



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee | Remote Only

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

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30)** – *Kelly Snyder, Snohomish County*
- 2. Reports (9:35)**
 - a. Meeting Summary for February 5, 2026*
 - 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. Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update* – *Erika Harris, PSRC*
- 5. Discussion Item (10:30)**
 - a. Regional Transportation Plan Public Comments* – *Ben Bakkenta, PSRC*
- 6. Discussion Item (11:00)**
 - a. Regional Transportation Plan Dashboard Update* – *Craig Helmann, PSRC*
- 7. Information Item**
 - a. 2026 PSRC General Assembly Save the Date Flyer*
 - b. Summer Planning Academy (SPA) Flyer*
 - c. TOOLBOX Series – Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks Flyer*
 - d. VISION 2050 Awards: Call for Nominations*
- 8. Next Meeting: April 2, 2026**
- 9. Adjourn (11:30)**

*Supporting materials attached.

Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join via a smart device or web browser, go to <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/86931018561?pwd=eXjSEcoahp15aLPFoM5n4hDaaYHrSk.1> and enter Meeting ID: 869 3101 8561 and Passcode: 131034.
- To join by phone, call 888 475 4499 US Toll-free and enter Meeting ID: 869 3101 8561 and Passcode: 131034.

- 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>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee Meeting Summary

Date: February 5, 2026

Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the [Regional Staff Committee webpage](#).

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 reminded the committee to confirm their 2026 membership with PSRC staff. He asked members to look at the 2026 Board Working Topics Calendar at the back of the agenda packet and reminded members to reach out if their jurisdiction would like to share a presentation at an upcoming RSC meeting.

Ben shared that the [2026 PSRC General Assembly](#) will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 10 am at the Seattle Convention Center – Summit building and asked staff working with elected officials to encourage attendance.

PSRC published a report titled, “[Economic Update: Puget Sound Region Loses 12,900 Jobs in 2025](#).” Ben provided context, sharing that the report included a breakdown of job losses by sector.

PSRC will once again be holding the [Summer Planning Academy](#), or SPA, this summer. Ben asked members to encourage high school students in their communities to apply.

Registration for the next TOOLBOX webinar, “[Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks](#),” is open. The webinar will be held on Zoom at 10 am on March 20, and will explore how improving access to parks and green spaces can support equity and community well-being.

PSRC is asking for nominations for the [VISION 2050 Awards Program](#). PSRC will only be accepting nominations directly from its membership. Others seeking to nominate projects can do so through the member jurisdiction in which the project is located.

Finally, Ben shared that PSRC recently put out a request for jurisdictional review and feedback on its draft Future Land Use (FLU) dataset. The dataset is a regional representation of local zoning codes and development regulations and is being updated to reflect changes associated with the latest round of comprehensive plan updates and other local planning work. PSRC staff hosted an informational webinar on Thursday, February 5, at 1 pm to walk through the draft data and review tool. The webinar included an open Q&A session for attendees and RSC members were encouraged to attend.

Discussion Item: Draft RTP Public Comments – Initial Assessment

The agenda order shifted to begin with Noah Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, and Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, sharing a [Regional Transportation Plan Public Comment](#) presentation. This discussion included an overview of the draft Regional Transportation Plan comments received, including the number and type of commenters and overall comment themes.

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

Discussion Item: Federal and State Government Relations Updates

Next, Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, and Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, briefed the committee through a [Federal and State Budget and Policy Update](#) presentation. PSRC continues to track federal developments and the work of the Washington State Legislature related to regional budget and policy priorities.

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

Discussion Item: Housing Incentives and Tools Survey Results

David Dixon, Associate Planner, shared that 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. He shared a summary of the results from a survey of local planning staff included in the presentation [2025 Housing Incentives and Tools Survey: Findings and Next Steps](#).

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

Discussion Item: Regional Centers Redesignation and Monitoring

To conclude, Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner, and Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Principal Planner, provided a presentation on the [Regional Centers Monitoring Update](#), a process as called for by the Regional Centers Framework. The committee was asked to identify topics that could be considered in an upcoming review of 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.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Members and Alternates Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Heather Culver, PSRC
Noah Boggess, PSRC
Alyssa Quinn, PSRC
Nancy Ferber, PSRC
David Dixon, PSRC
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC
Alan Budde, Shoreline
Pauline Mogilevsky, KRCC
Emilie Pilchowski, KRCC
Sarah Warsame, PSRC
Brian Lee, PSRC
Lauren Engel, PSRC
Katie Enders, PSRC
Zack Luckin, Bellevue
Jeff Aken, Commerce
Ted Vanegas, Commerce
Monica Ghosh
Jason Thibdeau, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Jon Fowler, King County Council
Carol Naito, PSRC
Marc Daily, PSRC
Nikole Coleman, Poulsbo
Maddy Borowski, Kent

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. RSC Member Attendance for the February 5, 2026 Meeting

PSRC Regional Staff Committee - Attendance Roster

2.a - Att. A

Jurisdiction	Member	Jurisdiction	Member
King County	2 Ivan Miller, King County Executive Office	Federal, Regional, State, Tribal & Other Agencies	
	McCaella Daffern, King County	FHWA	1 Matthew Pahs, Community Planner R
	Rebecca Maskin, Demographer Alt		Vacant 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 R
	Dan Cardwell, Local Services/Utilities, King Co		Richard Gelb, King County Alt R
	Susan McLain, Local Services/Subarea Planning Alt	Ports	1 Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs R
Transit	1 Peter Heffernan, King Co Metro R		Deirdre Wilson, Northwest Seaport Alliance Alt R
	Hester Serebrin, King County Metro Alt	PSCAA	1 Jennifer Keene, Program Director R
Economic Dev.	1 Amie Danielewicz, King Co Exec Office Alt		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 R	Partnership	Bebhinn Dechery Alt
	Jonathan Lewis, SDOT R	Sound Transit	1 Alex Krieg, Planning & Innovation R
	Jim Holmes, OPCD Alt		Vacant Alt
	Joanna Valencia, SDOT Alt	Tribal Representative	1 Vacant
Bellevue	1 Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, Comm Dev R	Representatives	Vacant Alt
	Lacey Jane Wolfe, Alt	US EPA	1 Susan Sturges R
	Laura Benjamin-LaPitz, Alt R		Erik Peterson Alt R
Cities/Towns	3 Minnie Dhaliwal, City of Issaquah	US HUD	1 Vacant
	Eric Perry, City of Renton		Vacant Alt
	Rhonda Ender, City of Carnation R	WA Dept. of Commerce	1 Andrea Chartock R
	Peter Mayer, City of Tukwila, Alt		Keith Swenson R
	Becky Frey, City of Redmond, Alt	WSDOT	1 April Delchamps, WSDOT R
	Vacant Alt		Matthew Kenna, WSDOT Alt R
Kitsap County	1 Rafe Wysham, Kitsap County	PSRC Committees	
	Scott Diener, Alt	PSRC Co-Chair	1 Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning R
At-Large	1 Heather Wright, Planning Director R	RPEC	1 Doug McCormick, RPEC Chair
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt		Shane Weber, RPEC Vice Chair
Transit	1 Edward Coviello, Kitsap Transit R	R = Remote attendance	
	Vacant Alt		
Economic Dev.	1 Joe Morrison, KEDA		
	Vacant Alt		
Bremerton	1 Andrea Spencer, Community Dev, Co-Chair		
	Garrett Jackson, Planning Manager, Alt		
Cities/Towns	1 Nick Bond, Comm Development, Port Orchard		
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt		
Pierce County	1 Alon Bassok, PPW Long Range Planning Manager		
	Vacant Alt		
At-Large	2 Tiffany Speir, Lakewood, Planning R		
	Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake, Director, Co-Chair		
	Ryan Windish, Sumner, Alt		
	Angelie Stahlnecker, Milton, Alt		
Transit	1 Andrew Ames, Pierce Transit R		
	Tina Lee, Pierce Transit, Alt		
Economic Dev	1 Rob Allen, Economic Development R		
	Kevin Clegg Alt R		
Tacoma	1 Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager R		
	Steve Atkinson, Principal Planner Alt		
Cities/Towns	1 Kendall Wals, Puyallup R		
	Chris Larson, Fife, Alt		
Snohomish County	1 Mike McCrary, PDS Director		
	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 Noah Tunick, Community Transit		
	Sabina Araya, Everett Transit Alt R		
Economic Dev	1 Mike Fong, Economic Dev		
	Vacant Alt		
Everett	1 Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director		
	Alice Ann Wetzel, Long Range Planning Mgr R		
Cities/Towns	1 Russ Wright, Lake Stevens, Comm Dev. Director R		
	Karl Almgren, Lynnwood, Alt		
Total Members	45	Attended	31



Puget Sound Regional Council

March 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, Continuum 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 response to Governor Ferguson's proposed supplemental budget. We will be

highlighting state operating, transportation and capital budget information as the budgets come out. The Regional Staff Committee will be briefed on federal and state budget and policy developments with regional impact.

NEXT STEPS

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



Puget Sound Regional Council

March 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee
From: Erika Harris, Senior Planner, PSRC
Subject: **Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update**

IN BRIEF

PSRC is initiating the update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan in advance of the update to VISION 2050. We are seeking feedback from the committee regarding the scope of the update and assembling an advisory committee.

BOARD CALENDAR

The Growth Management Policy Board will discuss the open space plan update at its March 19 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Farms, forests, aquatic systems, parks and other types of open space provide food, building materials, flood control, recreation, clean air and water and many other ecosystem services. Because this natural infrastructure provides so many benefits to the region, VISION 2050 includes ambitious expectations for protecting open space, reducing growth pressure in rural and resource lands and improving access to urban parks and regional trails. VISION 2050 directs the region to identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks through implementation and update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan (MPP-En-12). It calls for providing parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents and prioritizing historically underserved communities (MPP-En-15).

The 2018 [Regional Open Space Conservation Plan](#) maps the open space network across the region and identifies priority actions needed to increase access to and

sustain open spaces for the long term. A [Conservation Toolkit](#) helps implement the plan.

The regional open space network includes the most important open spaces in the region to maintain, protect and enhance. It covers about 340 miles of regional trails and 3 million acres of public and private land, including natural lands, farmlands, working forests, aquatic systems, and urban open space. Continued strong growth and development in the region puts pressure on the open space network, in particular the many acres that are on private land. The 2018 plan identified approximately 463,000 acres of the regional open space network that are most at risk and includes short and long-term goals for conservation. The plan also identified 47 of the highest priority areas to improve equitable access to urban parks and open space and 300 miles of trails to complete the regional trail network.

In advance of the update to VISION 2050, PSRC will update the open space plan. It will update key open space information, such as data on land cover, tree canopy cover, housing development, and park and trail locations. This information will help to assess how well the region is meeting its open space goals and how open spaces are evolving. A draft of the plan is expected to be released this fall, and the plan will be finalized in the first quarter of 2027.

PSRC will convene an advisory committee to provide guidance on the development of the plan. It will include representatives from across the region and open space sectors. PSRC is looking for city staff to fill two seats on the committee and welcomes nominations.

Local staff see the value of, impacts to, and challenges of open space preservation firsthand. Local insight will be critical to best understand open space enhancement needs and how plans for open space can shape future growth patterns. Throughout the update, the project will seek guidance from the committee to help shape the open space plan, including today's project initiation.

Questions for the committee:

- What are the biggest challenges in the conservation and enhancement of open space, parks and trails?
- What information should PSRC consider for the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan update?
- Do you have a suggestion for a city or other representative to sit on the advisory committee?
- What community engagement strategies should be considered for the open space plan update?

NEXT STEPS

Committee members are encouraged to share this information with staff who work on open space issues and send additional feedback to PSRC on the scope of the plan

and suggestions for advisory committee members by March 16. PSRC staff will integrate feedback on the scope of work. The advisory committee is anticipated to begin meeting in April.

For additional information, please contact Erika Harris, Senior Planner, at eharris@psrc.org or 206-464-6360.



Puget Sound Regional Council

March 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee
From: Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning
Subject: **Regional Transportation Plan Public Comments**

IN BRIEF

The public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan concluded on February 2, 2026. At the March 5 Regional Staff Committee meeting, staff will provide an update on the comments received, including overall comment themes and areas identified for Transportation Policy Board direction.

BOARD CALENDAR

Public comments received on the draft Regional Transportation Plan and PSRC responses will be discussed at the March 12 and April 9 Transportation Policy Board meetings.

DISCUSSION

The draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was made available for public review and comment between December 15, 2025 and February 2, 2026. Staff has categorized all comments received, which have been organized in a summary matrix and posted on PSRC's [RTP Engagement Hub](#), along with copies of original letter and email submittals.

At the meeting on March 5, staff will discuss next steps for board review and action. To facilitate review, staff have categorized the comments across specific plan topics as well as by three comment types: no action taken, technical corrections and clarifications, and board review. Staff have also drafted responses to each comment.

At the March 12 Transportation Policy Board meeting, staff will review this information for more detailed board review and discussion of the comments received and corresponding draft staff responses.

In addition to any public comment proposals that will be brought for board review, Transportation Policy Board members have been asked to submit any additional proposed plan amendments to PSRC prior to the March 12 Transportation Policy Board meeting. Notification of publication of the comment report has been sent to TPB members. Staff will compile all proposed amendments and forward them to the board prior to the March 12 meeting.

Formal action on individual amendments or combined categories of actions will be processed via Transportation Policy Board member motions. The Executive Board is scheduled to take action at their April 28 meeting to recommend that the General Assembly adopt the final RTP at their meeting on May 28, 2026.

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



Puget Sound Regional Council

March 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee
From: Craig Helmann, Director of Data
Subject: **Regional Transportation Plan Dashboard**

IN BRIEF

Since the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan in 2022, the Regional Staff Committee has received an annual presentation on the RTP Performance Dashboard, an implementation action item of that plan. At the meeting on March 5, 2026, PSRC staff will share a presentation highlighting prior year trends in the updated performance dashboard.

BOARD CALENDAR

This topic will be presented to the Transportation Policy Board at the March 12 meeting.

DISCUSSION

The [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (RTP) adopted in 2022 identified numerous implementation items including the development of a dashboard to track the region's progress in implementing the plan and meeting its objectives across a variety of policy areas. Specifically, the RTP called for PSRC to identify and report on performance measures related to key aspects of VISION 2050 and the RTP, including but not limited to, regional growth, emissions, safety, active transportation, vehicle miles traveled, and transit ridership.

As it was developed, the Transportation Policy Board provided feedback on the draft dashboard in Fall 2022, and the first iteration of the dashboard was released in January of 2023. The data has been continually updated since that time and several improvements and additional measures have been incorporated. At the RSC meeting

on March 5, PSRC staff will provide an annual report of 2025 RTP Dashboard trends highlighting key changes related to safety, climate and travel and growth trends. Some of the key metrics that will be reviewed include changes in vehicle miles traveled, serious and fatal collisions, transit use, commute trends and zero-emission vehicle registrations

NEXT STEPS

PSRC will continue to update elements of the RTP Dashboard throughout the year as data components are finalized and released.

For more information, please contact Craig Helmann, Director of Data, at 206-389-2889 or chelmann@psrc.org.

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Save the Date



Thursday, May 28, 2026

10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

**Seattle Convention
Center – Summit
900 Pine St,
Seattle, WA 98101**



Puget Sound Regional Council

This annual meeting is a key opportunity for members to vote on major decisions, including the adoption of PSRC's budget and the election of officers. **All mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers from PSRC member jurisdictions and tribes are eligible to vote** and are strongly encouraged to attend. We ask that at least one elected official from your jurisdiction participate to help establish a quorum.

We look forward to gathering with you—please save the date!

**Registration will open in
early April.**

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 July 29, 31, August 5, and 7.

Applications are due **May 18**.

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.





TOOLBOX SERIES

Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks



Date: March 20, 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Format: Zoom

Mark your calendars for our first TOOLBOX webinar of the year! Join us on **March 20** for a conversation on expanding access to parks and green spaces as a way to advance equity, strengthen communities, and support vibrant places. Speakers from the **Trust for Public Land** will share national perspectives on improving access to green spaces, followed by local examples from **Parks Tacoma** and the **City of Renton** highlighting how these ideas are coming to life in communities across the region.

Participants will be eligible to claim one AICP CM credit.

Sessions are open to the public. Materials and video from past sessions can be found on PSRC's website.



Learn more about the TOOLBOX Series
or register to attend at
<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/toolbox>



Puget Sound Regional Council

VISION 2050 AWARDS



Puget Sound Regional Council

Call for Nominations 2026

The Puget Sound Regional Council is seeking nominations for the VISION 2050 Awards Program through **March 27, 2026**.

The VISION 2050 Awards celebrate progress to enhance the region's communities and natural environment while advancing equity and opportunity for all. The awards recognize innovative work to create a better future for central Puget Sound.

Eligibility

PSRC will only be accepting nominations directly from its [membership](#). Others seeking to nominate projects can do so through the member jurisdiction in which the project is located. PSRC will help connect potential nominees with local governments to help with the nomination process. Please contact [Michele Leslie](#) with questions.

Nominations must be for projects, programs, plans or partnerships within the four-county region of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties that help achieve VISION 2050. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at psrc.org/vision.

All nominated projects must be completed and open, plans must be adopted by their jurisdictions, programs must be in operation and partnerships must be formally working together.

Submit a Nomination!

Nominations must be submitted online through the [VISION 2050 Awards Nomination Form](#)

Learn more at: www.psrc.org

Scan the code for
the nomination form



The region's VISION for 2050

is to provide exceptional quality of life, opportunity for all, connected communities, a spectacular natural environment, and an innovative, thriving economy. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at www.psrc.org