



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

**Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board
March 14, 2024
1201 3rd Ave., Ste 500, Seattle, WA 98101**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph stated that a video of the meeting would be streamed live as well as recorded. The video would be 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.

Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The board received written public comment which was distributed via email before the meeting.

John Niles provided public comment to the board.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ralph noted that there was a full agenda and would call on Kelly McGourty for the Director's Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, noted that consent agenda item 5.d is a recommendation for one project to receive PSRC's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. PSRC has a policy that new projects are released for public comment. The project received four public comments which were included in the agenda packet. Consent agenda 5.e is an update to FTA project tracking policies. The change will provide additional flexibility specifically related to the new FTA equity formula funds.

Ms. McGourty shared that PSRC has started project selection. The team is currently reviewing eligibility of all prospective projects. The board is scheduled to take action on project recommendations at its July meeting.

This morning the board received an email with an updated attachment for agenda item 6. It is regarding PSRC's annual delivery target requirements for Federal Highway Administration funds. The update will be reviewed during the presentation.

Robin Koskey, PSRC, updated the board on the conclusion of the Washington State legislative session and provided information on the transportation budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held February 8, 2024
- b. Routine amendment to 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Recommend Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for the City of Tacoma's Water Ditch Trail Phase 3 Project
- d. Recommendation of PSRC FTA Funding for King County Metro's Pier 48 Gangway Replacement Project
- e. Recommendation of Updates to PSRC's Project Tracking Policies

ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Pauly/Daughtry) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: 2024 PROJECT TRACKING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING ACTION

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, provided an overview of PSRC's Project Tracking Program and Policies. She shared how PSRC conducts continuous monitoring of projects, including collecting progress reports twice a year. PSRC also frequently coordinates with countywide forums on the status of projects.

Ms. Barnes reviewed the five-step process to meet federal funding requirements and the details of each step of the TIP rebalancing process. She noted that board action at the January 11, 2024, meeting reprioritized the steps. She also discussed other project tracking policy updates.

Ms. Barnes briefed the board on 2024 project extension requests, discussing increases in one-year extensions and noting the estimated gap to achieving the required 2024 delivery target. A supplemental funding action is required, comprised of increasing the federal funding share to existing 2024 projects. Ms. Barnes noted that the gap and funding allocation amounts are subject to change. The board will receive further information at its meeting in April. Ms. Barnes noted that smaller projects will receive

the maximum amount of funding with this action, but there are also a few projects with additional capacity that could absorb additional funds should it be necessary.

Board members discussed issues of increases in project costs and how that factors into this process. Staff shared that existing policies direct staff to base these supplemental funding actions on cost estimates provided during the project selection process and time of award. However, agencies do have an opportunity to access additional FHWA funds to address higher construction bids as part of a separate, statewide process. Information on this process will be provided at the next meeting. Ms. McGourty noted that the board could recommend changes to the adopted project tracking policies in the future.

ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Pauly/Baron) that The Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve a supplemental funding action to increase the federal shares for projects awarded PSRC's 2024 FHWA funds, up to the amounts identified in Attachment A. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: CLIMATE WORK SUMMARY AND FUTURE PLANNING

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared information on current and completed climate work. She noted that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) has a 4-part greenhouse gas strategy and reviewed elements that influence emissions. The RTP climate analysis extends to 2050 and shows that the region is on track to achieve 2050 goals. During development of the RTP, there was a call to develop a 2030 transportation network and 2030 analysis, which was completed last year.

Sensitivity tests were also conducted to evaluate what additional reductions might be feasible by 2030. An expert climate review panel was convened to review this work and PSRC's modeling and analyses. Ms. McGourty provided a summary of the findings and recommendations from the panel.

Ms. McGourty shared details of the Puget Sound Regional Emissions Analysis Project. The project included seven partners and all four counties. A major benefit is that all jurisdictions are now using the same methodology.

Ms. McGourty reminded the board that the project-level emissions estimation tool was also recently updated. It is available on PSRC's website and will be used in the current project selection process.

Ms. McGourty provided information on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG). It has two phases, one for planning and the other for implementation. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is leading the planning work for the region in partnership with PSRC, the counties and major cities.

The CPRG includes the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan, focused on near-term, high-priority greenhouse gas measures with a focus on disadvantaged communities. It was submitted to EPA on March 1. The next step is the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, looking longer term and including more required elements. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is due to EPA by summer 2025 and will support the development of the 2026 RTP.

Ms. McGourty shared information on the CPRG implementation grant funding, and the four applications being coordinated between the state and the region. The regional applications are focused on transportation electrification and building energy. Implementation grant applications are due to EPA on April 1.

Ms. McGourty reviewed the work of the Regional Electric Vehicle (REV) Collaboration and the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2026-2050) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Gil Cerise, PSRC, shared that at its February meeting, the board reviewed federal requirements for developing regional transportation plans and the board adopted focus areas of the current plan. The board was then polled for feedback on current regional priorities.

Mr. Cerise highlighted the responses from February and high-level themes. The board was then asked to discuss these topics and priorities further. Members asked that the plan include the needs of different types of communities, especially those outside of urban areas. Members also commented on capturing safety in different aspects citing examples of an increase in pedestrian fatalities and safety within the transit system. Members also discussed access to transit, micro-mobility and new technologies. Members shared that it would be helpful to elevate maintenance and preservation as a critical need.

Staff provided an overview of key themes and analysis the board will be briefed on in the coming months.

DISCUSSION ITEM: PROJECT SELECTION FUTURE WORK ITEMS

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that when the board adopted the 2024 Policy Framework, they directed staff to continue work on two topics that were not moved forward at that time: prohibiting general-purpose capacity projects on limited access highways into the competition, and setting a scoring threshold for funding.

Ms. McGourty reviewed what the board previously discussed and shared preliminary ideas for next steps. She asked the board what additional information the board would find helpful when staff returns later in the year on these topics. Members discussed identifying projects that were previously funded but would no longer be allowed under

these scenarios. Members shared that they would like to see examples before the meeting and that it would be helpful to have more description of the criteria used to identify these projects. Members also asked for consideration in the future of how any of the changes being made can be analyzed to determine if they worked and made the expected improvements.

Due to time constraints, staff offered to send a separate communication requesting additional board feedback.

Mayor Ralph noted that the General Assembly will be held May 30. The deadline for submitting VISION 2050 awards is coming up in April.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Attachment:

- A. Attendance Roster – March 14, 2024.

Transportation Policy Board March 14, 2024				5.a - Att. A	
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members	✓
King County	2	CM Jorge Barón	1	Associate Members	
		Vacant		Island County	1
		Vacant Alt			1
Seattle	2	CM Rob Saka	1	Thurston Regional Planning Council	1
		CM Robert Kettle			1
		CM Tanya Woo, Alt		Public Agency Members	
Bellevue	1	CM Dave Hamilton	1	Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1
		CM Jared Nieuwenhuis Alt			1
Cities/Towns	3	MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair	1	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1		1
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac	1	Public Health	1
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt			1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1	WA Tran. Improvement Board	1
		CM Matt Mahoney, Des Moines Alt	1		1
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski	1	PSRC Committees	
		Vacant Alt		Equity Advisory Cmte.	1
Kitsap County	1	COM Christine Rolfes	1		1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler			1
		CP Jennifer Chamberlin Alt		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl	1		1
		Vacant		Transportation Operators Cmte.	1
Local Transit	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard			1
		CM Anna Mockler, Bremerton	1	Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor	
Pierce County	1	CM Ryan Mello, Vice Chair	1	WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/26	1
		CM Dave Morell Alt			1
Tacoma	1	CM Kristina Walker	1	Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/26	1
		CM Olgy Diaz Alt			1
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton	1	Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment	
		MYR Pro Tem Edward Wood, University Place Alt		TBD	
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County		Non-voting	10
		DEP MYR John Hines, Tacoma			Non-voting members present
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead			
		CM Strom Peterson Alt			
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1		
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt			
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1		22
		CM Michael Dixon, Mukilteo Alt			
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1		
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt			
Regional Transit	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton	1		
		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			
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt			
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jim Restucci			
		COM Nicole Grant Alt			
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew	1		Abbreviations
		Todd Lamphere Alt	1		CHRMN Chairman
Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)					
House Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant			CM Councilmember
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt			CP Council President
		REP Dan Griffey, R			COM Commissioner
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt			DEP MYR Mayor
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	SEN Marko Liias, D			MYR Mayor
		SEN Emily Randall, D Alt			MYR Pro Tem
		Vacant, R			REP Representative
		Vacant, R Alt			SEN Senator
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	18		
		Total Voting members present	21		