



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD**

**February 10, 2022**

[To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:  
<https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings.>]

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph announced that today's Transportation Policy Board meeting would be hybrid, allowing for remote and in-person attendance. Chair Ralph shared that the meeting was live streamed, and a call-in number provided for members of the public to listen.

Chair Ralph shared that chat has been turned off to avoid meeting distractions and to ensure the public can hear comments. Members may only send a chat to the meeting hosts for technical issues.

Chair Ralph welcomed new members:

- Steve Roark, WSDOT (alternate).
- Councilmember Dan Strauss (member), Councilmember Alex Pedersen (member) and Council President Debora Juarez (alternate), City of Seattle.
- Council President Michael Goodnow, Bremerton (alternate)

A quorum was established by roll call.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

No written communications were received. No public comment was provided at this time as the commenter had not yet joined the meeting. The public commenter, Robin Briggs, joined the meeting after public comment had been closed, but was allowed to address the board following agenda item 7.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Ralph shared a reminder that PSRC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is out for public comment and thanked all that had contributed to the plan.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, informed the board that the Washington State Department of Transportation is conducting a statewide competition for projects to receive federal freight program funds. Metropolitan Planning Organizations such as PSRC have a role to coordinate on that process. Projects from the Puget Sound region will filter through PSRC and be submitted to the state. PSRC does not have a recommendation role, but the board will be informed of the projects. That information will be provided to the board in March.

PSRC staff are working to release the call for projects for PSRC's project selection process by the end of the week. The process will be conducted over the next few months and the board will see all project recommendations by July.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Ralph informed the board that at its February meeting, the GMPB did not move forward with approval of the Conditional Certification for Black Diamond's Comprehensive Plan. Item 5c was removed from today's TPB consent agenda.

- a. **Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held January 13, 2022**
- b. **Routine Amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**ACTION:** The motion was made by Councilmember Kim Daughtry and seconded by Mayor Becky Erickson to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

## RELEASE PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RURAL TOWN CENTERS AND CORRIDORS PROGRAM AND TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, informed the board that it would review the recommendations for two funding competitions: the Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program (RTCC), a set-aside from PSRC's 2020 project selection process, and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), a federal set-aside program that is conducted less frequently. Both processes began with a call for projects in October 2021. Work by the respective selection committees was completed in January. The board will be asked to take action to release the recommended projects for public review and comment. Final action on the funding recommendations is scheduled for March 2022.

Ms. Barnes provided background on the RTCC funding competition as well as the breakdown of applications received. She noted that projects were scored by PSRC staff according to established criteria and then reviewed by the project selection committee. The committee considered scores plus other factors such as geographic

equity and a mix of project phases. Ms. Barnes provided an overview of the unanimous funding recommendation.

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, provided an overview of the TAP funding competition. The project selection committee consisted of representatives from each of the four countywide transportation forums, PSRC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, as well as citizens representing the other TAP categories. Ms. Gutschow noted that the competition started in October 2021 and gave a breakdown of the applications received. Projects were scored by PSRC staff according to established criteria. The committee then considered additional factors such as geographic equity and a mix of project phases in developing a funding recommendation. The final committee recommendation was a split vote of 8-3. Detailed information about the discussion was included in the agenda packet. In summary, the split vote was due to the geographic balance of the funding distribution. Ms. Gutschow gave an overview of the projects recommended for funding and the contingency list.

Ms. Gutschow outlined the next steps of the funding competition process. The board is asked to release the recommended projects for both RTCC and TAP funding for public comment. At its meeting on March 10, TPB will review public comments and recommend Executive Board approval of the project funding recommendations.

**ACTION: The motion was made by Commissioner Rob Gelder and seconded by Mayor Becky Erickson that the Transportation Policy Board should release the list of projects identified in Attachments A and B recommended for funding through the Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program for public comment, including the recommended prioritized lists of contingency projects.**

## **2022 PRELIMINARY WORK PROGRAM**

Gil Cerise and Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, briefed the board on the draft proposal for the 2022 transportation work program. Mr. Cerise started by sharing 2021 accomplishments in transportation. Ms. Barnes shared key upcoming work program items such as the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan and process improvements for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Cerise shared high priority core functions coming up in 2022 such as federal certification and the project selection process, among other administrative and ongoing work items. Mr. Cerise then noted the work program elements included in the draft Regional Transportation Plan, identifying planned work program areas such as supporting access to transit and improving regional coordination for mobility for people with special transportation needs. Ms. Barnes identified proposed high priority work program items related to freight, transportation demand management, health and water quality. Proposed work program items related to safety, climate and equity were identified for 2022, noting that the board has identified these as high priority elements.

Mr. Cerise then shared work proposed for 2023 or later that would support RTP implementation and improve data collection and visualization. Mr. Cerise asked the board for their initial feedback on the proposed work program items and priorities. Board members asked for staff to come back to the board if there are changes to the work program following RTP adoption. Members shared that they appreciated that the draft work program highlighted transit access, safety and special needs transportation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robin Briggs was permitted to address the board and provide public comment at this time.

## **PRELIMINARY THEMES FROM PUBLIC COMMENT FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC, provided an overview of the outreach and engagement process for the draft RTP including the public comment period open through February 28. Mr. Bakkenta shared preliminary themes from early comments received to date and reviewed key themes from five community focus groups. A detailed report of feedback from the community focus groups is expected to be released soon. Major employer and business interviews are scheduled this month to further understand priorities and concerns from business and industry perspectives. Mr. Bakkenta briefed the board on virtual public meetings held in early February.

## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SCHEDULE AND ACTION STEPS**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared next steps for the RTP and schedule of activities for the board. Public comment closes on February 28, and the board was asked to submit additional amendments to staff by March 4<sup>th</sup> for review at the March 10 meeting. The board will be provided information on all public comments received, and staff will be working to categorize all comments and summarize themes with the full report available shortly after the March meeting. Comments will also be grouped into three types: general, technical corrections and those advanced for board review.

The board discussed how public comments and public comment analysis will be shared with the board, as well as the timing for the board to respond and make amendments. Ms. McGourty outlined that the March and April meetings will be reserved for board conversation on public comment and amendments. Another option could be to hold a special meeting if needed for amendment review.

Staff encouraged the board to submit feedback, comments and recommendations as soon as possible. Ms. McGourty reminded the board that federal requirements mandate that the plan be approved in a certain time frame. She reviewed the schedule for Executive Board review of the plan and schedule to submit to the General Assembly for approval by May 26.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT**

See attached attendance roster.

**GUESTS and PSRC STAFF ATTENDING**

(As determined by staff)

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC  
Jennifer Barnes, PSRC  
Gil Cerise, PSRC  
Carolyn Downs, PSRC  
Craig Helmann, PSRC  
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC  
Piset Khuon, PSRC  
Kelly McGourty, PSRC  
Casey Moreau, PSRC  
Sheila Rogers, PSRC

Attachments:

TPB February 10, 2022 Attendance Roster

Transportation Policy Board - February 10, 2022				5.a.a	
Voting Members		✓	Non-voting Members		
<b>King County</b>	2	CM Girmay Zahilay	1	<b>Associate Members</b>	
		CM Dave Upthegrove	1	Island County	1
		Vacant Alt			COMM Melanie Bacon
		Vacant Alt			COMM Jill Johnson Alt
Seattle	2	CM Dan Strauss	1	Thurston Regional Planning Council	1
		CM Alex Pedersen	1		CM Dani Madrone, Olympia
		CP Debora Juarez Alt			COMM Carolina Mejia, Thurston Co Alt
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson	1	<b>Public Agency Members</b>	
		CM Janice Zahn Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1
Cities/Towns	3	CM Kate Kruller, Tukwila			Paul Roberts
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, <b>Chair</b>	1		Cynthia Wang Alt
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1	Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt	1		Dan Gatchet
		DEP MYR Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt		WA Transportation Improvement Board	1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt			Dave Ramsay
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski		<b>PSRC Committees</b>	1
		Vacant Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	Jesse Hamashima, Pierce Co.
<b>Kitsap County</b>	1	COM Robert Gelder	1		Chip Vincent, Renton Alt
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler		Transportation Operators Cmte.	1
		CP Michael Goodnow Alt			Peter Heffernan, King County
Cities/Towns	1	Vacant Member		<b>Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor</b>	Lindsey Sehmel Alt, Pierce Transit
		CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl Alt		Laborers Local Union 242 exp. 12/31/22	1
Local Transit	1	MYR Becky Erickson, Poulsbo	1		Billy Hetherington
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt		WA Roundtable exp. 12/31/22	Dale Bright Alt
<b>Pierce County</b>	1	CM Ryan Mello, <b>Vice Chair</b>	1		Neil Strege
		CM Dave Morell Alt		Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/22	1
Tacoma	1	CM Kristina Walker	1	Master Builders of Pierce County exp. 12/31/23	Rob Berman, HDR Engineering
		CM Conor McCarthy Alt			Amy Grotefendt, Enviroissues Alt
Cities & Towns	1	CM Bryan Yambe, Fife	1	<b>Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment</b>	1
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt		Seattle Aging & Disability Services exp. 12/31/23	Dinah Stephens
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County	1	League of Women Voters of WA exp. 12/31/22	Jon Morrison Winters Alt
		DEP MYR John Palmer, Puyallup Alt			Cynthia Stewart
<b>Snohomish County</b>	1	CM Jared Mead		Public Health Seattle/ King County exp.12/31/23	1
		CM Sam Low Alt			Darrell Rodgers
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1	Transportation Choices Coalition exp. 12/31/23	Shawn Frederick, SNOHD Alt
		Vacant Alt			Alex Hudson
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1	Non-voting	Kelsey Mesher Alt
		CM Jeffrey Beeler, Sultan Alt 1		16	Non-voting members present
		CM Michael Stevens, Marysville Alt 2			13
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1	<b>Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members</b>	
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt		State Legislators	87
<b>Regional Transit</b>	1	MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife	1		Districts within PSRC's boundary
		Vacant Alt			
<b>Federally Recognized Tribes</b>					
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			
<b>Statutory Members</b>					
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle	1		
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt	1		
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jerry Litt			
		COM Hester Serebrin Alt			
WSDOT	1	SEC Roger Millar	1		
		ASST SEC Julie Meredith Alt 1			
		Mike Cotton Alt 2			
		Steve Roark Alt 3			
		Robin Mayhew Alt 4			
<b>Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)</b>					Abbreviations
House Transportation Cmte.	2	REP Emily Wicks, D			CHRMN Chairman
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt			CM Councilmember
		REP Dan Griffey, R			CP Council President
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt			COM Commissioner
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant, D			MYR Mayor
		SEN Mark Mullet, D Alt			DEP MYR Mayor
		Vacant, R			SEC Secretary
		Vacant, R Alt			ASST SEC Assistant Secretary
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	20		REP Representative
		Total Voting members present	21		SEN Senator