

Regional Transportation Plan Development Process

Regional Staff Committee
November 21, 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



Revised Schedule of Work

- **October** – Review draft approach for RTP scope
- **November** – recommend approval of RTP scope to Executive Board
- **December** – Executive Board action on RTP scope
- **November through Spring 2025** – review of financial strategy
 - Sensitivity testing
 - Scenario development
 - Set parameters for new sources and assumptions
 - Feeds into request for project / investment submissions



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



2024 Work Program

- Board feedback on policy priorities and analysis needs
- Updating of inventories and data collection of the transportation system
- Updating of models and tools to align with identified policy priorities
- Peer agency review on key issues and best practices
- [Regional Safety Action Plan](#) underway
- Partnership with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and others on developing the regional [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.



RTP Scoping Approach

Board feedback to date on policy priorities for the next plan have confirmed the commitment to this vision



RTP Scoping Approach

Additional significant elements of the next plan include:

- 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
- Identify actions and outcomes



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
 - *PSRC will report on the majority of applicable metrics regardless of the level of SEPA documentation*
- No scenario 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*



Next Steps

- **October** – Reviewed draft approach for RTP scope
- **November** – recommended approval of RTP scope to Executive Board
- **November through Spring 2025** – review of financial strategy
 - Sensitivity testing
 - Scenario development
 - Set parameters for new sources and assumptions
 - Feeds into request for project / investment submissions



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 Consideration																					
Policy Direction on Draft Plan Elements (incl. Safety & Climate action plans)																					
Draft Plan / Scenario Modeling																					
Review Preliminary Modeling / Scenario Analysis Results																					
Further Board Discussion and Refinements																					
Draft Plan Development																					
Draft Plan Public Review Process																					
Board Review of Public Comments / Final Draft Plan Development																					
Transportation Policy Board / Executive Board Recommendation of Draft Plan																					
General Assembly Action / Adoption of RTP																					



Questions?

Gil Cerise

Program Manager

gcerise@psrc.org

Kelly McGourty

Director of Transportation
Planning

kmcgourty@psrc.org



Puget Sound Regional Council