



Puget Sound Regional Council

Transportation Operators Committee Agenda

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Online Meeting Only: Use Zoom Connection Information Provided Below

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (10:00)** – Peter Heffernan, Chair (King County Metro)
- 2. Action: Approval of Meeting Summary – February 24, 2021* (10:05)**
- 3. Action: CRRSA Act Regional Funding Distributions* (10:10)**

PSRC staff will provide an overview of the different options that have been discussed by the Regional FTA Caucus for distributing the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding to transit agencies in the region. A detailed spreadsheet may be found at this [link](#). The Caucus has not prepared a consensus recommendation to the TOC, so the topic will be further discussed and action requested at this meeting. A summary of the Caucus discussions is attached.

- 4. Discussion: Debrief on Access to Transit at Transportation Policy Board (10:55)**

PSRC staff will provide an overview of the board discussion on access to transit and next steps associated with that topic.

- 5. Discussion: Transit-related topics for Regional Transportation Plan (11:15)**

As time permits, PSRC staff will provide a brief update on future transit network inputs being provided by transit agencies and other topics.

- 6. Discussion: Transit Agency Roundtable (11:40)**

As time permits, transit agency staff will provide updates on their work that they want to share with their regional partners.

- 7. Information: 2021 Planned Meeting Topics***

- 8. Next Meeting: April 28, 2021**

Calendar Link: <https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/toc2021-calendar.pdf>

- 9. Adjourn (12:00)**

*Supporting materials attached

Zoom Participation Options:

To join audio/video conference:

<https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/93198970041?pwd=ejlpaUhURC9ZSIUySIFmcWNpWldhdz09>

To join via cellphone (1-touch dial):

8884754499,,93198970041#,,,,,0#,,733907# US Toll-free

8335480276,,93198970041#,,,,,0#,,733907# US Toll-free

To join via phone:

Dial by your location

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 931 9897 0041

Passcode: 733907

Other Formats:

- Sign language, and communication material in alternative formats, can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090, TTY Relay 711.
- العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Française | French
한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, Call (206) 402-1334



Puget Sound Regional Council

Transportation Operators Committee Meeting Summary

Date: February 24, 2021

Location: Online Meeting Only: Zoom Remote Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Peter Heffernan, Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. Gil Cerise PSRC, reviewed the remote meeting procedures and then took a roll call and confirmed the members and alternates present.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The summary for the January 27, 2021 meeting was approved.

Action: Kitsap Transit and King County Metro Redistribution Requests

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed the Kitsap Transit request for a redistribution of \$7,506,427 in 5307 Earned Share funds from the “KT Transit Operations 2018-2020” project to the “Silverdale Transit Center” project. She then reviewed the King County Metro request to exchange \$4,371,348 in 2018 5337 HIFG funds for the same amount in 2020 5337 HIFG funds between the "Atlantic Base Vehicle Maintenance Bus Lifts" and "Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance 2018-2020" projects. The TOC voted unanimously to recommend the requests for approval by the Transportation Policy Board.

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at sgutschow@psrc.org

Discussion: CRRSAA Act Regional Funding Distributions

Sarah provided an overview of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA Act). She reviewed different options for distributing funding to transit agencies in the region from the recent Regional FTA Caucus discussions. She mentioned that the Caucus also was interested in hybrid models and PSRC was gathering input which would then be reviewed again at the next Regional FTA Caucus meeting. Kelly McGourty, PSRC, said PSRC was looking at all numbers and methodologies for distribution options and noted that she would also be introducing this topic at the upcoming Executive Committee. She said the response from the Executive Committee would help with the next steps, with the goal to have Board action by April.

The presentation is available on the PSRC website [here](#)

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at sgutschow@psrc.org or Kelly McGourty, at kmcgourty@psrc.org

Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan – Access to Transit

Gil reviewed the work completed to-date on the 2050 Transit Network, including coordination and communication with transit agencies at past TOC meetings, the Transit Technical Workgroup, and in one-on-one meetings with transit agency representatives. He said that for the next Transportation Policy Board meeting, PSRC staff have plans for a break-out session on access to transit for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan. He said they are engaging the Board to get their feedback and would be providing current access to transit information for the Board to review, including models that the PSRC Data department has been working on that show how certain improvements could help with access to transit. Kelly noted they are looking for usable information to give to the Board during the break-out sessions so the focus can be on getting key messages that help provide the right elements to incorporate into the plan on this topic. The committee members discussed the information and provided feedback.

For more information, contact Gil Cerise at gcerise@psrc.org Kelly McGourty, at kmcgourty@psrc.org

Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan – Financial Strategy

Kelly provided an overview of transit-related work associated with the Financial Strategy. She said that she wanted to let the agencies know that spreadsheets that show programmatic expenditures from the current plan, (such as maintenance and preservation costs and operating costs) are going to be sent out soon for agencies to review and provide any updates. She noted this work is slated to be done by the end of March if possible.

For more information, contact Gil Cerise at gcerise@psrc.org Kelly McGourty, at kmcgourty@psrc.org

Discussion: PSRC Transit Plan Checklist

Gil reviewed a draft of the updated transit plan checklist included as part of the VISION 2050 Plan Review Manual. He said this was updated based on the agencies' feedback from the last meeting. Erin Hogan, PSRC, explained that this will be used to show consistencies with VISION 2050 and said that any additional feedback on the topics could be sent via email. Gil noted that this will be a great tool for agencies to use for their long-term planning. Transit agencies were provided a deadline of March 10, 2021 to provide comments on the draft.

The handout is available on the PSRC website [here](#)

For more information, contact Gil Cerise at gcerise@psrc.org or Erin Hogan at ehogan@psrc.org

Discussion: Update on Transit-related Performance Measures

Gary Simonson, PSRC, provided an update on the FTA-required transit performance measures: transit safety and transit asset management. He said that for the Transit Safety Targets, the next steps would be to finish collecting final pieces of information and finalize the targets. He noted that the Targets must be put through PSRC board approval process and adopted by June 2021, so the final targets will be reviewed for approval by the TOC at the April meeting. He then reviewed the TAM data and said that tailored templates will be distributed to each agency by early March with the aim to collect by the end of March. He noted this will allow PSRC to report on how the region is doing currently, as well as what the regional TAM targets are, and that this process will repeat on an annual basis.

The presentation is available on the PSRC website [here](#) .

For more information, contact Gary Simonson at gsimonson@psrc.org

Discussion: Transit Agency Roundtable

During the Roundtable, the committee received updates and announcements from the following attendees:

- Sabina Araya, Community Transit
- Don Chartock, WSDOT
- Ray Deardorf, WSF
- Peter Heffernan, King County Metro
- Alex Krieg, Sound Transit
- Benjamin Smith, City of Seattle

Information: 2020-21 Planned Meeting Topics

An updated 2020-21 Planned Meeting Topics was provided for review.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

***Members and Alternates Present**

Peter Heffernan, King County Metro and Chair; Alex Krieg, Sound Transit and Vice-Chair; Melinda Adams, Everett Transit; Sabina Araya, Community Transit; John Bernhard, Washington State Ferries; Don Chartock, WSDOT; Ray Deardorf, Washington State

Ferries; Dan Hoyt, WSDOT; Lindsey Sehmel, Pierce Transit; Benjamin Smith, City of Seattle

***PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present**

Brock Howell, SNOTRAC; Kirste Johnson, Sound Transit, Monica Overby, Sound Transit

PSRC

Monica Adkins, Jennifer Barnes, Gil Cerise, Sarah Gutschow, Erin Hogan; Jean Kim, Andrea Harris-Long, Kelly McGourty, Maggie Moore, Gary Simonson, Kalon Thomas

**All attendees were present via remote participation*

Summary Notes from March 10, 2021 Regional FTA Caucus Meeting

The committee began the discussion of the CRRSA distribution options by discussing guiding principles. Various ideas and elements were noted, including the following:

- Acknowledgement of board discussions on the CARES Act distribution and call for further discussion on the FTA funding methodology.
- Consider equity, both geographic and social.
- The CARES Act and CRRSA are different than our normal FTA formula funding, with a focus on addressing the impacts from the pandemic and mitigating losses. Also, these dollars are above and beyond the normal formula funding.
 - The FTA guidance was referenced, which indicates that funds, to the maximum extent possible, should be directed to payroll and operations.
- The established earned share formula is consistent with regional policy and the historic agreed upon process.
- Mitigate having big winners and big losers. Don't leave anyone out and ensure all agencies have needs met.
- Recognize that each agency is different, with different structures and operations. Operating expenses are only one part of the total picture.
- The CRRSA legislative formula, and how they disbursed funding to UZAs, is different than that of CARES. Congress wanted to address what they felt needed to be modified from the CARES Act formula.
 - How the funding comes to the region matters, and these two acts do so differently than the normal formula funding.
- Discuss setting some overall guiding principles that would 1) preserve the integrity of the region's established process, while 2) also addressing how the funds come to the region in each piece of legislation, mirroring that distribution process. The resulting methodology should be logical, replicable and fair.
 - There was support for, but not 100% consensus on, using this as the initial guiding principle.
 - It was noted that Options 3-5 do not meet these principles.
 - There was consensus to keep under consideration Options 1, 6, 8 and 9.
- Agency by agency, a brief summary of their current positions:

- Community Transit – supports the use of a reliable methodology, setting principles and a rationale behind the decision. Supports all agencies working to compromise together and come up with a consensus approach.
- King County Metro – similar position as CT, and supports the further consideration of Options 1, 6, 8, 9 under those parameters.
- Sound Transit – supports the established earned share process as the most appropriate, vetted methodology, so supports only Option 1 or 9.
- Washington State Ferries – supports the guiding principles noted above and seeking a balance between the existing earned share methodology and the intent of the stimulus legislation. Prefers Option 8 as this balanced approach.
- Pierce Transit – can support Option 8.
- Everett Transit – supports a consensus approach, including addressing equity and a result with no big winners or big losers. Would consider Options 6 or 8; if Option 9 is the final option would request \$4m from the secondary distribution.
- Seattle – supports the four options for further consideration, Options 1, 6, 8, and 9.
- Kitsap Transit (external agency to STE UZA) – *per communication March 15, 2021, endorses Option 1 and use of the existing formula; can support Option 9 but prefers Option 1.*

Next steps: each agency is asked to review the information from today's meeting and discuss further with their colleagues and management, with the goal of working towards a consensus recommendation. We will bring the topic to the Transportation Operators Committee on March 24th for final recommendation.

2021 TOC Planned Meeting Topics

Ongoing

- FTA fund adjustments
- FTA fund project tracking

Quarter 1 (January – March)

- Next Level of Transit Planning for Regional Transportation Plan
 - Completion of future transit networks
 - Continued work on access to transit
 - Update to transit performance measures beyond the FTA requirements
 - Approach to incorporating TDM throughout the RTP
 - Planning for people with special transportation needs: assessment of needs and gaps
- PSRC Transit Plan Review
- Action on Consolidated Grant Regional Priority Rankings (special needs transportation)
- Check-in FTA Performance-based Planning:
 - Transit Safety Rule implementation – agency plan development; performance and targets
 - Transit Asset Management

Quarter 2 (April – June)

- Next Level of Transit Planning for Regional Transportation Plan
 - Regional Capacity Projects submitted: cross-check with future transit networks.
 - Continued work on access to transit
 - Update to transit performance measures beyond the FTA requirements
 - Refining approach to incorporating TDM throughout the RTP
 - Planning for people with special transportation needs: prioritized strategies for addressing mobility challenges
- 2021 Transit Integration Report Initiation

Quarter 3 (July – September)

- Next Level of Transit Planning for Regional Transportation Plan
 - Incorporating transit elements into the Draft Regional Transportation Plan
- 2021 Transit Integration Report development

Quarter 4 (October – December)

- Next Level of Transit Planning for Regional Transportation Plan
- Completion 2021 Transit Integration Report