coalition, provided public comment.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Ralph thanked members for responding to the project selection discussion poll as it helped understand what was important to the group.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that today's meeting would be extended. She introduced Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, PSRC.

Ms. Koskey shared that the state legislative session began on Monday, January 8, 2024. Ms. Koskey noted that the board was previously briefed on recommendations to the state legislature in the categories of transportation, housing, climate and building a strong economy. Ms. Koskey noted that a similar framework to last year's recommendations would be used with a few changes, notably that there was an addition of restoring reliable services to the Washington State Ferries. Ms. Koskey also touched on highlights from the Governor's 2024 budget and bills of note for the session.

PSRC will host a Newly Elected Official Workshop on March 1, 2024, from 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Registration is available online.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held December 14, 2023
- b. Routine amendment to TIP

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Prince) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.**

## ACTION ITEM: 2025-2026 FTA FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed details of the most recent funding distribution for PSRC's 2025-2026 funds, including both earned share and the new Equity Formula distributions. She reviewed the projects recommended for funding, which were released for public review in November. Ms. Gutschow noted that no public comments have been received to date. The TPB was asked to recommend Executive Board approval of the project funding recommendations. The Executive Board will review the project funding recommendations and any public comment received at its January 25 meeting, and then take final action to approve.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Daughtry/Mello) that the Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve the list of projects for:**

- \$506.9 M in 2025-2026 FTA earned share funds, as identified in Attachments A.
- \$99.7 M of 2023-2026 FTA equity formula funding, as identified in Attachment B.

The motion passed.

## ACTION ITEM: EQUITY PILOT PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Charles Patton, PSRC, shared an overview of the Equity Pilot, its goal and the overall schedule. He briefed the board on the projects that applied for the pilot, and the Equity Advisory Committee's (EAC) recommendation on funding of all eight projects submitted.

Dr. Patton gave a summary of the twelve comments received during the public comment period and PSRC's response to each comment. Members expressed appreciation of the pilot and the work of the EAC, and shared that the level of information provided on the public comments and responses was helpful.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Pauly) that the Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve the list of projects identified in Attachment A for PSRC's 2025-2026 FHWA Equity Pilot funds. The motion passed.**

**ACTION ITEM: PREPARING FOR THE 2024 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF 2024 POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR PSRC'S FEDERAL FUNDS**

Ms. McGourty reminded the board of the discussions held since September on options for improvements to the 2024 project selection process specifically for safety, climate and equity. Specific proposals have been considered, and a poll was sent in December for further feedback. Ms. McGourty walked through each proposal and asked the board for a final recommendation on each, covering safety, climate, equity, the scoring framework, scoring thresholds and project tracking policies.

An initial motion to approve the Policy Framework was made, followed by individual motions on the specific revisions.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Pauly/Mello) that the Transportation Policy Board should recommend Executive Board approval of the policies and procedures for the 2024 project selection process, to be documented in the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty described the proposal to update the safety criteria and language to more concretely tie to the Safe System Approach and FHWA proven safety countermeasures.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Walker/Mello) that the Safety criteria and guidance language be updated to strengthen the connection to a Safe System Approach and FHWA's proven safety countermeasures. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty shared that the second option related to safety is to ask sponsors to commit to planning under a Safe System Approach. Project sponsors would be asked to commit to following forthcoming guidance from USDOT and through PSRC's Regional Safety Action Plan and continue working towards planning and implementation under a Safe System Approach. PSRC will continue to monitor local safety action plans and revisit prior to the 2026 project selection process.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Pauly) that applicants be asked to make a commitment to planning under a Safe System Approach, as described. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty provided background information on the air quality and climate change criterion, including the tool used by PSRC to evaluate projects for the potential to reduce emissions and how projects receive high scores. A proposal under consideration was to prohibit projects into the competition that add general purpose vehicle capacity on limited access state highways.

Members discussed the type of projects this would potentially exclude and nuances that may need to be considered. Members noted that further analysis and discussion was necessary before making this substantial of a change, and directed staff to continue working on this for future discussion.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Walker) that projects on limited access highways adding general purpose vehicle capacity be excluded from PSRC's funding competition. The motion failed.**

Ms. McGourty referred to the presentation on the Equity Pilot by Dr. Patton earlier in the agenda and referred to the recommendations made by the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC). Members expressed support for the recommendations and appreciation of the work conducted by the EAC.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Pauly) that the Equity Advisory Committee recommendations on Equity be incorporated. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty discussed the scoring framework and potential scoring options that the board reviewed in December. Ms. McGourty noted that the results of the December poll were split and members have expressed concern about reducing points for centers. Ms. McGourty noted that the chairs had worked together to propose a hybrid option, 2A. The option is consistent with the EAC recommendations and the Regional Project Evaluation Committee (RPEC) recommendations on project readiness, and still increases safety points.

Members shared that the background and additional work put into the scoring options was appreciated. Members shared they appreciated rebalancing the points, that project readiness will still be emphasized and that the development of centers was retained.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Pauly) that the Transportation Policy Board advance the scoring framework recommendation as outlined in option 2A. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty reviewed the option to set a scoring threshold, below which projects would not be considered for funding. Ms. McGourty noted that results from the December poll were split on this proposal. Staff recommend that the board direct staff to work with RPEC on the concept and to return to the board with a more defined proposal later in the year. If ultimately recommended, the proposal would not impact this funding cycle but potentially the 2026 process and upcoming contingency list distributions. Members commented that further analysis would be helpful.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Daughtry/Zarlingo) that the Transportation Policy Board recommend that staff be directed to work with the Regional Project Evaluation Committee on a scoring threshold and return to the board later in 2024 with a more defined proposal and administrative details. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty briefed the board on the remaining policy framework elements, a summary of which was included in the agenda packet. There have been no recommended changes to these elements beyond the proposed revisions to the project tracking policies.

Ms. McGourty shared that RPEC had four recommendations for revisions to the adopted project tracking policies and procedures. The board was briefed on the recommendations at its December meeting. She reviewed each of the recommendations which were related to funding competitions and the annual rebalancing process for supplemental funding.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Pauly) that the Transportation Policy Board recommend the RPEC project tracking policy recommendations. The motion passed.**

Ms. McGourty recapped the suite of revisions made to the Policy Framework during the meeting. The TPB is being asked to recommend Executive Board approval of the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*, including the revisions made at today's meeting.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mello/Pauly) that the Transportation Policy Board should recommend Executive Board approval of the policies and procedures for the 2024 project selection process, to be documented in the 2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds. This includes the elements as summarized in Attachment A and the revisions as discussed today. The motion passed.**

Mayor Ralph thanked the board for their work and establishing a consensus on the recommendations.

Mayor Ralph noted that the agenda packet included the Transportation Work Program Progress Tracker, information on the Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program and 2024 meeting calendar.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Attachment:

- A. Attendance Roster – January 11, 2024.

| Transportation Policy Board January 11, 2024                     |    |  |    | 5.a - Att. A                                       |                            |
|--|----|--|----|--|----------------------------|
| Voting Members   |    |  |    | Non-voting Members                                 |                            |
| <b>King County</b>   | 2  | CM Girmay Zahilay<br>CM Dave Upthegrove<br>Vacant Alt  | 1  | <b>Associate Members</b>                           |                            |
|  |    |  |    | Island County                                      | 1                          |
|  |    |  |    | Thurston Regional Planning Council                 | 1                          |
| Seattle  | 2  | CM Dan Strauss<br>CM Rob Saka<br>Vacant Alt  | 1  | <b>Public Agency Members</b>                       |                            |
|  |    |  |    | Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board        | 1                          |
| Bellevue   | 1  | Vacant<br>CM Janice Zahn Alt   | 1  | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency                       | 1                          |
| Cities/Towns   | 3  | MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, <b>Chair</b><br>MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah<br>CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac<br>CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt<br>DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt<br>CM Matt Mahoney, Des Moines Alt | 1  | Public Health                                      | 1                          |
|  |    |  |    | WA Tran. Improvement Board                         | 1                          |
| Local Transit  | 1  | CM Rod Dembowski<br>Vacant Alt   | 1  | <b>PSRC Committees</b>                             |                            |
|  |    |  |    | Equity Advisory Cmte.                              | 1                          |
| <b>Kitsap County</b>   | 1  | COM Christine Rolfes<br>COM Charlotte Garrido Alt  | 1  | Regional Staff Cmte.                               | 1                          |
| Bremerton  | 1  | MYR Greg Wheeler<br>CP Jeff Coughlin Alt   | 1  | Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.                  | 1                          |
| Cities/Towns   | 1  | CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl<br>Vacant  | 1  | Transportation Operators Cmte.                     | 1                          |
| Local Transit  | 1  | MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard<br>Vacant  | 1  | <b>Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor</b>        |                            |
| <b>Pierce County</b>   | 1  | CM Ryan Mello, <b>Vice Chair</b><br>CM Dave Morell Alt   | 1  | WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/26             | 1                          |
| Tacoma   | 1  | CM Kristina Walker<br>CM Olgy Diaz Alt   | 1  | Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/26     | 1                          |
| Cities & Towns   | 1  | CM Tim Ceder, Milton<br>MYR Pro Tem Edward Wood, University Place Alt  |    | <b>Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment</b> |                            |
| Local Transit  | 1  | CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County<br>Vacant   |    | TBD  |                            |
| <b>Snohomish County</b>  | 1  | CM Jared Mead<br>CM Strom Peterson Alt   |    | Non-voting   | 10                         |
| Everett  | 1  | CM Ben Zarlino<br>MYR Cassie Franklin Alt  | 1  |  | Non-voting members present |
| Cities/Towns   | 1  | CM Jan Schuette, Arlington<br>MYR Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, Mill Creek Alt   | 1  |  | 8                          |
| Local Transit  | 1  | CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens<br>CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt  | 1  |  |                            |
| <b>Regional Transit</b>  | 1  | CM Ed Prince, Renton<br>MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife Alt   | 1  |  |                            |
| <b>Federally Recognized Tribes</b>                               |    |  |    |  |                            |
| Muckleshoot Indian Tribe   | 1  | CM John Daniels, Jr.<br>Vacant Alt   |    |  |                            |
| Puyallup Tribe of Indians  | 1  | Andrew Strobel<br>Robert Barandon Alt  |    |  |                            |
| Suquamish Tribe  | 1  | CM Luther (Jay) Mills<br>CHRMN Leonard Forsman Alt   |    |  |                            |
| <b>Statutory Members</b>   |    |  |    |  |                            |
| Ports  | 1  | COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle<br>COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt   | 1  |  |                            |
| WA Trans. Commission   | 1  | COM Jim Restucci<br>COM Nicole Grant Alt   | 1  |  |                            |
| WSDOT  | 1  | Robin Mayhew<br>Todd Lamphere Alt  | 1  |  |                            |
| <b>Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)</b> |    |  |    |  |                            |
| House Transportation Cmte.                                       | 2  | Vacant<br>REP Jake Fey, D Alt<br>REP Dan Griffey, R<br>REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt  |    |  |                            |
| Senate Transportation Cmte.                                      | 2  | SEN Marko Liias, D<br>SEN Emily Randall, D Alt<br>Vacant, R<br>Vacant, R Alt   |    |  |                            |
| Voting   | 32 | (Quorum = 14) Quorum Total   | 20 |  |                            |
|  |    | Total Voting members present   | 22 |  |                            |