

Recommendations to the 2024 State Legislature



Puget Sound Regional Council

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) supports adoption of state legislation that advances solutions to achieve a thriving, racially equitable and sustainable Puget Sound region through leadership, visionary planning, and collaboration.

Keep the Region Moving

VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan lay out a foundation for completing regional transportation investments and future work to strengthen connections to and between the region's centers. PSRC supports:

- Sustaining the transportation investments made with Move Ahead Washington during the 2021 legislative session
- Developing an equitable road usage charge (RUC) system through the work of the Washington State Transportation Commission to generate necessary revenue to eventually replace the gas tax, fund the state's long-term transportation needs, including multimodal connections and introduce revenue flexibility
- Funding and policies to restore, improve and modernize the Washington State Ferries system to ensure reliable cross-sound service and reduce environmental impact
- Maintaining agreed upon state and local funding split decisions as agreed upon by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) workgroup

Increase Housing Choices and Affordability

PSRC's Regional Housing Strategy identifies coordinated strategies, policies, and actions to expand housing options, create greater affordability, and promote fair and equal housing access to address the housing affordability crisis in our state. The PSRC region needs to build 800,000 more homes by 2050 and 20% of these homes need to be affordable to people earning less than half of the Area Median Income. Action is needed to address racially discriminatory housing policies and increase homeownership for Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) households. PSRC supports legislation and funding to in three action areas:

- **Supply:** Build more housing of different types as soon as possible
- **Stability:** Provide opportunities for residents to live in housing that meets their needs
- **Subsidy:** Create and sustain long-term funding sources to create and preserve housing for very low-income households and unhoused residents

Significantly Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan outline how state, regional, and local partners can act in coordination to reduce emissions in the region and prepare for climate impacts. PSRC supports state legislation to respond to the urgent environmental, health, economic and equity threat of climate change in alignment with the essential components of regional long-range planning:

- Transit-focused land use
- Multimodal transportation choices
- Pricing the transportation system
- Decarbonization of the transportation system, including improvements to freight and passenger vehicles and fuels

Sustain a Strong Economy

VISION 2050 and the Regional Economic Strategy plan for economic growth and opportunity that creates widespread prosperity and living-wage jobs to help sustain the region's economy. PSRC supports continued investments in:

- Workforce development programs to meet the needs of employers and a growing economy
- Critical infrastructure to support economic development, including broadband
- Clean energy industry technology like Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), offshore wind, fusion, hydrogen and other emerging technologies

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Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. PSRC is composed of nearly 100 members, including the four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies and Tribal governments within the region.