



Puget Sound Regional Council

Executive Board

Thursday, April 25, 2024 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting – PSRC Board Room: 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98101

Watch or listen

- Watch the meeting live at <https://www.psrc.org/watch-meetings>
- Listen by phone 1-888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 848 6696 5525, Passcode: 099820

Attend

- *The public can attend meetings at PSRC's offices – [PSRC has moved!](#)*
 - [New location](#): 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, 98101
- PSRC staff will be available to provide floor access 30 minutes before the meeting's start time and up to 15 minutes after the meeting's start time.
- If you arrive outside of these times, please call 206-464-7090 for assistance.

Provide public comment

- **Public comment must relate to an action or discussion item on the agenda. Each member of the public will have 2 minutes to speak.**
- **In-person**
Public comment may be made in person at PSRC's office.
- **Comment during the meeting by Zoom or phone:**
[Registration](#) is required and closes at 8:00 a.m., the day of the meeting. Late registrations will not be accepted.
- **Written comments**
Comments may be submitted via email to srogers@psrc.org by 8:00 a.m., the day of the meeting. Comments will be shared with board members.

Public comments are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter [42.56](#).

1. **Call to Order (10:00)** – *Mayor Becky Erickson, President*
2. **Communications and Public Comment**
Public comment must relate to an action or discussion item on the agenda.
3. **President's Remarks**
4. **Executive Director's Report**
5. **Committee Report**
 - a. Operations Committee – *Executive Dave Somers, Vice President*
6. **Consent Agenda - Action Items (10:20)**
 - a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held March 28, 2024
 - b. Approve Vouchers Dated March 6, 2024, through April 8, 2024, in the Amount of \$1,221,758.55

- c. Approve Contract Authority for Communications System Evaluation
- d. Approve Contract Authority for State Legislative Consultants
- e. Adopt Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- f. Approve Updates to PSRC's FTA Project Tracking Policies
- g. Approve 2024 Project Tracking and Extension Requests

7. Action Item (10:25)

- a. Recommend Adoption of Fiscal Years 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program – *Andrew Werfelmann, PSRC*

8. Discussion Item (10:35)

- a. Climate Commitment Act Briefing – *House Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbon, Representative Jake Fey and Governor's Policy Advisor Becky Kelley*

9. Discussion Item (11:30)

- a. Federal legislative Update – *Leslie Pollner and Lauri Hettinger, Senior Policy Advisors, Holland & Knight*

10. Information Item

- a. Summer Planning Academy (SPA) for High School Students
- b. Bio of Steve Nevey, Assistant Secretary of Washington State Ferries

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting: NO MEETING IN MAY

- PSRC General Assembly, May 30, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Seattle Convention Center – Summit Building, 900 Pine Street, Seattle, register [online](#).
- Executive Board Meeting, June 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

13. Adjourn (12:00)

Board members please submit proposed amendments and materials prior to the meeting for distribution. Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Sheila Rogers, e-mail srogers@psrc.org, or mail.

For language or ADA assistance at PSRC board meetings, please contact us at 206-464-7090 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. For TTY-based telecommunications relay service dial 711.

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>.



April 4, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Staff briefed board members on the region's work under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. The CPRG program is providing funds to states and large urban areas to develop near- and long-term climate action plans. The Priority Climate Action Plan was submitted to the EPA on March 1, 2024, and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is due in the summer of 2025. A work program is soon to be developed. In addition, the program is providing \$4.6 billion in competitive grants for climate implementation activities. Staff briefed the board on the applications being submitted by the region and state. [View video](#) and [presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at (206) 971-3601 or kmcgourty@psrc.org.

Puget Sound Energy Community Solar Program

Kate Hartgering from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) provided the board with information about the Community Solar Program. Community Solar is a way for PSE electric customers to share the benefits of 100% local solar power. Solar panels have been installed on the rooftops of schools and other municipalities and they are always looking for new site hosts. Benefits of being a site host include support of community sustainability goals for carbon reduction and generating solar energy at no cost. One can contact PSE to submit sites for Community Solar, distributed solar or battery storage projects. Click the link to learn more about the [Community Solar program](#). [View presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org, or Kate Hartgering at kate.hartgering@pse.com.

Local Climate Planning

The board was briefed on how the cities of [Sammamish](#) and [Lakewood](#) have addressed climate change impacts in their local work and how climate is addressed in their comprehensive plans. Staff from the Department of Commerce also share results of small and mid-size cities about their approaches to climate planning. In 2021, Lakewood adopted a new element in their city's comprehensive plan that examines the city's policies that affect energy consumption and how measures can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Lakewood also developed a five-year climate change action plan to reflect Lakewood's priorities and commitments to climate action to residents and partners. The City of Sammamish has developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to address the challenges of climate change. The CAP sets the stage for Sammamish to transition into clean energy sources, electrify buildings and transportation and strengthen climate resiliency. [The Department of Commerce](#) published an updated climate element guidance for cities and counties in January and provides cities and counties with planning grants, technical assistance and other resources. PSRC will review draft comprehensive plans that demonstrate how cities and counties are working toward the VISION 2050 goal to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions and build resilient communities.

For additional information, please contact Paul Inghram, at pinghram@psrc.org or 206- 464-7549.

Summer Planning Academy

Applications are now open for the [Summer Planning Academy](#). Students across the Puget Sound region will learn about planning and how they can contribute to their communities. In August, there will be four sessions that will help young individuals map out their careers in planning. Applications are due May 15, 2024.

For additional information, please contact Noah Boggess, at nboggess@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

**Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board
Thursday, March 28, 2024
Hybrid Meeting, PSRC Board Room**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Executive Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mayor Becky Erickson, PSRC President. A video of the meeting was 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. Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The following person provided public comment:

- Joe A. Kunzler

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Becky Erickson reported that in preparation for the General Assembly, she has appointed the nominating committee, which will propose candidates for the positions of PSRC president and vice president at the May 30 General Assembly. She stated that King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci will serve as chair. Committee members are:

- Executive Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County
- Mayor Cassie Franklin, City of Everett
- Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County
- Mayor Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle
- Councilmember Sam Low, Snohomish County
- Mayor Rob Putaansuu, City of Port Orchard
- Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn, Port of Bremerton
- Councilmember Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma

President Erickson stated, "by the end of the week, board members and alternates will receive an email forwarding the performance goals for PSRC Executive Director Josh

Brown.” She noted that these goals will be used to evaluate Josh’s performance during his next annual performance review in December 2024.

President Erickson mentioned that the first quarter of 2024 has already ended. This realization led to the discovery that Josh Brown had started as PSRC's Executive Director on January 2, 2014, 10 years ago. However, a salary study on his position has not been conducted since then. She noted that although the Operations Committee receives annual briefings on the salary study conducted on PSRC's staff positions, no market study has been requested for the Executive Director position in the past decade. To rectify this, she has asked Nancy Buonanno Grennan, PSRC's Deputy Executive Director, to work with Thu Le, PSRC's HR Manager, and PSRC's HR consultant to conduct a study and report back with recommendations on the findings to the board later this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Dave Somers, Chair, Operation Committee, reported that at today’s Operations Committee meeting, the committee recommended approval of vouchers dated February 12, 2024, through March 4, 2024, in the Amount of \$793,089.06.

Vice President Somers reported that during the committee meeting, the topic of the approval thresholds for contracts was discussed. Committee members have raised concerns about the current threshold, which seems to be exceptionally low. The PSRC bylaws dictate that board authorization is required for contracts exceeding \$10,000. However, this threshold, established in 1991, is relatively small compared to other jurisdictions. After conducting research, the staff found that PSRC members usually allow non-elected administrators/managers to authorize purchases up to \$50,000-\$100,000 or less. The staff suggests that instead of changing the authorization amount in the bylaws, the committee should review contracts of \$50,000 or less on its consent agenda to expedite the committee's business. If a member has any questions about a contract, they can request to remove it from the consent agenda for discussion.

The committee received an update on the clean audit received by both the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Economic Development District. This marks the twelfth consecutive year of clean audits for both agencies.

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda item 6f: Approve Updates to PSRC’s Project Tracking Policies was removed from the Consent Agenda to allow for additional discussion at the April 11 Transportation Policy Board meeting.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Millar/Simpson) to:

- a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held February 22, 2024**
- b. Approve Vouchers Dated February 12, 2024, through March 4, 2024, in the Amount of \$793,089.06**

- c. **Adopt Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
- d. **Approve a Change in Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for the City of Tacoma’s Water Ditch Trail Phase 3 Project**
- e. **Approve PSRC FTA Funding for King County Metro’s Pier 48 Gangway Replacement Project**
- f. ~~**Approve Updates to PSRC’s Project Tracking Policies**~~
- g. **Approve 2024 Project Tracking and Supplemental Funding Action**

The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Washington State Ferries Presentation

Newly appointed Assistant Secretary of Washington State Ferries, Steve Nevey, shared his priorities and perspective on the latest ferry investments made during the legislative session.

Legislative Briefing

Robin Koskey, PSRC Director of Government Relations and Communications, provided an update on the policy and budget outcomes of the 60-day 2024 Legislative Session. During the legislative session, the lawmakers passed several key budgets, including supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets. These budgets include significant investments in various areas such as affordable housing, behavioral health, addressing the opioid crisis, ferries, transportation projects and tracking climate change.

Climate Work Summary and Future Planning

Kelly McGourty, PSRC Director of Transportation Planning, provided an update on various climate work elements that have been either completed or are currently underway since the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in 2022. She explained how and when these elements will inform the development of the next RTP.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were included in the agenda packet as information:

- Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Results for Puget Sound Regional Council and the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District
- New Employee Status Report
- PSRC Annual General Assembly flyer
- VISION 2050 Awards – Call for Nominations 2024

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the board.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Adopted this 25th day of April 2024.

Mayor Becky Erickson, President
Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTEST:

Josh Brown, Executive Director

ATTACHMENT:

A. Executive Board Attendance, February 22, 2024

Executive Board Meeting - March 28, 2024		
<i>Members and Alternates that participated for all or part of the meeting included:</i>		Present
King County	EXC Dow Constantine	1
	CM Claudia Balducci	
	Vacant Alt	
	Vacant Alt	
Seattle	MYR Bruce Harrell	
	CM Robert Kettle	1
	CM Rob Saka	1
	CM Sara Nelson	
	CM Tammy Morales Alt	
	CM Dan Strauss Alt	
	CM Tanya Woo	
Bellevue	MYR Lynne Robinson	
	CM Janice Zahn Alt	1
Federal Way	MYR Jim Ferrell	
	Vacant Alt	
Kent	MYR Dana Ralph	1
	CM Toni Troutner Alt	1
Kirkland	MYR Kelli Curtis	1
	DP MYR Jay Arnold Alt	1
Renton	MYR Armondo Pavone	1
	CM James Alberson, Jr. Alt	1
Redmond	MYR Angela Birney	1
	CM Vanessa Kritzer Alt	1
Auburn	MYR Nancy Backus	1
	DP MYR Larry Brown Alt	
Other Cities/Towns in King County	MYR Chris Roberts, Shoreline	1
	MYR Jeff Wagner, Covington	1
	MYR Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw	1
	MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah Alt	
	MYR Mason Thompson, Bothell Alt	1
	MYR Thomas McLeod, Tukwila Alt	
Kitsap County	COMM Charlotte Garrido	1
	COMM Katie Walters Alt	
Bremerton	MYR Greg Wheeler	1
	CM Jennifer Chamberlin Alt	
Port Orchard	MYR Rob Putaansuu	1
	CM Jay Rosapepe Alt	
Other Cities/Towns in Kitsap County	MYR Becky Erickson, Poulsbo	
	MYR Joe Deets, Bainbridge Island Alt	1
Pierce County	EXC Bruce Dammeier	
	CM Ryan Mello	1
	CM Dave Morell Alt	
Tacoma	CM Krstina Walker	1
	MYR Victoria Woodards Alt	
Lakewood	CM Ryan Pearson	1
	MYR Jason Whalen Alt	
Other Cities/Towns in Pierce County	MYR Joshua Penner, Orting	1
	DP MYR Dennis King, Puyallup Alt	
Snohomish County	EXC Dave Somers	1
	CM Sam Low	1
	CM Jared Mead Alt	
Everett	MYR Cassie Franklin	1
	CM Scott Bader Alt	
Other Cities/Towns in Snohomish County	MYR Jon Nehring, Marysville	1
	MYR Pro Tem Bryan Wahl, Mountlake Terrace	1
	MYR Mason Thompson, Bothell Alt	
Port of Bremerton	COMM Axel Strakeljahn	1
	COMM Gary Anderson Alt	
Port of Everett	COMM David Simpson	1
	COMM Glen Bachman Alt	1
Port of Seattle	COMM Hamdi Mohamed	
	COMM Toshiko Hasegawa Alt	
Port of Tacoma	COMM John McCarthy	1
	COMM Kristin Ang Alt	
Washington State Department of Transportation	Secretary Roger Millar	1
	Julie Meredith Alt	
Washington State Transportation Commission	COMM Nicole Grant	
	COMM Jim Restucci Alt	



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Dave Somers, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: **Approve Vouchers Dated March 6, 2024, through April 8, 2024, in the Amount of \$1,221,758.55**

IN BRIEF

Two representatives of the Operations Committee review and sign off on the vouchers. In accordance with RCW 42.24.080, following the Operations Committee's review, the Executive Board approves the vouchers.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Executive Board approve the following vouchers:

REQUESTED

<u>WARRANT DATE</u>	<u>VOUCHER NUMBER</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
03/06/24 - 04/08/24	AP Vouchers	\$ 428,889.45
03/15/24 - 03/29/24	Payroll	\$ 792,869.10
		<hr/> \$ 1,221,758.55

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



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Dave Somers, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: **Approve Contract Authority for Communications System Evaluation**

IN BRIEF

Authorization by the Executive Board is required for the Executive Director to enter into a contract in excess of \$10,000. A request is being made to authorize one or more consultant contracts to provide strategic advice on communications methods, user accessibility and strategy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts for consultant services for evaluation of communications systems and practices. The total budget for consultant work is not to exceed \$100,000 over a 1-year period.

BUDGET IMPACT

The adopted Biennial Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 includes funding for this project.

DISCUSSION

Communications Tools Evaluation

PSRC communicates with elected officials, member jurisdictions, media outlets and members of the public on regional issues and data through a number of methods including website, newsletters and social media. We want our communications to be readable, accessible and strategic to ensure we are reaching key audiences. A review of PSRC's communications tactics was last conducted by a consultant in 2018.

The consultant will review the following products:

- Website content
- Social Media posts
- Newsletters
- News posts
- Bulk Email
- Board Communications

The consultant will provide advice on:

- Frequency of communication
- Identification of key audiences
- Readability of documents
- Communication tools

The consultant will interview PSRC staff, member jurisdiction staff, board members and Equity Advisory Committee members to inform conclusions.

This work is expected to be completed within the next six months. We anticipate the consultant will charge a flat rate and be reimbursed for work completed. The firm will provide a report detailing an assessment of PSRC's communication, identified areas where improvements are needed and recommended action steps.

Website Usability and Accessibility

PSRC successfully launched a new website in 2022. Over the 18 months of operating the new website many changes have been made in content and navigation. Given that the website is a critical tool for PSRC's communication, we want to ensure the website remains accessible and usable to everyone who uses it to access information about the region and the agency.

The firm will evaluate the usability of the PSRC website. The firm will also review the website to ensure content is equally perceived, understood, navigated and interacted with by people with disabilities through an accessibility assessment. Testing will be conducted with one-on-one sessions with users.

This work is expected to be completed within the next six months. We anticipate the consultant will charge a flat rate and be reimbursed for work completed. The firm will provide a report that details how well the website is working for users, gaps identified and concrete recommendations for improvement at the end of the assessment.

For additional information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org or 206-971-3602.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board
From: Executive Dave Somers, Chair, Operations Committee
Subject: **Approve Contract Authority for State Legislative Consultants**

IN BRIEF

Authorization by the Executive Board is required for the Executive Director to enter into a contract in excess of \$10,000. A request is being made to authorize consultant contracts to provide strategic information and advice on state budgets and legislation and provide government relations support.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts for consultant services for state legislative monitoring and government relations support. The total budget for consultant work is not to exceed \$240,000 over a 2-year period.

BUDGET IMPACT

The adopted Biennial Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 includes funding for this project.

DISCUSSION

State Legislative Consultant

Beginning in 2023, PSRC's Executive Board adopted a yearly Recommendations to the Washington State Legislature to advance the region's priorities including: expanding transportation investments, increasing affordable housing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sustaining a strong economy. These policy and budget

areas have been active priorities for the legislature as reflected through policy bills and budgets. The Transportation Budget is an area of particular concern as revenue is forecasted to continue to decline for the remaining years of Move Ahead Washington passed in 2022. There is an ongoing need to monitor legislative activity to ensure PSRC leadership and staff are aware of developments and impacts on regional priorities.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, PSRC entered into a small contract to pilot the use of state legislative consultative services to monitor and report on an at least weekly basis on budgets and bills advancing through the legislature. Staff and leadership found having someone on the ground in Olympia extremely useful and are therefore seeking authority to make this part of the Government Relations and Communications' work program.

The consultant will provide PSRC with consulting services to relay key, real-time information on state legislation and programs, with a particular focus on transportation related legislation and budgets. The consultant will assist with bill tracking and monitoring during the interim and during the legislative session and assist PSRC staff in convening legislators and other state officials and stakeholders on priority issues.

This work is anticipated to be ongoing over the next two years. We anticipate the consultant will charge a regular monthly fee that will be the same amount each month. The consultants will provide a list of activities performed with each monthly invoice.

Government Relations Support

PSRC's government relations work at both federal and state level has increased markedly over the past 2 years. We have only one full-time director devoted to this work, and she also oversees PSRC's Communications department. Additional support is needed to correspond with federal and state delegation staff, provide event and meeting management and draft legislative updates to PSRC members.

We propose contracting with a consultant to assist with government relations tasks for the immediate future while we assess ongoing government relations needs and determine whether a new full-time staff position is necessary.

This work is anticipated to be ongoing over the next year. We anticipate the consultant will charge an hourly rate and be reimbursed for work completed. The consultant will provide a list of activities performed with each monthly invoice.

For additional information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org or 206-971-3602.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair, Transportation Policy Board

Subject: **Adopt Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

IN BRIEF

Three agencies submitted six projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP. The projects are summarized in Exhibit A. These projects were awarded local, state and federal funding through various funding processes, such as the Motor Vehicle Account funds managed by the Washington State Department of Transportation. PSRC staff reviewed the projects for compliance with federal and state requirements, and consistency with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan. At its meeting on April 11, the Transportation Policy Board recommended adoption of the amendment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Executive Board should adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Regional TIP to include the projects as shown in Exhibit A.

DISCUSSION

Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), PSRC has project selection authority for all projects programming regional funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) - and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - Urbanized Area Formula Program (5307), State of Good Repair (5337), and Bus and Bus Facilities Formula (5339).

While PSRC does not have project selection authority for other types of federal, state or local funds, the Executive Board does have responsibility for adding these projects to the Regional TIP. Each project must comply with requirements regarding plan consistency, air quality and financial constraint. The attached Exhibit A illustrates the action needed to amend the Regional TIP.

The recommended action would approve the TIP amendment request based on a finding of consistency with VISION 2050, the Regional Transportation Plan and the air quality conformity determination of the Regional TIP. Approval is also based on a determination that funding is reasonably expected to be available to carry out the project. Information describing plan consistency, air quality conformity and the funding basis for approving the request is further described below.

Consistency with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan

The projects recommended for action were reviewed by PSRC staff and have been determined to be consistent with the multicounty policies in VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan.

Air Quality Conformity

The projects in Exhibit A were reviewed and it has been determined that a new air quality analysis and conformity determination is not required because each project falls into one or more of the following categories:

- It is exempt from air quality conformity requirements.
- It is an existing project already included in the current air quality modeling.
- It is a non-exempt project not able to be included in the regional model.

Funding Reasonably Expected to be Available

For the projects in Exhibit A, PSRC has confirmed that the funds are reasonably expected to be available.

PSRC's Project Tracking Policies

There is one request from King County Metro for modifications to PSRC's FTA funds. The modification was found to be consistent with PSRC's project tracking policies and was reviewed and recommended by the Transportation Operations Committee (TOC) at its meeting on March 27, 2024.

The agency requests to redistribute \$1,413,87 in 2019 and 2020 FTA 5307(Urban) funds from its "KCM System Expansion Eighth Base" project to its "Rapid Ride I Line" project. The redistribution is needed because the project was cancelled and will not proceed further due to impacts from COVID on both ridership and corresponding fleet needs. After the funds are redistributed, the "KCM System Expansion Eighth Base" project will be closed out; the "Rapid Ride I Line" project scope will remain the same as the agency is decreasing the project's total budget by the equivalent amount of local

funds.

Federal and State Fund Source Descriptions

The following federal and state funding sources are referenced in Exhibit A.

5307 (Urban)	FTA Urban Formula Funds
FBP	Ferry Boat Program provides federal funds for construction of ferryboats and ferry terminal facilities
MVA	State funds from the Motor Vehicle Account
NHPP	National Highway Performance Program provides federal funds for the condition and performance of the National Highway System

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Barnes, Program Manager, at jbarnes@psrc.org or 206-389-2876.

ATTACHMENT

A. Projects Proposed for Routine Amendment to 2023-2026 TIP

Month: April

Project(s) Proposed for Routine Amendment to 2023-2026 TIP

Year: 2024

Exhibit A

Sponsor	Project Title and Work Description	Funding		PSRC Action Needed			
				Project Tracking	New Project/ Phase	UPWP Other	Amend
1. King County Department of Transportation (Transit)	Rapid Ride I Line Existing project redistributing funds from MET-219: KCM System Expansion Eighth Base for station and stop improvements for the bus rapid transit RapidRide corridor along Metro Routes 169 and 180 between Auburn and Renton. Work includes bus shelters, benches, lighting, and signage.	\$1,413,878	Federal 5307(Urban)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$1,413,878	Total				
2. Kitsap Transit	Port Orchard Intermodal Terminal New project programming a planning phase for analysis to determine feasibility of the Port Orchard Intermodal Terminal to support operational needs, electrification infrastructure, vessel maneuverability, and upgraded pedestrian facilities.	\$851,716	Federal FBP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		\$851,716	Total				
3. WSDOT Olympic Region	SR 7/Pacific Highway Crossing and Signalization New project programming preliminary engineering and construction phases to replace the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons with pedestrian signals.	\$3,080,007	MVA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$1,958,522	Local				
		\$5,038,529	Total				
4. WSDOT South Central Region	I-90/S Fork Snoqualmie River Bridges - Seismic Retrofit New project programming a preliminary engineering phase to seismically retrofit the I-90/S Fork Snoqualmie River Bridges.	\$528,885	Federal NHPP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$45,990	MVA				
		\$574,875	Total				
5. WSDOT South Central Region	I-90/South Fork Snoqualmie River Bridge WB - Deck Rehabilitation New project programming a preliminary engineering phase to scarify and overlay the I-90/South Fork Snoqualmie River westbound bridge.	\$617,173	Federal NHPP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$53,667	MVA				
		\$670,840	Total				
6. WSDOT South Central Region	I-90/Upper Snoqualmie River Bridge WB - Seismic Retrofit New project programming a preliminary engineering phase to seismically retrofit the I-90/Upper Snoqualmie River westbound bridge.	\$374,285	Federal NHPP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$32,547	MVA				
		\$406,832	Total				



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair, Transportation Policy Board

Subject: **Approve Updates to PSRC's FTA Project Tracking Policies**

IN BRIEF

PSRC's adopted project tracking policies are designed to ensure the timely use of PSRC's federal funds and to increase the delivery of transportation investments that support the region's long-range plans. The Executive Board has recently approved revisions to the policies for PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The policies also address requirements for PSRC's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. To reflect nuances related to the new Equity Formula distribution for PSRC's FTA funds, the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) is recommending revisions to the policies to allow additional flexibility under certain conditions.

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) discussed the updated policies at their meeting on April 11, 2024 and recommended approval with one additional revision described below.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Executive Board should approve the revisions to PSRC's project tracking policies as described in this memo.

DISCUSSION

Within the Seattle-Tacoma-Everett Urbanized Area (UZA), approximately 86% of the FTA funds allocated by federal formula are based on the service and operating characteristics of the nine transit agencies in the UZA. Per adopted regional policy, this portion of the funds is distributed to each public transit agency based on their earnings, called the "earned share" distribution. The remaining funds, approximately 14%, come

to the region based on regional attributes such as population density, called the “regional” distribution. As of 2023, these regional funds are now distributed via the Equity Formula, which is a focused and intentional methodology that looks at all transit services being provided to the region’s equity focus populations and distributes funds accordingly.

PSRC’s adopted [Project Tracking Policies](#) are designed to ensure the timely use of PSRC’s federal funds and to increase the delivery of transportation investments that support the region’s long-range plans. Because Equity Formula funds are sourced from the regional portion of PSRC’s FTA funds, and based on the original purpose and intent of this distribution process as determined by PSRC’s boards, projects with these funds will follow the established project tracking policies distinct to the FTA Regional funds, which require greater accountability and expectations than the rules for FTA Earned Share funds.

However, given the unique nature of this new distribution process, PSRC worked with the TOC to review the policies and identify any appropriate revisions specific to the Equity Formula funds that may allow additional flexibility. The table below summarizes the recommended revisions to the project tracking policies for the Equity Formula funds, including an additional revision discussed at the April 11, 2024 Transportation Policy Board meeting. These revisions allow for a limited set of exceptions to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Requests for exceptions will first be reviewed by PSRC and recommended by the TOC to the Transportation Policy Board. The Transportation Policy Board will then recommend final approval by the Executive Board.

Adopted Policy	<i>Proposed Exception</i>
Equity Formula funds may not be awarded to phases that have already been awarded PSRC’s federal funds. Additional funds to a previously awarded phase would only be considered if the funds will implement new or additional scope beyond the original award.	<i>Exceptions to this may be considered to add Equity Formula funds to previously funded project phases if it will allow the project to be delivered faster or more efficiently, such as by accelerating the project schedule, reducing project costs, etc., and delivering project benefits to equity focus populations sooner.</i>
Regional FTA funds are considered delayed if they have not been transmitted in an FTA grant application by six months after their estimated obligation date. PSRC staff will consult with the TOC and FTA to determine if an extension is warranted based on whether the delay is considered “reasonable,” defined as delays due to factors outside of the sponsor’s control.	<i>Exceptions to this may include project delays due to feedback provided through community outreach.</i>

Adopted Policy	Proposed Exception
Once Equity Formula funds are awarded, funds cannot be moved between projects; funds cannot be moved between phases within a project; and the scope of projects as originally awarded may not be substantively changed.	<i>Exceptions to these rules may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and in general must demonstrate a compelling need for the deviation, including circumstances by which projects may be delivered faster or revisions needed due to community outreach with affected equity focus populations, as well as circumstances outside the agency's control that require a change in project implementation, as long as those changes serve an equity focus population to the same degree.</i>
Transit agencies may receive additional Equity Formula funds due to an increase in the Regional portion of funds as part of the FTA annual adjustments process, or from a project returning Regional funds. Agencies will use the additional funds for new Equity Formula projects or for additional work on existing Equity Formula projects.	<i>In some instances, transit agencies may receive modest amounts of additional funds that they are unable to utilize to fully fund a new project phase. In these cases, an exception could be considered to allow the agencies to instead increase the federal share of an existing Equity Formula project.</i>

At its meeting on February 28, 2024, the TOC reviewed and recommended the proposed revisions to the Project Tracking Policies to the Transportation Policy Board. The Transportation Policy Board recommended approval of these revisions at their meeting on March 14, 2024. However, due to a request by the City of Everett, at their March 28 meeting the Executive Board asked for additional discussion at the Transportation Policy Board before taking final action. Staff provided a summary and additional information on the Equity Formula distribution process and the project tracking policies at the April 11 TPB meeting. With the bolded revision in the table above, the Transportation Policy Board recommended the Executive Board approve the revised policies as presented.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Gutschow at sgutschow@psrc.org or (206) 587-4822.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair, Transportation Policy Board

Subject: **Approve 2024 Project Tracking and Extension Requests**

IN BRIEF

A requirement to meet an annual delivery target for PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds has been in place since 2013. PSRC's adopted project tracking policies identify the procedures to be followed when there is a risk the target will not be met, including the development of a supplemental funding action.

A supplemental funding action to meet the 2024 delivery target was recommended by the Transportation Policy Board and approved by the Executive Board in March. The list of 2024 projects requesting an extension is presented to the board per adopted policy for action in April. These extensions were accounted for in the estimated delivery gap discussed in March. At its meeting on April 11, the Transportation Policy Board recommended approval of the action as presented.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Executive Board should approve the actions related to 2024 project extensions as detailed in Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

Per the recently revised PSRC Project Tracking Policies, early action to increase the federal share of previously awarded projects was requested in March, to streamline the processing and approval timeframes and expedite use of the funding to help meet the region's 2024 delivery target. The estimated delivery gap discussed at that time accounted for the 2024 project extension requests.

2024 Project Extension Requests

The project tracking policies have evolved over the years to ensure the successful delivery of projects by addressing issues caused by project delays and the potential risk of losing unused funding. However, the policies recognize the challenges to project delivery, and a provision is included to allow short-term extensions for delayed projects. This provision has varied over the years to establish guidelines for allowable reasons for delays and the time allowed for the extension.

The adopted policies allow sponsors to request one of two possible extensions. The first provides a 45-day extension to allow for those projects that need a bit more time past the original June 1 deadline, but do not need until the end of the calendar year to deliver. These extensions would remain within the current fiscal year and minimize any impact on the delivery target. The second extension allows more time for those projects that are facing a greater delay, outside of the reasons noted in the policies for which an extension would not be granted. These projects would receive a one-year extension that requires approval by PSRC's boards.

PSRC staff has reviewed the requested extensions for 2024 in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the chairs of the Regional Project Evaluation Committee (RPEC) and the four countywide transportation forums. A very thorough and detailed review of every project is conducted, with an assessment of each request's consistency with the adopted project tracking policies. All except one of the one-year extension requests are recommended for approval. A summary of each project and the reason for the delay, as well as the reason behind the recommendation to deny the one request, is included in Attachment A.

As noted at the March meeting, the supplemental funding action taken at that time is anticipated to be adequate to achieve the 2024 delivery target, inclusive of the extensions requested in the current action. There have been no significant changes to the estimated 2024 delivery gap presented in March. However, there are still factors that may impact the final need, including any additional return of funds and the final funding allocations once confirmed through the federal appropriation bill. Staff will return to the board in May to confirm the final delivery target, as well as any further project delivery actions that may be required.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Barnes, Program Manager, at jbarnes@psrc.org or 206-389-2876.

ATTACHMENT

A. 2024 Project Extension Recommendations

1-Year Extensions Recommended for Approval

Sponsor	Project Title	Award Amount	Phase	Summary of Reason for Delay
Auburn	Auburn Way S (SR-164) - Hemlock to Poplar	\$3,605,087	Construction	Scope updated to add noise wall as a result of the NEPA analysis.
Bellevue	Main Street Off-Street Multimodal Pathway	\$1,041,000	Construction	Delay in right-of-way negotiation with property owner.
Bothell	Bothell Way NE Multimodal Improvements	\$6,550,000	Right-of-Way	Delay due to length of federal review of Biological Assessment for environmental permitting.
Carnation	E Entwistle/NE 45th Sidewalk	\$358,145	Construction	Delay due to coordination with Certification Acceptance agency, and in finalizing Preliminary Engineering / Design.
Issaquah	Newport Way NW Improvement Project - SR 900 to SE 54th Street	\$2,200,000	Right-of-Way	Delay due to length of federal review of Biological Assessment for environmental permitting.
King County Roads	SE Green Valley Rd and 218th Ave SE Intersection Improvement	\$319,500	Right-of-Way	Additional right-of-way needs have been identified that were not originally anticipated.
Kitsap County	Ridgetop - Mickelberry to Myhre	\$4,872,500	Right-of-Way	Delay due to length of federal review of Biological Assessment for environmental permitting.
Lynnwood	Alderwood Mall Parkway Pavement Preservation	\$750,000	Construction	Combining with another project with 2025 delivery to leverage resources and economies of scale.
Lynnwood	Scriber Creek Trail Phase 3	\$1,870,096	Construction	Delay due to length of federal review of Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application for environmental permitting and project design changes resulting from negotiations with Muckleshoot and Tulalip tribes.
Pierce County	168th Street E	\$420,000	Right-of-Way	Delay due to geotechnical requirements.
Redmond	70th Street Extension	\$2,700,000	Construction	Delay in right-of-way process negotiation with property owner.
Snohomish	Bickford & Weaver Intersection Improvements	\$394,480	Construction	Delay due to length of federal review of Biological Assessment for environmental permitting.
Sultan	US-2 / Main Street Roundabout	\$480,000	Right-of-Way	Delay due to length of federal review of Biological Assessment for environmental permitting.
Sumner	Stewart Road Corridor Completion: White River Bridge	\$4,847,380	Construction	Delay due to negotiations related to utility easements.
Washington State Ferries	Terminal Electrification - Seattle and Bainbridge Island Terminals	\$6,000,000	Construction	Coordination with FHWA and FTA to confirm lead agency for NEPA took longer than anticipated.
TOTAL:		\$36,408,188		

1-Year Extension Request Revoked

Sponsor	Project Title	Award Amount	Phase	Reason for Denial
Dupont	Center Drive Overlay Phase 4a	\$522,945	Construction	Delay is due to scope and right-of-way updates needed to accommodate additional Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design requirements that were not included in the original project's limits. In consultation with WSDOT and the chairs of RPEC and the countywide forums, it was determined that these are established requirements that should have been anticipated, and therefore the reason is not consistent with those outlined in the project tracking policies. <i>The City has opted to voluntarily return these funds and recompile in the 2024 project selection process.</i>
TOTAL:		\$522,945		

45-Day Extensions (information only)

Sponsor	Project Title	Award Amount	Phase
Arlington	Smokey Point Blvd & 188th St Roundabout	\$2,080,000	Construction
Arlington	74th Ave Trail	\$525,000	Construction
Bremerton	6th Street Preservation Phase 3, Naval Ave to Warren Ave	\$1,572,838	Construction
Bremerton	Naval Avenue: 1st Street to 15th Street Pedestrian & Bicycle Enhancement	\$2,499,600	Right-of-Way
Community Transit	Swift BRT TDM Expansion	\$1,000,000	Other
Edmonds	Main St. Overlay from 6th Ave. to 8th Ave.	\$624,800	Construction
Fircrest	Emerson West Sidewalk	\$341,956	Construction
Kirkland	Kirkland Neighborhood Greenway: Stores to Shores	\$1,608,900	Construction
Kitsap County	SR 104 Holding Lanes - ATMS	\$1,178,000	Construction
Monroe	147th Signal	\$665,000	Construction
Mukilteo	47th Place West Pavement Preservation	\$627,119	Construction
Poulsbo	Noll Road North Segment 3A	\$1,070,000	Construction
Puyallup	Valley Ave NW Overlay - Phase 1 & 2	\$1,155,000	Construction
Redmond	West Lake Sammamish Parkway Preservation	\$1,169,000	Construction
Seattle	Alaskan Way Protected Bike Lane	\$2,000,000	Construction
Tacoma	Water Ditch Trail Phase IIIB	\$3,316,860	Construction
TOTAL:		\$21,434,073	



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 18, 2024

ACTION ITEM

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Dave Somers, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: **Recommend Adoption of Fiscal Years 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program**

IN BRIEF

On Thursday, April 25, 2024, the Operations Committee will be asked to recommend to the Executive Board the Fiscal Years 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program for adoption by the General Assembly on May 30, 2024.

An April approval by the Executive Board is needed to stay on schedule for adoption at the May 30th General Assembly.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. **Recommend that the Executive Board approve the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program and recommend adoption by the General Assembly on May 30, 2024.**
2. **Recommend that the General Assembly adopt Resolution PSRC-A-2024-01 authorizing the submittal of the adopted Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program.**

BUDGET IMPACT

The proposed FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program of \$44.8 million is based on revenue and expense assumptions illustrated in Tables 1 through 7, beginning on page 20 of the Draft Supplemental FY2024-2025 Biennial Budget and Work Program Document.

BACKGROUND

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and state designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the four-county area and has specific responsibilities under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs (IIJA) Act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Clean Air Act (CAA), the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), the Economic Development Act (EDA) and the Interlocal Agreement approved by PSRC members.

PSRC is funded through a combination of federal and state grants and local funds. The federal grants traditionally make up nearly 80 percent of the funding, while state grants contribute about 5 percent. Local funds provide approximately 15 percent and are used to match the state and federal grants, and fund work not covered by federal and state grants.

PSRC's major activities in the FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Budget and Work Program will build on and enhance efforts begun with the FY 2024-2025 Adopted Budget, focusing on meeting mandates and continuing to provide essential services to members. The budget contains the following elements: Planning Management, Regional Growth Planning, Transportation Planning, Economic Development, Data, Council Support, Communications and Administrative Services.

The Operations Committee, which has primary responsibility for developing the annual Budget and Work Program began work on the budget in September with a review of key dates. In October, the committee reviewed the revenue and expenditure assumptions as well as PSRC's financial policies. The resulting draft Budget and Work Program received a final review by the Operations Committee on December 7, 2023.

The Executive Board, Transportation Policy Board, Growth Management Policy Board and Economic Development District Board were given information on the proposed draft Supplemental Budget and Work Program in January 2024.

By the conclusion of their April 25th meeting, the Operations Committee will have finalized a recommended Budget and Work Program for presentation to the Executive Board for approval at their meeting on April 25th, 2024. The action to adopt the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program by the General Assembly is contingent upon Executive Board approval in April.

To view the proposed Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program, Fiscal Years 2024-2025 online, please refer to: <https://www.psrc.org/about/budget>

If you have questions, please call Andrew Werfelmann, PSRC Budget Manager, at

(206) 688-8220 or email awerfelmann@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Resolution PSRC-A-2024-01



Puget Sound Regional Council

RESOLUTION NO. PSRC-A-2024-01

**A RESOLUTION of the Puget Sound Regional Council
Authorizing Submittal of the Fiscal Years 2024-2025 Supplemental
Biennial Budget and Work Program**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), at its meeting on May 30, 2024, adopted the Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, that the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council is authorized to submit to the federal and state agencies the grant application to carry out the Biennial Budget and Work Program, and all supporting information, including procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Economic Development Administration; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Federal Aviation Administration; the United States Geological Survey and the Washington State Department of Transportation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Director is designated as the authorized official to execute grant contracts on behalf of the Puget Sound Regional Council with the United States Department of Transportation, the Economic Development Administration; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Federal Aviation Administration; the United States Geological Survey; and the Washington State Department of Transportation in support of the adopted budget and work program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of PSRC is authorized to incur costs beginning on July 1, 2024, and receive planning monies from the federal and state agencies and local jurisdictions pursuant to the adopted Biennial Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 for the Puget Sound Regional Council.

ADOPTED by the Assembly this 30th day of May 2024.

Becky Erickson, Mayor
City of Poulsbo
President, Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTEST: _____
Josh Brown, Executive Director



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

April 18, 2024

To: Executive Board

From: Josh Brown, Executive Director

Subject: **Climate Commitment Act Briefing**

IN BRIEF

House Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbon (34th LD), Transportation Committee Chair Jake Fey (27th LD) and Becky Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate in Governor Inslee's office, will provide an update on the funding impacts of the Climate Commitment Act, Washington's cap-and-invest program targeted at reducing carbon pollution and achieving greenhouse gas limits.

DISCUSSION

The [Climate Commitment Act](#) (CCA), Washington's cap-and-invest program targeted at reducing carbon pollution and achieving greenhouse gas limits, was adopted by the legislature in 2020. The program works by setting an emissions limit, or cap and then lowering that cap over time to ensure Washington meets greenhouse gas reduction commitments [set in state law](#). The goal of the program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050.

The legislature appropriated \$2.1 billion in CCA revenues for the 2023-25 biennium. Majority of funding goes toward transportation and buildings, the two largest sources of pollution in Washington state. You can find details about the 2023-25 investments [here](#).

In the 2024 supplemental budgets the legislature invested:

- \$248 million in the supplemental operating budget with investments in the Growth Management Act Climate Change Implementation, Clean Energy Ambassadors and Navigators and the Families Clean Energy Credits that will provide \$200 to low-income households. [Full List](#)

- \$688 million in the supplemental capital budget with investments in clean energy, salmon recovery and higher education energy and related programs. [Full List](#) (page 3).
- \$339 million in the supplemental transportation budget with investments in ferry hybrid-electric vessel construction and vessel and terminal electrification; active transportation projects, Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnerships (ZEVIP) Grant Program alternative fuel charging infrastructure grants for state highways, port electrification and public transportation. [Full List](#) (p. 1-3).

Initiative 2117 to repeal the CCA is on the ballot in November 2025. CCA investments made in the 2024 supplemental budgets are effective on January 1, 2025, and will lapse if initiative 2117 passes.

[House Majority Leader Joe Fitzgibbon](#), who represents West Seattle, and Ms. Kelley from Governor Inslee's office will discuss the climate-related investments made with the CCA and the impact on the operating and capital budgets. [House Transportation Chair Fey](#), who represents Tacoma, will discuss the transportation related CCA investments and the overall impact on the transportation budget.

For more information contact Robin Koskey at rkoskey@psrc.org or 206-798-4462.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

April 18, 2024

To: Executive Board
From: Josh Brown, Executive Director
Subject: **Federal Legislative Update**

IN BRIEF

PSRC's federal consultants, Leslie Pollner and Lauri Hettinger, Senior Policy Advisors from Holland & Knight, will provide a timely update on federal policy, funding and legislative efforts in Washington, DC.

DISCUSSION

PSRC began working with Holland & Knight (H&K) in December 2022 with a two-year contract approved by the Executive Board. H&K provides PSRC with advice, expert information and relationship building support on federal affairs, legislation and programs. The law firm has expertise and capacity to provide in-depth analysis of federal legislation and provide updates on federal programs and funding opportunities, adding capacity for PSRC staff. H&K also facilitates deepened relationship building with federal agency staff, and members of the federal delegation and staff. PSRC staff meet with H&K weekly to remain up to date on what is happening in Washington, DC.

Ms. Pollner and Ms. Hettinger will be presenting virtually.

Biographies

Leslie I. Pollner, Senior Policy Advisor

[Leslie Pollner](#) is co-leader of Holland & Knight's Local Government Group and a member of the firm's Public Policy & Regulation Group. Ms. Pollner focuses on several key industries, including transportation, economic development and housing. Her extensive experience in government at both the federal and local level allows her to help clients develop innovative solutions and advocacy strategies to achieve results.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Pollner was the deputy mayor for federal affairs in Los Angeles under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. She led the City of Los Angeles' office in Washington, D.C., directed its federal advocacy efforts and managed lobbying teams at the Los Angeles port, airport and public utilities commissions. Ms. Pollner was also the principal liaison with the U.S. Conference of Mayors while Mayor Villaraigosa was the president of the organization and worked with mayors across the country on key issues, including building a coalition to support the transportation reauthorization bill.

Prior to that, Ms. Pollner was a two-time chief of staff for U.S. Reps. Suzanne Kosmas and Tim Mahoney, both of Florida. She has also worked in public affairs consulting and crisis communications support for Fortune 500 companies and helped develop communications strategies for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, concentrating on the nonprofit's education investments.

Lauri A. Hettinger, Senior Policy Advisor

[Lauri Hettinger](#) is a senior policy advisor in the Public Policy & Regulation Group in the Washington, D.C., office of Holland & Knight. Ms. Hettinger advocates for local government municipalities' and industry's infrastructure needs, including surface transportation, water resources, economic development and Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Ms. Hettinger served as staff director for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member, George Voinovich (R-OH). In this role, she served as his primary advisor on transportation, water infrastructure, environment, Army Corps of Engineers and economic development. Ms. Hettinger also served as a legislative assistant to Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN), handling his infrastructure, environment, energy and appropriations issues. During the 2002 election cycle, Ms. Hettinger was a senior research analyst for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. She started her legislative career in the office of Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) as a legislative correspondent.

For more information contact Robin Koskey at rkoskey@psrc.org or 206-798-4462.

Summer Planning Academy (SPA) for High School Students

Are you curious about how cities grow, change, and develop? Have you ever wondered how governments decide where train lines should go? Do you have ideas about how to make our communities better places for everyone? If so, you should apply for the Summer Planning Academy (SPA)!



Puget Sound Regional Council



The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is looking for high school students from King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties who want to learn about urban planning in our region and share ideas about how to make the central Puget Sound region a better place to live, work, and play.

SPA is a leadership development opportunity offered free of charge to students interested in planning a better future for our region. The program encourages students to think creatively about how better planning can help people lead better lives.

Upon successful completion of SPA, students are eligible to receive a **\$500** scholarship. SPA sessions will take place in Downtown Seattle on August 7, 9, 14, and 16.

To learn more about PSRC, SPA, and to apply, go to www.psrc.org/our-work/summer-planning-academy or scan the QR code.

Questions? Email us at spa@psrc.org.



Steve Nevey

Assistant Secretary / Executive Director

Washington State Ferries

Steve is a seasoned mariner, whose professional journey began at the Warsash Maritime Academy in Southampton, England, supported by a Chevron scholarship, which paved the way for his training as a deck officer. During his four-year tenure at Warsash, he alternated between rigorous academic studies in maritime operations and hands-on apprenticeship aboard Chevron ships. Post-graduation, Steve sailed as a deck officer on Chevron vessels, eventually leading him to diverse maritime endeavors ranging from ferries in Scotland to private yachts in the Caribbean and large Cruise Ships. Steve's seagoing career has taken him to all seven continents.



In 2008, Steve's trajectory shifted when he was seconded to Holland America's Seattle office, contributing his expertise to a pivotal ship retrofit project. This marked his transition to shoreside marine management, where he cultivated a multifaceted skill set encompassing ship retrofits, fuel-saving initiatives, crew scheduling, and global operations management. Notably, Steve played a pivotal role in Holland America's pandemic response, including orchestrating the repatriations of thousands of crew members worldwide amidst unprecedented global challenges.

Joining Washington State Ferries in 2021 as the Director of Operations, Steve harnessed his extensive maritime background to navigate the restoration of operations post-pandemic while fortifying the system for long-term resilience. He spearheaded the establishment of the 'Office of Operational Excellence,' focusing on innovative solutions to complex operational challenges. Steve's initiatives, including the AB (Able-bodied Sailor) to Mate program and scholarship partnerships with maritime institutions, have fostered pathways for career advancement and addressed critical workforce needs.

In March 2024, Steve was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary / Executive Director of Washington State Ferries, marking a pivotal milestone in his maritime career. For Steve, leading the men and women of the iconic Washington State Ferries, the largest ferry system in the United States, is an honor of a lifetime. Embracing this role with fervor and dedication, he remains steadfast in his commitment to steering WSF towards continued excellence and innovation in maritime transportation.

Originally from the West Midlands in England, Steve has called the Pacific Northwest home since 2008, proudly becoming a U.S. citizen in 2017. Currently residing in the Seattle area with his wife Nicole and two daughters, he enjoys both playing and watching soccer.



REGISTER NOW!

Puget Sound Regional Council

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

 **May 30, 2024 | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

 **Seattle Convention Center – Summit Building**
900 Pine Street
Seattle, WA 98122

PSRC's General Assembly will meet on **May 30, 2024**.

All mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers of PSRC member jurisdictions and tribes have votes at the Assembly and are encouraged to participate.

Detailed agenda coming soon.

[Register here.](#)

For questions, please contact **Sheila Rogers** at (206) 354-6560 or email srogers@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

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