

Regional Transportation Plan Development Process

Executive Board
October 24, 2024



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.
psrc.org/equity

Today's Discussion

- Schedule for adopting RTP Scope
- Review of draft approach
- Upcoming work through Spring 2025



Current Schedule of Work

- **October** – Review draft approach for RTP scope
- **November** – Transportation Policy Board recommends approval of RTP scope to Executive Board
- **November through Spring 2025** – Review of financial strategy
 - Sensitivity testing and scenario development
 - Set parameters for new sources and assumptions
 - Will influence project / investment submissions into the plan



Regional Transportation Plan Direction

The current RTP calls for a “major” update to the next plan, to respond to new challenges and opportunities:

- Significant changes in the transportation system and needs, e.g., expansion of the high-capacity transit system and changes to travel behavior post-pandemic
- Continued regional growth and the climate crisis
- Changes in the federal and state funding environment

Direction also calls for the next plan to include environmental analysis and consider innovative approaches to regional planning



Preliminary Work Since February

- gathered board feedback on policy priorities and analysis needs
- updating inventories and data collection of the transportation system
- updating models and tools to align with identified policy priorities
- conferred with peer agencies around the country and internationally on key issues and best practices
- began development of the [Regional Safety Action Plan](#)
- partnered with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on developing the [Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans](#)
- consulted with PSRC's SEPA attorneys on the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the next plan



Draft RTP Scoping Approach

First and foremost, the primary basis for the scope of the next RTP is **VISION 2050**, which has the following Transportation goal:

The region has a sustainable, equitable, affordable, safe, and efficient multimodal transportation system, with specific emphasis on an integrated regional transit network that supports the Regional Growth Strategy and promotes vitality of the economy, environment, and health.



Draft RTP Scoping Approach

Key investments that are integral to achieving this goal include:

- significant ongoing expansion of the high-capacity transit system
- expansion of supportive local transit service
- achieving state of good repair goals for maintaining and preserving the existing and future system

Board feedback to date on policy priorities for the next plan have confirmed the commitment to this vision, including the priority focus on climate, safety, equity, support for the regional growth strategy (land use), maintenance & preservation, ferries, etc.



Draft RTP Scoping Approach

Additional **significant** and potentially **transformational** elements of the next plan include:

- Regional Safety Action Plan
- Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
- Reevaluation of the Financial Strategy
- Continued analysis and monitoring of equity
- Analysis of changing travel behavior
- Regional transit access assessment
- Emerging stormwater issues and mitigation
- Growth targets and investments from 2024 comprehensive plans



Draft RTP Scoping Approach

Proposed **reframing** of the plan document –

- leading with identified VISION 2050 outcomes and policy priorities
- clear information provided on plan performance and challenges to implementation
 - *how the plan – the investments, elements and actions – helps to achieve the outcomes*
 - *the barriers and/or necessary steps to implementation*



Environmental Review

PSRC conducts detailed, robust analyses and reports on numerous and varied performance metrics for the plan, including:

- Vehicle miles traveled
- Trips by mode – drive alone, carpool, transit, walk, bike
- Travel time and delay
- Transit ridership by mode
- Households and jobs near transit
- Metrics by equity focus area
- Criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions



Environmental Review

Under consultation with PSRC's SEPA attorneys, an Addendum is suitable for the next plan based on the following:

- Scenarios will be developed, guided by board direction, that will inform plan investment portfolios and alternatives
 - *PSRC will report on the majority of applicable metrics regardless of the level of SEPA documentation*
- No scenario or alternative is expected to create *new significant adverse environmental impacts* from what was analyzed in previous RTP or VISION analyses
 - *The next RTP is still guided by VISION 2050 and the board identified policy priorities*



Plan Investment Submissions

PSRC will gather information on all planned investments through 2050 for board consideration --

- **Programmatic:** maintenance & preservation, system operations, local investments
 - *Will include board direction on regional policies & assumptions for State of Good Repair, local transit service expansion*
- **Regional Capacity Projects:** additions or modifications to the identified regional transportation system, across modes – roadway, transit & ferries, bicycle/pedestrian



Schedule of Work

	2024				2025												2026				
	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Financial Strategy Reevaluation and Scenario Development																					
Project and Investment Submittals for Board Consideration																					
Identification of Draft Plan Alternatives																					
Policy Direction on Draft Plan Elements (incl. Safety & Climate Action Plans)																					
Draft Plan / Alternatives Modeling																					
Review of Modeling Results / Board Discussion and Plan Refinements																					
Draft Plan Public Review Process																					
Board Review of Public Comments / Final Plan Development																					
Transportation Policy Board / Executive Board Recommendation of RTP																					
General Assembly Action / Adoption of RTP																					



Discussion

Board feedback on the draft RTP Scoping approach?

- Major elements outlined today for the work ahead
- Financial strategy scenario testing and analysis
- Reframing of the plan

