



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Regional FTA Caucus Agenda**

**Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Online Meeting Only: Use Zoom Connection Information Provided Below**

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**1. Welcome and Introductions (10:30)**

**2. Action: Approval of Meeting Summary – October 12, 2022\* (10:35)**

Approve summary for the Regional FTA Caucus meeting held October 12, 2022.

**3. Discussion: Review of Delayed TrAMS Obligations\* (10:40)**

PSRC staff will provide an update on projects currently experiencing delays in obligating their regional FTA funds or “flexed” FHWA funds. The Caucus will review the updated information and discuss next steps for each delayed project.

**4. Discussion: TPB FTA Working Group Update (11:40)**

PSRC staff will review recent discussions of the Transportation Policy Board FTA Working Group regarding PSRC’s FTA funding distribution methodology.

**5. Discussion: FTA Funding and Requirements (11:45)**

This is a standing item for Caucus members to share information or ask questions about FTA funding and other requirements, including updates related to the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

**6. Roundtable (11:50)**

**7. Other Business (11:55)**

**8. Next Meeting: January 11, 2023: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**9. Adjourn (12:00 p.m.)**

\* Supporting materials attached.

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822 or [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org).

### **Zoom Remote Connection Information:**

#### **To join audio/video conference:**

<https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/93353535601?pwd=WDRUVTh2SkxMMnBuM3VTUTNYTjNkQT09>

#### **To join via cellphone (1-touch dial):**

8884754499,,93353535601#,,,,,0#,,895936# US Toll-free

8335480276,,93353535601#,,,,,0#,,895936# 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: 933 5353 5601

Passcode: 895936

### **Regional FTA Caucus Attendees:**

#### **Please adhere to a few virtual meeting rules:**

- Please keep your microphone muted at all times when not speaking
- Use \*6 to mute/unmute phone
- Speakerphone is not recommended

#### **Other Formats:**

- Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 711.
- 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-center/language-assistance>



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Regional FTA Caucus Meeting Summary**

**Date:** October 12, 2022 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Online Meeting Only - Zoom Remote Meeting

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#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Steffani Lillie, Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:30 a.m. and took a roll call and confirmed the members and alternates present.

#### **Approval of Meeting Summary**

The summary for the June 8, 2022 Regional FTA Caucus meeting was approved as presented.

#### **Discussion: TPB FTA Working Group Update**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reviewed recent discussions of the Transportation Policy Board FTA Working Group. At the first meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the group had received a general overview of PSRC's FTA funding distribution process and discussed their concerns with the current process. For the second meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, the group heard additional background information on the process and were then asked to present their proposals for changing the current allocation methodology. She noted the next meeting would be held sometime in November.

*For more information, contact Kelly McGourty at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org).*

#### **Discussion: Update on Delayed TrAMS Obligations**

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, gave an overview of the information provided in the [agenda packet](#) on projects currently experiencing delays in obligating their regional FTA funds or "flexed" FHWA funds, in accordance with recently updated criteria for delayed projects. Caucus members with delayed projects then provided further details about their grant applications and the work they had been doing to advance them toward obligation. Sarah noted they would be gathering additional information about the projects after the meeting to help the Caucus determine next steps for the delayed projects.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org).*

## **Discussion: FTA Funding and Requirements**

Doug Cox, PSRC, provided a presentation on information PSRC has gathered about the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and shared how that information could be accessed. He said PSRC staff would continue to gather information on the BIL and how it will impact FTA programs and requirements, and encouraged Caucus members to reach out with any questions or other comments regarding the BIL.

The presentation can be viewed on the PSRC website [here](#).

*For more information, contact Doug Cox at [dcox@psrc.org](mailto:dcox@psrc.org).*

## **Roundtable / Other Business**

Melinda Adams, Everett Transit, reported on delays in their electric bus implementation. She said they were continuing to build charging stations and wayfinding displays and adding driver hours in support of implementation.

John Bernhard, Washington State Ferries (WSF), reported that WSF recently adopted its new budget and it has a focus on using more hybrid/electric vessels. He also noted that Rick Singer, WSF, recently retired.

Barb Hunter, Pierce Transit, reported on the groundbreaking for their new Spanaway Transit Center. She also noted that Pierce Transit has a new grant coordinator that she will be introducing at the next meeting.

Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit, reported that the Silverdale Transit Center construction is in progress and on track.

David Morrison, King County Metro, reported the South Annex base electrification project was progressing on time for implementation of the 2025-2026 electric bus fleet.

Kathryn Rasmussen, Community Transit, reported that Melissa Cauley started her new position as the Deputy Director of Planning and that a new grants person has also been hired.

Benjamin Smith, City of Seattle, mentioned that they have a new SDOT Director, Greg Spotts.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org).*

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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## **\*Members and Alternates Present**

See attached attendance roster for the member or alternate representing each agency at the meeting; additional alternates present are listed below.

**\*Alternates, Interested Parties, and PSRC Staff Present**

Krishan Aggarwal, Washington State Ferries; Tyler Benson, Sound Transit; Gina Hortillosa, KBA, Inc.; Kirste Johnson, Sound Transit; Amanda Koerber, Everett Transit; Eric Irelan, King County Metro; Dave Morrison, King County Metro; Jim Storment, City of Seattle

PSRC: Monica Adkins, Gil Cerise, Doug Cox, Sarah Gutschow, Nick Johnson, Kelly McGourty, Miles Stepleton, Kalon Thomas

*\*All attendees were present via remote participation*

# Regional FTA Caucus Attendance Roster

(Members and Alternates represented)

Date: October 12, 2022 10:30am - 11:30am

Online/Remote Meeting Only

Agency/Jurisdiction		Name
<b>Transit Agencies</b>		
Community Transit (1)	x	Kathryn Rasmussen
		Ashley Ross (Alt.)
Everett Transit (1)	x	Melinda Adams
		Amanda Koerber (Alt.)
King County Metro (1)	x	Peter Heffernan
		David Morrison (Alt.)
Kitsap Transit (1)	x	Steffani Lillie, Chair
		Jeff Davidson (Alt.)
Pierce County Ferries (1)	x	Clint Ritter, Vice Chair
		Peter Lewis-Miller (Alt.)
Pierce Transit (1)	x	Barb Hunter
		Tina Lee (Alt.)
Seattle DOT (1)	x	Benjamin Smith
		Vacant (Alt.)
Sound Transit (1)		Lisa Wolterink
		Kirste Johnson (Alt.)
	x	Monica Overby (Alt.)
<b>State</b>		
WSDOT - Washington State Ferries (1)	x	John Bernhard
		Rick Singer (Alt. 1)
		Krishan Aggarwal (Alt. 2)
		Leslie Rifkin (Alt. 3)
<b>Non-Voting Participants</b>		
Intercity Transit		Eric Phillips
		Jessica Gould
Skagit Transit		Marcy Smith

## Project Tracking Policies for PSRC's Federal Funds

### Update on Delayed FTA and FHWA TrAMS Applications

The table below summarizes projects experiencing delays in obligating funding as of **December 2022**.

Agency	Project	Funding	Estimated Obligation Date	Status	Project sponsor actions
King County Metro	Rainier Rapid Ride Corridor (SEA-213)	\$1,819,350 5307 Competitive	10/1/2017	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City of Seattle was the initial lead agency on two grant applications in the 2016 process for the R Line project, with both Section 5307 funds (\$3,000,000 for PE) and CMAQ (\$4,729,600 for CN) awarded. The City and Metro subsequently decided that Metro would lead the project and the City and Metro transferred lead agency status to Metro.</li> <li>Metro added the 5307 PE funds to application 1731-2019-10 in 2019 for initial review.</li> <li>The pandemic and subsequent budget cuts by Metro put the R Line project on a path to complete 10% design before pausing the project. When paused, Metro had incurred \$2,103,295 in eligible charges, which at 80% reimbursement meant Metro could draw down \$1,819,350 for the PE phase. Following negotiations with PSRC, it was agreed that Metro would return the remaining \$1,180,650 in 5307 funds. Metro returned both the \$1.18M and \$4.7M in CMAQ funds to PSRC in November 2021.</li> <li>Metro updated the grant application in October 2021 to reflect the reduced amount. Due to staffing shortages and workload issues at Region X, FTA has not yet processed the amended grant as it focused on national discretionary and lapsing funds.</li> <li>Metro met with their newly assigned grant representative on 11/16/22 and emphasized these funds are lapsing at the end of FFY2023, which places them among their highest priorities. They have revised the draft application and will return it back to FTA following two others that are currently in process that contain lapsing funds.</li> </ul>
King County Metro	West Seattle Water Taxi Mobility Hub (KCFD-13)	\$1,435,900 STP	7/15/2019	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scope of work has changed significantly on this project due to project scope questions before the pandemic and budget cuts after the beginning of the pandemic. During Metro's current budget process, it was determined that these funds cannot be used due to the limited budget provided in the upcoming biennium.</li> <li>Since these funds have already been transferred from FHWA to FTA, Metro proposes reducing the CMAQ funds that they transfer for FY2023 by \$1,435,900.</li> <li>They will provide formal notification of their intention to return the funds to PSRC and FTA in early December, as their budget will have passed Council by then.</li> </ul>

Agency	Project	Funding	Estimated Obligation Date	Status	Project sponsor actions
King County Metro	Transit Speed and Reliability Corridor Improvements (MET-203)	\$624,000 CMAQ	6/1/2018	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project received grants of both 5307 competitive and CMAQ funds. The goals of the project were accomplished at a lower cost than was anticipated utilizing the 5307 funds.</li> <li>During Metro's recently completed budget process, additional work on these routes was not added and it was determined that these funds are no longer needed.</li> <li>Since these funds have already been transferred from FHWA to FTA, Metro proposes reducing the CMAQ funds that they transfer for FY2023 by \$624,000.</li> <li>They will provide formal notification of their intention to return the funds to PSRC and FTA in early December, as their budget will have passed Council by then.</li> </ul>
King County Metro	Bus Replacements 2021-2022 (MET-222)	\$1,455,348 5307 Preservation	9/30/2021	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The funds will be used to purchase 5 door hybrid coaches for the RapidRide G Line lead by the City. The funds are included in FTA application 1731-2022-5, which was returned to Metro to update in April 2022.</li> <li>Due to staffing shortages and workload issues at Region X, FTA has not yet processed the grant. Metro has over \$179 million in FY2021 and prior year applications with FTA that are currently unprocessed.</li> <li>Metro develops applications annually once the FTA split letter is published. At the start of each federal fiscal year, any unprocessed FTA applications from the prior year must be updated to refresh STIP and other information per FTA instructions.</li> <li>At the request of Region X, Metro provides a list of its applications awaiting processing in ranked order and the list is reviewed at a bi-weekly to monthly meeting between FTA and Metro staff and adjusted as needed. All KCM applications that were not processed in FFY2022 are currently being updated. They met with their new FTA grant rep on 11/16 to prioritize their list.</li> </ul>
King County Metro	Transportation Demand Management to Support Centers and Regional Service Investments (MET-231)	\$695,122 CMAQ	6/1/2021	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The funds are included in FTA application 1731-2019-4, which was returned to Metro to update in April 2022..</li> <li>Due to staffing shortages and workload issues at Region X, FTA has not yet processed the grant. They met with their new FTA grant rep on 11/16/22 to prioritize their list.</li> </ul>
		\$2,304,878 CMAQ	7/15/2021		



Agency	Project	Funding	Estimated Obligation Date	Status	Project sponsor actions
King County Metro	Increasing Student and Family Access to Regional Travel Options through TDM (MET-237)	\$500,000 CMAQ	7/15/2021	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The funds were included in FTA grant WA-2020-087-01 as an amendment, which was returned to Metro to update in April 2022.</li> <li>Due to staffing shortages and workload issues at Region X, FTA has not yet processed the grant. They met with their new FTA grant rep on 11/16/22 to prioritize their list.</li> </ul>
Seattle	Center City Connector (SEA-205)	\$3,479,754 CMAQ	2/2/2017	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The C3 project continues be paused. However, as part of the 2023-2024 budget discussions, there is proposed funding for work on C3 as part of a Downtown Mobility Study. After the budget is finalized in late November 2022, they will be in a better position to provide a response on timeline for obligation.</li> <li>No work has been done under pre-award authority, due to continued pause of the project.</li> <li>No work has been done to progress the application, due to continued pause of the project. They are actively working to identify funding sources to support restarting the project.</li> <li>They continue to be interested in converting the vehicle grant to design funds, as discussed with PSRC in April 2022. Given budget deliberations and holidays, they request until the first quarter of 2023 to respond to the inquiry about a timeline for obligation or returning the funds.</li> <li>Additional updated information regarding this project has not yet been received by PSRC.</li> </ul>
Seattle	Monorail System Maintenance 2021-2022 (SEA-226)	\$42,579 5307 Preservation	9/30/2021	In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They have a pending TRAMS application that should be approved by late 2023 but could be approved much sooner. The Region 10 workload will affect the timing to some degree.</li> <li>The grant funded work is on-going maintenance. They've begun some of the work that would be billed to this grant, assuming pre-award authority, and will be incurring more substantial pre-award costs as the TrAMS process moves ahead.</li> <li>They submitted their application in TrAMS for both FY2021 and FY2022 funding before the annual shutdown for FFY2022, but FTA wasn't able to provide comments due to staff limitations. They believe FTA feedback and any needed SDOT revisions should be relatively prompt due to the routine nature of this project.</li> <li>Additional updated information regarding this project has not yet been received by PSRC.</li> </ul>
Sound Transit	Access to Transit with Next Generation	\$4,152,000 CMAQ	7/15/2021	Transmitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FTA had concerns about eligibility due to using the grant for pre-loaded ORCA cards. They viewed this as an operating expense, and therefore not eligible for 5307 funding. However, after confirming with PSRC, FTA eventually approved using the grant for non-pre-loaded cards (and education/outreach).</li> </ul>

Agency	Project	Funding	Estimated Obligation Date	Status	Project sponsor actions
	ORCA and ORCA Lift (RTA-104)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are actively working with FTA in getting this grant officially submitted in TrAMS. The TrAMS grant was transmitted in July 2022 before TrAMS closed at the end of FFY2022. After reopening in November, FTA reviewed and provided additional comments and edits to the application on 11/18/2022. ST is working on responding to the comments and plans to re-transmit the grant in early December, with the hope of being able to officially submit shortly thereafter.</li> </ul>