



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

**Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board
June 13, 2024
1201 3rd Ave., Ste 500, Seattle, WA 98101**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Mayor Ralph, Chair. Mayor 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 to the meeting live.

Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Mayor Ralph encouraged members to provide their feedback on today's topics.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that PSRC had a successful General Assembly on May 30. She thanked those that attended.

The board will continue discussions on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) over the next few months. The board will be briefed on the financial strategy and safety at today's meeting.

PSRC has had two meetings with Tribal partners to discuss how PSRC can support their work on safety and collaborate as part of the development of the Regional Safety Action Plan.

Ms. McGourty reminded the board that the project selection process is underway. Project recommendations and an assessment of the changes made to the process will be provided to the board next month.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held May 9, 2024
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

DISCUSSION ITEM: DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Gary Simonson, PSRC, noted that the board was initially briefed on the scope of the Regional Safety Action plan in the fall of 2023. Mr. Simonson provided background on the purpose of the plan, how it's funded and the schedule for the development.

Current data collection and analysis efforts will support a data-driven State of the Region Report that is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. The Regional Safety Action Plan will identify strategies and tools within the context of various geographies and other typologies to improve safety in the region. Mr. Simonson noted that the Transportation Policy Board and the Executive Board will have opportunities to share feedback on these draft strategies and safety countermeasures in the coming months. The plan is projected to be adopted in the spring of 2025. Jurisdictions can then use the plan to address their unique contexts and specific safety issues.

Craig Helmann, PSRC, noted that PSRC is working with a nationally recognized consultant team on this work. He then shared an overview of safety data trends in the region. Data will be summarized in the State of the Region Report and included in the public outreach process. Mr. Helmann noted differences in the safety data related to typologies such as regional geographies, demographics and others. Data collected to support the plan will be available to members online in a web app where the information can be downloaded. As part of the plan a high injury network will be developed, and jurisdictions will be able to prioritize areas with the highest rates of serious injuries and traffic deaths.

Members asked about the inclusion in the data of various factors such as vehicle weight, speed and age as contributing factors. Members discussed the relevance of enforcement tools and driver education to addressing safety.

Veronica Sullivan, DKS Associates, gave an overview of the State of the Practice and best practices in the region to address safety. Ms. Sullivan discussed the Safe System

Approach and its principles. She shared examples of best practices such as smart traffic signs, safer vehicles technologies, education programs, speed limit policies, roundabouts and emergency response procedures.

Ms. Sullivan also shared the results of a survey conducted with jurisdictions and partners throughout the region and details of a recent focus group.

Mr. Simonson shared details of the public involvement plan, which will include community meetings, an online open house, focus groups and other engagement opportunities. Outreach to PSRC staff committees and other regional stakeholders will also be conducted.

Members asked about equity and the involvement of the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC). Staff shared that a major component of the engagement strategy is outreach to PSRC's Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) and events that are community oriented. Discussions and collaboration with the EAC on the outreach plan have been occurring.

Mr. Simonson closed the presentation with next steps and a reminder of the schedule and key deliverables over the next year.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that today's presentation is a deeper dive into the RTP financial strategy. This will include federal and state requirements, how revenues are estimated and forecast, investments that are funded with the strategy and current and future revenue challenges.

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC, reviewed federal and state requirements for the plan, which must identify reasonable available sources and revenues to fund all investments. This is referred to as the financially constrained plan. Mr. Bakkenta explained current law revenues are those sources that are authorized and expected over the life of the plan. He also noted that new revenue sources can be identified. As part of the development of the plan, PSRC conducts a call for major capacity projects across modes and asks for information on timelines and costs. These investments are included in the plan's expenditures, along with local transportation system needs and estimates for maintenance, preservation and operations.

Mr. Bakkenta provided background on how PSRC estimates and forecasts current law revenues into the future and the categories of these revenue sources. He also shared details of the parameters considered when evaluating new revenue sources. These parameters were originally developed by the Transportation Futures Task Force convened in 2015-2016 and include factors such as expected yield, emissions reduction potential, political viability, costs and other constraints. The plan includes a menu of new revenue options included in the financial strategy.

Mr. Bakkenta reviewed the overall amount of the current plan at \$300 billion. The next plan to be adopted in 2026 will review and update the financial strategy assumptions and estimation. Mr. Bakkenta reviewed current plan revenues and expenditures. He noted gaps in current law revenues, particularly for local transit and how the new revenue assumptions meet those needs.

Ms. McGourty shared that there are policy choices built into the plan and financial strategy. She noted the substantial investment in additional transit service and fully funding the region's maintenance and preservation needs, in particular replacement of the aging ferry fleet. Ms. McGourty described the revenue challenges into the future, for example the declining revenues of the gas tax. Cars are getting more fuel efficient in general, and the advancing decarbonization of the system further impacts the revenue potential from the gas tax. In addition, in the future, a significant proportion of the gas tax will be dedicated to debt service payments. She also highlighted that the federal Highway Trust Fund balances are exhausted by 2028 without additional transfers.

Ms. McGourty reminded the board that the current plan investments are covered at 86% with current law revenues and 14% from new revenue sources. These figures will be updated with the new plan. Ms. McGourty shared that pricing strategies are a key component of PSRC's Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy, as they both provide revenues and manage demand on the system. PSRC is in discussion with state legislators and others on the future of a road usage charge leading into the next legislative session and more information will be brought back to the board as it becomes available.

Ms. McGourty asked for feedback from members on the menu of new revenue options included in the current plan: are there new sources to consider, are some unviable, and are there other factors to consider. She noted that PSRC will be conducting sensitivity tests on the financial strategy to understand outcomes informing system performance, emissions, levels of investment and investment potential by different uses and operators.

Members discussed the timing of PSRC's analyses in comparison to decisions being made at the state level. Members discussed local on-demand transit options above and beyond service provided by transit agencies.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2024.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

ATTACHMENT

A. Attendance Roster – June 13, 2024.

| Transportation Policy Board - June 13, 2024 | | | | 05.a - Att. A | |
|--|----|---|----|--|--------------------------------------|
| Voting Members | | | ✓ | Non-voting Members | ✓ |
| King County | 2 | CM Jorge Barón | 1 | Associate Members | |
| | | Vacant | | Island County | 1 |
| | | Vacant Alt | | | COMM Melanie Bacon |
| Seattle | 2 | CM Rob Saka | 1 | Thurston Regional Planning Council | 1 |
| | | CM Robert Kettle | 1 | | MYR Andy Ryder, Lacey |
| | | CM Tanya Woo, Alt | | | Marc Daily |
| Bellevue | 1 | CM Dave Hamilton | 1 | Public Agency Members | |
| | | CM Jared Nieuwenhuis Alt | | Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board | 1 |
| Cities/Towns | 3 | MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair | 1 | | Vacant |
| | | MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah | | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency | 1 |
| | | CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac | 1 | | CM Megan Dunn |
| | | CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt | | Public Health | 1 |
| | | DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt | 1 | | Jessica Jeavons, Seattle-King County |
| | | CM Matt Mahoney, Des Moines Alt | | WA Tran. Improvement Board | 1 |
| Local Transit | 1 | CM Rod Dembowski | | | Dennis Worsham, Snohomish Co. Alt |
| | | Vacant Alt | | PSRC Committees | |
| Kitsap County | 1 | COM Christine Rolfes | | Equity Advisory Cmte. | 1 |
| | | COM Charlotte Garrido Alt | | | Annie Tran |
| Bremerton | 1 | MYR Greg Wheeler | 1 | | Julius Moss Alt |
| | | CP Jennifer Chamberlin Alt | | Regional Staff Cmte. | 1 |
| Cities/Towns | 1 | CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl | 1 | | Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake |
| | | CM Doug Newell, Poulsbo Alt | | Regional Project Evaluation Cmte. | 1 |
| Local Transit | 1 | MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard | 1 | | Kelly Snyder, Snohomish Co. Alt |
| | | CM Anna Mockler, Bremerton | | Transit Operators Cmte. | 1 |
| | | | | | Doug McCormick, Snohomish Co. |
| Pierce County | 1 | CM Ryan Mello, Vice Chair | 1 | Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor | |
| | | CM Dave Morell Alt | | WA Trucking Associations | 1 |
| Tacoma | 1 | CM Kristina Walker | 1 | exp. 12/31/26 | Sheri Call |
| | | CM Olgy Diaz Alt | | Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce | 1 |
| Cities & Towns | 1 | CM Tim Ceder, Milton | | exp. 12/31/26 | Lorelei Williams, WSP USA |
| | | MYR Pro Tem Edward Wood, University Place Alt | | | Amy Grotefendt, Enviroissues Alt |
| Local Transit | 1 | CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County | | Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment | |
| | | DEP MYR John Hines, Tacoma | | TBD | |
| | | | | Non-voting | 12 |
| Snohomish County | 1 | CM Jared Mead | 1 | | Non-voting members present |
| | | CM Strom Peterson Alt | | | 10 |
| Everett | 1 | CM Ben Zarlingo | 1 | | |
| | | MYR Cassie Franklin Alt | | | |
| Cities/Towns | 1 | CM Jan Schuette, Arlington | 1 | | |
| | | 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 | 1 | | |
| | | COM Nicole Grant Alt | | | |
| WSDOT | 1 | Robin Mayhew | 1 | | Abbreviations |
| | | Todd Lamphere Alt | 1 | | CHRMN Chairman |
| Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum) | | | | | CM Councilmember |
| House Transportation Cmte. | 2 | Vacant | | | CP Council President |
| | | REP Jake Fey, D Alt | | | COM Commissioner |
| | | REP Dan Griffey, R | | | DEP MYR Deputy Mayor |
| | | REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt | | | MYR Mayor |
| Senate Transportation Cmte. | 2 | SEN Marko Lias, D | | | MYR Pro Tem |
| | | SEN Emily Randall, D Alt | | | REP Representative |
| | | Vacant, R | | | SEN Senator |
| | | Vacant, R Alt | | | |
| Voting | 32 | (Quorum = 14) Quorum Total | 19 | | |
| | | Total Voting members present | 20 | | |