



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026 from 9:30-11:15 am

1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30) – *Ben Bakkenta, PSRC*

2. Reports (9:35)

- a. Meeting Summary for December 18, 2025*
- b. PSRC Announcements and Updates

3. Discussion Item (9:45)

- a. Federal and State Government Relations Updates* – *Robin Koskey & Alyssa Quinn, PSRC*

4. Discussion Item (10:00)

- a. Draft RTP Public Comments – Initial Assessment* – *Noah Boggess & Ben Bakkenta, PSRC*

5. Discussion Item (10:15)

- a. Housing Incentives and Tools Survey Results* – *David Dixon, PSRC*

6. Discussion Item (10:45)

- a. Regional Centers Redesignation and Monitoring* – *Liz Underwood-Bultmann & Nancy Ferber, PSRC*

7. Information Item

- a. Board Topics Calendar*

8. Next Meeting: March 5, 2026

9. Adjourn (11:15)

*Supporting materials attached.

Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join via a smart device or web browser, go to <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/88457437689?pwd=oTQv7TgaTQLPKrao4mkSaLNEmiuuV.1> and enter Meeting ID: 884 5743 7689 and Passcode: 049768.
- To join by phone, call 888 475 4499 US Toll-free or 833 548 0276 US Toll-free and enter Meeting ID: 884 5743 7689 and Passcode: 049768.

- Arabic | 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>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee Meeting Summary

Date: December 18, 2025

Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website:

<https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings>.

Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

Introductions and Announcements

Jason Sullivan, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Participants were asked to view the meeting attendance on the “chat” feature on Zoom, and phone-in participants were asked to identify themselves verbally.

Reports

Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, welcomed members and shared that the Federal Way station of the link light rail recently opened, connecting the region further to the south.

Ben then introduced Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, to update the committee on federal and state government updates.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Discussion: Draft Regional Transportation Plan Release and Public Comment

Throughout 2025, the Transportation Policy Board has worked on a new Regional Transportation Plan. At their December 11 meeting, the Transportation Policy Board will be asked to direct staff to develop and release a draft of the Regional Transportation Plan for public review and comment. At the December RSC meeting, Ben Bakkenta provided an overview of the draft plan and provided a demonstration of the draft RTP Engagement Hub.

For more information, please contact Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at bbakkenta@psrc.org.

Discussion: Around the Room Highlights

RSC members shared noteworthy events or projects from their jurisdictions in 2025.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Members and Alternates Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC

Kalon Thomas, PSRC

Gil Cerise, PSRC

Robin Koskey, PSRC

Sarah Warsame, PSRC

Katie Enders, PSRC

Brian Lee, PSRC

Nancy Ferber, PSRC

Pauline Mogilevsky, KRCC

Paul Inghram, PSRC

Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC

Jeff Aken, WA State Department of Commerce

ATTACHMENTS:

A. RSC Member Attendance for the December 18, 2025 Meeting

PSRC Regional Staff Committee - Attendance Roster

2.a - Att. A

Jurisdiction	Member	Jurisdiction	Member
King County		Federal, Regional, State, Tribal & Other Agencies	
2	Ivan Miller, King County Executive Office	FHWA	1 Matthew Pahs, Community Planner
	McCaela Daffern, King County		Vacant Alt
	Rebecca Maskin, Demographer Alt		
	Valerie Kendall, King County Alt	FTA	1 Danielle Casey
At-Large	2 Vacant		Vacant Alt
	Kwame Simmons, Policy Advisor Alt	Health	1 Cristina Ciupitu-Plath, Snohomish County
	Dan Cardwell, Local Services/Utilities, King Co	R	Richard Gelb, King County Alt
	Susan McLain, Local Services/Subarea Planning Alt	Ports	1 Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs
Transit	1 Peter Heffernan, King Co Metro	R	Deirdre Wilson, Northwest Seaport Alliance Alt
	Hester Serebrin, King County Metro Alt	PSCAA	1 Jennifer Keene, Program Director
Economic Dev.	1 Amie Danielewicz, King Co Exec Office Alt	R	Kathy Strange, Air Quality Programs Alt
	Jesse Reynolds, Local Services/Econ Dev Alt	Puget Sound	1 Larry Epstein, Deputy Director
Seattle	2 Michael Hubner, OPCD	Partnership	Bebhinn Dechery Alt
	Jonathan Lewis, SDOT	R	Sound Transit
	Jim Holmes, OPCD Alt		1 Alex Krieg, Planning & Innovation
	Joanna Valencia, SDOT Alt	Tribal Representative	1 Vacant
Bellevue	1 Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, Comm Dev	R	Representatives
	Lacey Jane Wolfe, Alt	US EPA	1 Susan Sturges
	Laura Benjamin-LaPitz, Alt		Erik Peterson Alt
Cities/Towns	3 Minnie Dhaliwal, City of Issaquah	R	US HUD
	Eric Perry, City of Renton	R	1 Vacant
	Mark Rigos, City of North Bend	WA Dept. of	Vacant Alt
	John Vicente, City of Kenmore, Alt	Commerce	1 Grace Yoo
	Beckye Frey, City of Redmond, Alt	R	Keith Swenson
	Rhonda Ender, City of Carnation, Alt	WSDOT	1 April Delchamps, WSDOT
		R	Matthew Kenna, WSDOT Alt
Kitsap County	1 Rafe Wysham, Kitsap County	R	PSRC Committees
	Scott Diener, Alt	PSRC Co-Chair	1 Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning
At-Large	1 Heather Wright, Planning Director	RPEC	1 Doug McCormick, RPEC Chair
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt		Shane Weber, RPEC Vice Chair
Transit	1 Edward Covello, Kitsap Transit	R	R = Remote attendance
	Vacant Alt		
Economic Dev.	1 Joe Morrison, KEDA		
	Vacant Alt		
Bremerton	1 Andrea Spencer, Community Dev, Co-Chair	R	
	Garrett Jackson, Planning Manager, Alt		
Cities/Towns	1 Nick Bond, Comm Development, Port Orchard		
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt		
Pierce County	1 Mike Galizio, Multimodal Transportation Supervisor		
	Alon Bassok, PPW Long Range Planning Manager, Alt		
At-Large	2 Tiffany Speir, Lakewood, Planning		
	Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake, Planning, Co-Chair	R	
	Ryan Windish, Sumner, Alt		
	Angelia Stahlnecker, Milton, Alt		
Transit	1 Andrew Arnes, Pierce Transit	R	
	Tina Lee, Pierce Transit, Alt		
Economic Dev	1 Rob Allen, Economic Development		
	Vacant Alt		
Tacoma	1 Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager		
	Steve Atkinson, Principal Planner Alt		
Cities/Towns	1 Kendall Wals, Puyallup	R	
	Chris Larson, Fife, Alt		
Snohomish County	1 Mike McCrary, PDS Director	R	
	Darren Groth, Division Mgr, Long Range Planning	R	
At-Large	2 Kelly Snyder, Director, Co-Chair		
	Ken Klein, Executive Director		
	Jay Larson, Public Works Supervisor, Alt		
	Joshua Dugan, Exec Operations Officer, Alt		
Transit	1 Melissa Cauley, Community Transit		
	Sabina Araya, Everett Transit Alt	R	
Economic Dev	1 Mike Fong, Economic Dev		
	Vacant Alt		
Everett	1 York Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director	R	
	Alice Ann Wetzel, Long Range Planning Mgr	R	
Cities/Towns	1 Russ Wright, Lake Stevens, Comm Dev. Director		
	Karl Almgren, Lynnwood, Alt	R	
Total Members	45	Attended	29



Puget Sound Regional Council

February 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: Robin Koskey, Director Government Relations and Communications

Subject: Federal and State Government Relations Updates

IN BRIEF

PSRC continues to track federal developments and the work of the Washington State Legislature related to regional budget and policy priorities. PSRC's Director of Government Relations and Communications, Robin Koskey and Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, will brief the committee on recent federal and state activity and policy proposals.

BOARD CALENDAR

The Growth Management, Transportation, and Executive Boards will continue to be briefed on state legislative developments at their monthly meetings throughout the 2026 session and on federal developments as critical issues emerge.

DISCUSSION

Federal

PSRC continues to monitor the impact of proposed legislation, rule-making, and federal funding directives for our region, including progress on appropriations, Contiuum of Care and surface transportation reauthorization. We are also keeping in close contact with members of our federal delegation to relay consequences of actions at the federal level to local governments and our region.

State

The Washington State Legislature began their 60-day, short legislative session on January 12, 2026, and PSRC is tracking legislative proposals and the Legislature's

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response to Governor Ferguson's proposed supplemental budget.

The Regional Staff Committee will be briefed on federal and state budget and policy developments with regional impact.

For more information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

February 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning

Subject: Draft RTP Public Comments – Initial Assessment

IN BRIEF

The public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan will conclude on February 2, 2026. Staff will provide an overview of the comments received, including the number and type of commenters and overall comment themes. Specific proposals for plan revisions will be identified for board review and consideration.

BOARD CALENDAR

The Transportation Policy Board will begin review of comments at their meeting on February 12, with more detailed discussion and recommendations in March and April.

DISCUSSION

The public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan was conducted between December 15, 2025 and February 2, 2026. After conclusion of the comment period, staff will review and categorize the comments, which will be organized in a summary matrix and posted on PSRC's RTP engagement hub when complete.

At the meeting on February 5, staff will provide an overview of the public comments received, and discuss next steps for TPB review and action. This will include a categorization of comments across specific plan topics as well as by three comment types: general plan comments, technical corrections, or comment for board review. Staff is working to provide draft responses to each comment and will provide this information in a complete report that will be posted to the website in the coming weeks.

In addition to any public comment proposals that will be brought for board review, Transportation Policy Board members will be asked to submit any additional proposed plan amendments to PSRC by Friday, February 27th. This date is set to allow staff to compile proposed amendments to forward to the full board for review in advance of the March 12th meeting.

NEXT STEPS

The Transportation Policy Board will conduct more detailed review of comments and any proposed edits or amendments at their meetings on March 12 and April 9, with a final recommendation to the Executive Board at the April meeting. Formal action on individual amendments or combined categories of actions will be processed via board member motions. The Executive Board is scheduled to act at their April 28 meeting to recommend that the General Assembly adopt a final RTP at their meeting on May 28, 2026.

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at 206-971-3601 or kmcgourty@psrc.org, or Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at 206-971-3286 or bbakkenta@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

February 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: David Dixon, Associate Planner

Subject: Housing Incentives and Tools Survey Results

IN BRIEF

Throughout 2025, the Growth Management Policy Board reviewed and advised on the certification of local comprehensive plans, which included recommendations to monitor local housing conditions and use appropriate tools and strategies to support affordable housing. The board will hear a summary of the results from a survey of local planning staff that documents the progress that local governments have made in recent years through updating their comprehensive plans and meeting new legislative requirements. This work continues PSRC's emphasis on housing, highlighting strategies for supporting growth and equitable outcomes across all member jurisdictions.

BOARD CALENDAR

The Executive Board heard the findings from the survey at their January meeting, and the Growth Management Policy Board will receive the same briefing at their February meeting.

DISCUSSION

The [Regional Housing Strategy](#), adopted in February 2022, outlines goals and actions for regional, countywide, and local levels necessary to implement VISION 2050. Through guidance documents, webinars, data resources, and the plan review process, PSRC staff work with local jurisdictions to update their comprehensive plans, development regulations, and other local programs to meet housing needs in their communities.

The Housing Incentives and Tools Survey (HITS) documents progress by the region's cities and counties in several areas identified in the Regional Housing Strategy, prioritizing racial equity and addressing housing supply, stability, and subsidy. PSRC last surveyed local housing tools in 2022. This iteration of HITS reflects the tremendous work from jurisdictions' updates to their comprehensive plans and development regulations through the periodic update process, which most jurisdictions completed in 2024 or 2025. The recent updates implemented policies to allow a wider range of housing types, document and plan for the housing needs of all income levels and begin to address racial disparities in housing. Significant findings include:

Expanding housing opportunity

Through updates to local comprehensive plans and development regulations, respondent jurisdictions report expanding housing capacity by over 800,000 units, focused in areas zoned for moderate density construction (such as duplexes, small apartments, and mid-rise multifamily units).

Calibrating tools for affordable housing

Multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) and mandatory inclusionary zoning programs are more common than in the past. Jurisdictions with these programs in place indicate that they are the most effective tools for creation of new, income-restricted units.

Local funding, regional collaboration

36 jurisdictions contribute a portion of sales and use taxes to generate funding for affordable housing, and many report working in multijurisdictional coalitions to amplify their impact. 54 jurisdictions are members of ARCH, AHA, SKHHP, or SSHAP.

PSRC staff will share additional findings from the survey and welcome feedback from the board. A full report of survey results will be available in February.

NEXT STEPS

PSRC will continue to share updates and best practices of local implementation of housing tools.

For additional information, please contact David Dixon, Associate Planner, at ddixon@psrc.org or 206-464-6172.



Puget Sound Regional Council

February 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Principal Planner

Subject: Regional Centers Redesignation and Monitoring

IN BRIEF

The committee will hear an update on the process to redesignate regional centers as called for by the [Regional Centers Framework](#). The committee will begin identifying topics that could be considered in an upcoming review of the Regional Centers Framework.

BOARD CALENDAR

Starting at their November 2025 meeting, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) has been previewing redesignation criteria and certification reports for each regional growth center. The board will have the option to make a recommendation to the Executive Board to redesignate regional growth centers at their February 2026 meeting or consider a recommendation at a future meeting. The board is scheduled to begin discussing manufacturing/industrial centers at their March 2025 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Centers are the hallmark of VISION 2050 and the Regional Growth Strategy. The region's 30 regional growth centers and 10 manufacturing/industrial centers are hubs for the region's most significant businesses, major cultural facilities, and transportation connections. They guide regional growth allocations, advance local planning, inform transit service planning, and represent priority areas for PSRC's federal transportation funding.

In 2018, following extensive review by GMPB, the Executive Board adopted the [Regional Centers Framework](#), which defines standards for the designation of regional and countywide centers. The Regional Centers Framework directed review of centers in 2025 and every five years thereafter. At the first review in 2025, existing regional centers are expected to fully meet eligibility and designation criteria.

A general schedule of the centers review and redesignation process is provided below:

Month	Planned GMPB Meeting Topic
July 2025	Project briefing and discussion of redesignation topics
September 2025	Update on regional centers redesignation
October 2025	Discuss policy topics and gather board and committee input
November 2025	Discuss policy topics; review criteria and certification reports for existing regional growth centers
January 2026	Review criteria and certification reports for regional growth centers
February 2026	Complete review of criteria and certification reports for regional growth centers <i>Potential action on regional growth center redesignation</i>
March 2026 (additional meetings as needed)	Review criteria and certification reports for manufacturing/industrial centers

Regional Center Redesignation Review

Over time, regional centers have been designated through different processes, and some existing centers are not meeting planning or growth expectations today. Recognizing the variation among centers, a key objective of the Regional Centers Framework is to have more consistent requirements between new and existing centers. However, the [monitoring report](#) found that several existing regional centers continue to not fully meet the designation criteria. Some are not growing, don't meet density expectations, or lack regional transit connections. Others lack detailed and up-to-date local planning.

The board has had several conversations about how to approach centers that do not fully meet criteria. Recognizing that planning for a center is an ongoing process, the board has discussed providing flexibility for required subarea plans, especially considering the demands of recent state-level planning mandates. The board also discussed the need to balance expectations between high-growth centers and incentivizing growth for centers that are growing slowly. The board has also discussed the importance of walkable centers to successfully attract growth and development, while recognizing that the location of some transit investments may warrant exceptions to maximum size criteria.

Criteria and Certification Reports

Staff have prepared draft criteria and certification reports that provide a brief summary of each center and its subarea plan. Information and analysis of the centers are presented through two key reporting tools:

- **Criteria reports** provide a preliminary recommendation on redesignation, along with any conditions or comments. The reports provide a general overview of the regional center and summarize how each center meets designation criteria. Reports also include any additional context or supporting information provided by the jurisdiction following meetings with PSRC staff.
- **Certification reports** evaluate the most recent center subarea plans and assess alignment with the VISION 2050 consistency tools for [manufacturing/industrial center](#) and [regional growth center](#) plans.

GMPB has been reviewing regional growth centers in batches. Many centers are performing well and meet most of the criteria. PSRC staff have been meeting with jurisdictions to review draft criteria reports, discuss successes and barriers to development and upcoming local work. Reports with recommended conditions reflect discussions with jurisdiction staff on work to be completed by a specified date or other comments for future implementation. All materials considered with the November and January batches are available in the [January GMPB agenda](#).

GMPB is currently focused on reviewing regional growth centers, and staff expect to bring the remaining nine regional growth centers for discussion in February. The board will be asked to make a recommendation on redesignating regional growth centers in February or March 2026, after the board has had an opportunity to review the full set of recommendations. Review of manufacturing/industrial centers will follow in subsequent months.

Staff will provide an update on this process and welcome any questions or feedback from the committee.

Review of the Regional Centers Framework

Per the [project scope](#) for regional centers monitoring and redesignation, PSRC will consider in 2026 whether updates to the Regional Centers Framework or VISION are needed to better achieve desired outcomes for centers. Potential updates could consider updates to eligibility or criteria to designate centers, subarea planning, procedural updates, or monitoring requirements. The update may consider the role of equity in the Regional Centers Framework to ensure centers are providing benefits to all. Since the Regional Centers Framework was adopted in 2018, there have been several changes in state law regarding housing (HB 1220) and transit-oriented

development (HB 1491). Updates to the Framework could consider how to better align with new state requirements.

As work begins to scope updates, staff welcome feedback from the committee:

- Are any changes needed to the Regional Centers Framework or in future updates to VISION 2050 to better achieve the desired outcomes for centers?
- Are other resources, guidance, or updates needed to support regional centers?

NEXT STEPS

PSRC's boards will continue work on regional growth center redesignation and will begin review of manufacturing/industrial centers in the coming months. The Regional Staff Committee will continue to be engaged on scoping potential updates to the Regional Centers Framework.

For additional information, please contact Liz Underwood Bultmann, Principal Planner, lunderwood-bultmann@psrc.org or Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner, nferber@psrc.org.

WORKING TOPICS CALENDAR – SUBJECT TO REVISION
PSRC Policy Boards, Executive Board, Economic Development District Board of Directors
January – June 2026

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	TPB	GMPB	Economic Development District Board	Executive Board
January	Jan 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: Project Tracking Policies • DISCUSSION: Preliminary RTP comments 	Jan 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Plan Certifications • DISCUSSION: State Legislative Update • DISCUSSION: Plan Highlights • DISCUSSION: Centers Redesignation • DISCUSSION: 2026 TOD Committee Work Plan 	Jan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting 	Jan 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSENT AGENDA: Recommend Certification of Comprehensive Plans • DISCUSSION: 2025 Housing Monitory Update – Eric (20-25 min)
February	Feb 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Project Tracking Policies • DISCUSSION: RTP comments 	Feb 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Plan Certifications • DISCUSSION: State Legislative Update • DISCUSSION: Centers Redesignation • DISCUSSION: HITS Results • DISCUSSION: Draft FY2026-2027 Biennial Budget and Work Program 	Feb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting 	Feb 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSENT AGENDA: EB authority for General Assembly • CONSENT AGENDA: Project Tracking Policies • DISCUSSION: Federal Update • DISCUSSION: Regional Centers Redesignation Update – Liz/Nancy (15-20 min) • DISCUSSION: RTP comments
March	Mar 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: RTP comments, plan amendments • DISCUSSION: Project Selection (<i>tentative</i>) 	Mar 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Plan Certifications • DISCUSSION: State Legislative Update • DISCUSSION: Centers Redesignation/Framework • DISCUSSION: Open Space Report Update 	Mar 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Election of Board Officers • ACTION: Establishment of Executive Committee • DISCUSSION: Regional Economic Strategy development 	Mar 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Redesignate Regional Growth Centers – Liz/Nancy (20-30 min) • DISCUSSION: RTP comments, plan amendments
April	Apr 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Recommend Approval of the Regional Transportation Plan 	Apr 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: State Legislative Update • DISCUSSION: Centers Redesignation/Framework • DISCUSSION: Shoreline Master Program Update (<i>tentative</i>) 	Apr 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting 	Apr 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Recommend approval of the Regional Transportation Plan • ACTION: Redesignate Manufacturing/Industrial Centers – Liz/Nancy (20-30 min) • ACTION: Recommend FY27-28 Supplemental Biennial Budget & Work Program and Resolution to Executive Board

TPB	GMPB	Economic Development District Board	Executive Board ^{7.a}	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: EB Recommend approval that the General Assembly adopt Resolution authorizing submittal of the budget to federal and state agencies 	
May	May 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: Project Selection (<i>tentative</i>) 	May 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: Detailed Housing Trend • DISCUSSION: Puget Sound Recovery report (<i>tentative</i>) 	May 28 – No meeting	May 28 – General Assembly
June	Jun 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Release RTCC/TAP for public comment 	Jun 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: Housing Topic • DISCUSSION: FLU Update and analysis of changes to housing capacity 	Jun 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Released draft Regional Economic Strategy for public comment 	Jun 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISCUSSION: Project Selection (<i>tentative</i>)