



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

June 9, 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.

A quorum was established by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ralph informed the board that a public comment letter had been received and had been shared with the board via email this morning.

The board heard public comment from the following individuals:

- Alex Tsimerman, SUP
- Marguerite Richard, Seattle Poverty Action Network

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ralph congratulated the board for the successful adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). She announced that PSRC is organizing a second joint board session on racial equity scheduled for Thursday, June 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The upcoming session will focus on implicit bias.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that the project selection process has been underway and PSRC is concluding project recommendations. At its July meeting, TPB will be presented with a list of project recommendations for

PSRC's Federal Highway Administration funds. PSRC has also been tasked with providing an evaluation of the revisions to the project evaluation criteria. The board will receive further information at its July meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held April 14, 2022
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Ryan Mello and seconded by Councilmember Kim Daughtry to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FUNDING PROCESS

Chair Ralph reminded the board that in 2020 and 2021, the region's transit agencies received funding through three COVID stimulus packages. Those funds were distributed using PSRC's established Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding methodology. During funding discussions at the Executive Board, board members raised questions about the methodology and whether it continues to be fair and equitable. PSRC's Executive Committee tasked the TPB with discussing the methodology and developing a recommendation for the distribution of PSRC's FTA funds.

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared that PSRC has been using its current distribution methodology for FTA funding since 2004. She shared that the methodology is based on the formulas and data used by FTA, for the purpose of distributing funds to multiple transit agencies in a consistent and predictable manner. Ms. McGourty noted that the TPB Transit Caucus has been briefed on this topic and has had several conversations over the past year and a half.

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, provided an overview of how the FTA funds come to the region and how they are distributed to transit agencies. Ms. Gutschow provided a breakdown of the various sources of transit funding, with the largest portion coming from sales tax. She went into detail of how FTA funds are allocated to urbanized areas (UZAs) based on national formulas established by federal legislation, the data provided to the National Transit Database (NTD) and Census data. Ms. Gutschow shared that PSRC has had an adopted policy since 2004 to disaggregate the formulas used by FTA to determine the relative share of funding that each transit agency then earns from their service.

Ms. Gutschow provided further details of the formula components used to determine FTA funding apportionments to the region, including transit agency operating and service data as well as population and density. She also noted the different types of

formula programs in the region: Urbanized Area Formula Program, State of Good Repair Formula Program and Bus and Bus Facilities Formula program. She discussed how each of the formula programs can be used and noted that there are specific formulas to determine how funds are apportioned to UZAs. She provided examples of actual funding distributions and how dollars were spent by transit agencies.

Ms. Gutschow also briefed the board on PSRC's overall project selection process for distributing FTA funds, across UZAs and the regional competition. She reminded the board that the 2025-2026 FTA project selection process is on hold while the board discusses the distribution methodology.

Craig Helmann, PSRC, provided a presentation on transit service and service boundaries in the region, including the populations served within each county and highlighting equity focus areas such as areas with higher proportions of people of color and people with lower incomes. He reviewed this data for each county, including access to frequent transit service.

Ms. McGourty provided further information on how PSRC partners with the transit agencies to distribute FTA funds. Ms. McGourty also shared with the board that the 2021 TPB Transit Caucus identified a set of principles and desired outcomes for the funding distribution. Ms. McGourty noted that the board is being asked to discuss and provide policy direction, and one suggestion is to create a working group to go into greater detail and report back to the full board.

Board comments included the challenges in understanding the components of the methodology; maintaining some consistency in funding but providing opportunity to address less serviced areas; identifying funding contributions and other financial components; investigating social and geographic fairness; and concurrence with the concept of a working group.

Staff will coordinate with TPB chairs on next steps and developing a working group moving forward.

PSRC TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, provided an overview of PSRC's core transportation work program and the key implementation items identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The focus of the board discussion would be on providing an overview of the work ahead and receiving board feedback on areas needing additional details; a discussion of priorities and timelines would occur at a subsequent meeting. Ms. Barnes noted for the purposes of the discussion the work program elements had been arranged into 5 categories: 1) ongoing core work; 2) work related to collaboration, coordination and technical assistance; 3) data collection, analysis and performance metrics; 4) expanded work programs; and 5) new work program items requiring board guidance. Ms. Barnes then summarized categories 1-3 for the board and identified where additional resources may be required to fully implement.

Gil Cerise, PSRC, provided further information on category 4, expanded work programs for climate and the RTP financial strategy. Mr. Cerise noted that the climate work program had a deadline included and was already underway, and the financial strategy work may require additional resources and was anticipated to be a longer-term project. Mr. Cerise then began the discussion of new work program items under category 5 for which further board feedback is requested, beginning with the identification of performance measures and targets and the creation of an online dashboard. Board member comments included the tracking of progress over time towards specific goals; breaking out measures by both total and per capita data; how the data and dashboard will be used over time, including to leverage funding opportunities; alignment with the equity dashboard under development; the scale of data, e.g. by city, and the update process; and tracking the impacts of COVID on transit ridership. Ms. McGourty offered that staff could develop an outline for the dashboard to bring back to the board at a future meeting. Ms. McGourty also noted that many RTP performance measures do not have specific goals or targets established.

The next work item discussed was elevating the work and needs of ADA transition planning. Board members suggested that PSRC could track the progress of these plans and potentially tie to future project selection processes; PSRC should work with WSDOT; and community outreach could be conducted. Ms. McGourty shared that PSRC could begin with gathering further information on the status of ADA transition plans and bring that information back to the board for next steps on this work program item.

The next two work items discussed were the convening of regional partners and stakeholders to discuss the challenges and solutions to meet safety goals, and the development of a regional safety plan. Specific questions asked of the board included the vision for the convening and stakeholders to be invited; how the convening might inform the safety plan; the desired outcomes of the safety plan; and the content of the annual report. Board members suggested the convening and the plan be tied together; to intersect safety data with bicycle and pedestrian users; include transit and emphasize personal safety and security, not just crashes; the plan should provide guidance to member jurisdictions and help obtain additional funding for improvements; and potentially conduct a public survey of safety, particularly the perception of safety from transit riders.

The next work item discussed was a convening to discuss the vision for future high-capacity transit in the region. Specific questions asked of the board included the type of convening envisioned, topics to be discussed and stakeholders included. Board member comments included the relationship to the I-5 master plan work; issues of right of way; areas of the region that are currently underserved; being proactive in planning to save costs; noting the state's transit baseline study and tying this work to housing and equity; consideration of conditions post-COVID and shifts in employment patterns; and tracking new technologies and systems in other parts of the world.

Ms. McGourty informed the board that this discussion will come back to the board next month to complete the remaining two topics and consider priorities, timeframes, and resources.

JOINT BOARD SESSION

Mayor Ralph reminded the board that a joint board session on implicit bias is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 10:00-11:30 AM.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT

See attached attendance roster.

GUESTS and PSRC STAFF ATTENDING

(As determined by staff)

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC
Gil Cerise, PSRC
Carolyn Downs, PSRC
Sarah Gutschow, PSRC
Craig Helmann, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Piset Khuon, PSRC
Marguerite Richard, Seattle Poverty Action Network
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Casey Moreau, PSRC
Alex Tsimerman, SUP

Attachments:

TPB June 9, 2022 Attendance Roster

Transportation Policy Board - June 9, 2022							
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members			
King County	2	CM Girmay Zahilay	1	Associate Members			
		CM Dave Upthegrove	1	Island County	1	COMM Melanie Bacon	1
		Vacant Alt				COMM Jill Johnson Alt	
		Vacant Alt		Thurston Regional Planning Council	1	CM Dani Madrone, Olympia	1
Seattle	2	CM Dan Strauss				COMM Carolina Mejia, Thurston Co Alt	
		CM Alex Pedersen	1	Public Agency Members			
		CP Debora Juarez Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1	Cynthia Wang	1
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson	1			Kathy Strange Alt	1
		CM Janice Zahn Alt		Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1	Dan Gatchet	
Cities/Towns	3	CM Kate Kruller, Tukwila	1	WA Transportation Improvement Board	1	Brian Ziegler Alt	
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair	1			Dave Ramsay	
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1	PSRC Committees			
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1	Jesse Hamashima, Pierce Co.	1
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt				Chip Vincent, Renton Alt	
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1	Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1	Doug McCormick, Snohomish Co.	
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski	1			Russ Blount, Fife Alt	1
		Vacant Alt		Transportation Operators Cmte.	1	Peter Heffernan, King County	1
Kitsap County	1	COM Robert Gelder	1			Lindsey Sehmel Alt, Pierce Transit	1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt		Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor			
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1	Laborers Local Union 242	1	Billy Hetherington	1
		CP Michael Goodnow Alt		exp. 12/31/22		Dale Bright Alt	
Cities/Towns	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard	1	WA Roundtable	1	Neil Strege	
		CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl Alt	1	exp. 12/31/22		Vacant Alt	
Local Transit	1	MYR Becky Erickson, Poulsbo	1	Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/22	1	Rob Berman, HDR Engineering	1
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt	1	Master Builders of Pierce County exp. 12/31/23	1	Amy Grotefendt, Enviroissues Alt	
Pierce County	1	CM Ryan Mello, Vice Chair	1			Jessie Gamble	
		CM Dave Morell Alt		Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment			
Tacoma	1	CM Kristina Walker	1	Seattle Aging & Disability Services exp. 12/31/23	1	Dinah Stephens	1
		CM Conor McCarthy Alt		League of Women Voters of WA exp. 12/31/22	1	Jon Morrison Winters Alt	
Cities & Towns	1	CM Bryan Yambe, Fife		Public Health Seattle/ King County exp.12/31/23	1	Shawn Frederick, SNOHD Alt	
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt		Transportation Choices Coalition exp. 12/31/23	1	Alex Hudson	1
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County	1	Non-voting	16	Matthew Sutherland Alt	
		DEP MYR John Palmer, Puyallup Alt		Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members			
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead		State Legislators	87	Districts within PSRC's boundary	
		CM Sam Low Alt					
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1				
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt					
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1				
		CM Jeffrey Beeler, Sultan Alt 1					
		CM Michael Stevens, Marysville Alt 2					
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1				
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt					
Regional Transit	1	MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife					
		Vacant Alt					
Federally Recognized Tribes							
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					
Statutory Members							
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle	1				
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt					
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jerry Litt					
		COM Hester Serebrin Alt					
WSDOT	1	SEC Roger Millar					
		ASST SEC Julie Meredith Alt 1					
		Mike Cotton Alt 2					
		Steve Roark Alt 3					
		Robin Mayhew Alt 4	1			Abbreviations	1
Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)							
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	23			SEN Senator	