



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 from 9:30-11:30 am

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30)** – *Arun Sambataro, King County*
- 2. Reports (9:35)**
 - a. Meeting Summary for January 18, 2024*
 - b. PSRC Announcements and Updates
- 3. Discussion Item (10:00)**
 - a. Puget Sound Recovery Update* – *Larry Epstein, Puget Sound Partnership*
- 4. Discussion Item (10:30)**
 - a. PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process* – *Kelly McGourty, PSRC*
- 5. Discussion Item (11:00)**
 - a. Regional Transportation Plan Dashboard* – *Craig Helmann, PSRC*
- 6. Information Item**
 - a. Save the Date: 2024 Annual PSRC General Assembly, May 30, 2024 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm*
 - b. VISION 2050 Awards: Call for Nominations 2024*
- 7. Next meeting: March 21, 2024**
- 8. Adjourn (11:30)**

*Supporting materials attached.

Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join via a smart device or web browser, go to <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/87924550257?pwd=EK7BdufdrfzQHK8BkoIM3dilo9WGOQ.1> and enter Meeting ID: 879 2455 0257 and Passcode: 925191.
- To join by phone, call 888 475 4499 US Toll-free or 833 548 0276 US Toll-free and enter Meeting ID: 879 2455 0257 and Passcode: 925191.
- 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/language-assistance>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee Meeting Summary

Date: January 18, 2024

Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website:

<https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings>.

Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

Introductions and Announcements

Ben Bakkenta, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Participants were asked to view the meeting attendance on the “chat” feature on Zoom, and phone-in participants were asked to identify themselves verbally.

Reports

Co-Chair Ben Bakkenta welcomed the committee members and provided short updates on upcoming policy and Executive Board meetings and review the status of ongoing projects in the work program.

He shared that Arun Sambataro, Senior Policy Advisor at King County Office of Equity, Racial and Social Justice, and Jason Sullivan, Planning and Building Supervisor for the City of Bonney Lake, will be serving as two new co-chairs, and thanked them for stepping into this leadership role. Ben also shared that PSRC’s move is complete, and PSRC’s office is now in the 1201 Third Avenue building in downtown Seattle. With this move complete, the PSRC Executive Board and Operations Committees will be held in hybrid meeting formats on January 25, 2024. For now, only board meetings will be hybrid, and advisory committee meetings will remain virtual through May.

Discussion: Department of Commerce Services and Planning Resources

This discussion item was shifted to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the speaker’s schedule. Dave Andersen, with the Washington State Department of Commerce, shared that the department has created new functions and responsibilities, including expanded work on housing, climate change, and support for local comprehensive plan periodic updates.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at bbakkenta@psrc.org.

Discussion: 2024 WA State Legislative Session Update

Robin Koskey briefed the committee on PSRC’s legislative priorities and proposed legislation PSRC will be tracking in the 2024 Legislative Session.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org.

Discussion: Regional Centers Monitoring Scope of Work

Maggie Moore asked the committee to provide feedback on the draft scope of work for the regional centers work program, including plans and timelines for redesignation and monitoring called for by the Regional Centers Framework.

You can find the presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Maggie Moore, Senior Planner, at mmoore@psrc.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Members and Alternates Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Gil Cerise, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Katie Enders, PSRC
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC
Jason Thibedeau, PSRC
Maggie Moore, PSRC
Laura Benjamin-LaPitz, City of Bellevue
Carol Naito, PSRC
Lauren Engel, PSRC
Emily Arteché, City of Snoqualmie
Nancy Buonanno Grennan, PSRC
Noal Leonetti, PSRC
Erin Hogan, PSRC
Dave Andersen, Washington State Department of Commerce
Triangle Associates
Thomas Noyes, WSDOT
Alicia Armentrout, PSRC

PSRC Regional Staff Committee - Attendance Roster

Jurisdiction		Member		Jurisdiction		Member	
King County	2	Ivan Miller, King County Executive Office	R	Federal, Regional, State, Tribal & Other Agencies			
		McCaela Daffern, King County		FHWA	1	Matthew Pahs, Community Planner	
		Rebecca Maskin, Demographer Alt				Vacant Alt	
		Valerie Kendall, King County Alt		FTA	1	Ned Conroy, Community Planner	
At-Large	2	Arun Sambataro, Equity/Social Justice, Co-Chair	R			Vacant Alt	
		Kwame Simmons, Policy Advisor Alt	R	Health	1	Vacant	
		Dan Cardwell, King County	R			Richard Gelb, King County Alt 1	
		Susan Mclain, Permitting Alt				Jennifer Halverson Kuehn, Tacoma/Pierce Health Alt 2	
Transit	1	Peter Heffernan, King Co Metro Gov. Relations	R	Ports	1	Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs	
		Chris Arkills, King Co Metro Gov. Relations Alt				Deirdre Wilson, Northwest Seaport Alliance Alt	R
Economic Dev.	1	Ashton Allison, King Co Exec Office, Econ Dev	R	PSCAA	1	Amy Fowler, Policy Manager	
		Amie Danielewicz, King Co Exec Office Alt	R			Kathy Strange, Air Quality Programs Alt	
Seattle	2	Michael Hubner, OPCD	R	Puget Sound	1	Larry Epstein, Deputy Director	
		Jonathan Lewis, SDOT	R	Partnership		Dan Stonington, Planning Manager Alt	
		Patrice Carroll, OPCD Alt		Sound Transit	1	Matt Shelden, Planning & Innovation	
		Joanna Valencia, SDOT Alt				Alex Krieg, Planning & Integration Alt	
Bellevue	1	Thara Johnson, Planning Manager, Comm Dev	R	Tribal	1	Vacant	
		Katie Kuciemba Halse, Transportation, Alt		Representatives		Vacant Alt	
Cities/Towns	3	Diana Hart, City of Kirkland	R	US EPA	1	Susan Sturges	R
		Jeff Churchill, City of Redmond	R			Erik Peterson Alt	
		Brian Davis, City of Federal Way		US HUD	1	Vacant	
		Vacant Alt				Vacant Alt	
		Vacant Alt		WA Dept. of Commerce	1	Chris Green	
		Vacant Alt				Marie Davis	
Kitsap County	1	Eric Baker, Policy	R	WSDOT	1	Greg Scott, WSDOT	R
		Jeff Rimack, Alt				Matthew Kenna, WSDOT Alt	
At-Large	1	Heather Wright, Planning Director	R	PSRC Committees			
		Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt	R	PSRC Co-Chair	1	Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning	R
Transit	1	Edward Coviello, Kitsap Transit		BPAC	1	Vacant	
		Vacant Alt				Eric Goodman, Community Transit, Alt	
Economic Dev.	1	Joe Morrison, KEDA		FAC	1	Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs	R
		Vacant Alt				Vacant Alt	
Bremerton	1	Andrea Spencer, Comm Dev., Co-Chair		RPEC	1	Doug McCormick, RPEC Chair	
		Garrett Jackson, Planning Manager, Alt				Shane Weber, RPEC Vice Chair	
Cities/Towns	1	Nick Bond, Comm Dev., Port Orchard	R	SNTC	1	Susan Carter, SNTC Chair	
		Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt				Vacant Alt	
Pierce County	1	Vacant		TDM	1	Jennifer Hass, Community Transit	R
		Vacant Alt				Sarah Spicer, City of Seattle, Alt	
At-Large	2	Tiffany Speir, Lakewood, Planning	R	RTOC	1	Vacant	
		Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake, Planning, Co-Chair	R			Vacant Alt	
		Ryan Windish, Sumner, Alt		R = Remote attendance			
		Angelie Stahlnecker, Milton, Alt					
Transit	1	Vacant					
		Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit, Alt	R				
Economic Dev	1	Rob Allen, Economic Development	R				
		Vacant Alt					
Tacoma	1	Peter Huffman, Planning & Dev Srvcs					
		Vacant					
Cities/Towns	1	Kendall Wals, Puyallup					
		Chris Larson, Fife, Alt	R				
Snohomish County	1	Mike McCrary, PDS Director	R				
		David Killingstad, Planning & Development					
At-Large	2	Kelly Snyder, Director, Co-Chair	R				
		Ken Klein, Executive Director					
		Jay Larson, Public Works Supervisor, Alt					
		Joshua Dugan, Exec Operations Officer, Alt	R				
Transit	1	Melissa Cauley, Community Transit					
		Melinda Adams, Everett Transit Alt	R				
Economic Dev	1	Neepaporn Bounjaktha, Economic Dev					
		James Henderson, Economic Dev Alt					
Everett	1	Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director	R				
		Becky Ableman McCrary, Long Range Planning Mgr	R				
Cities/Towns	1	Russ Wright, Lake Stevens, Comm Dev. Director	R				
		Patricia Love, Stanwood, Comm Dev. Director, Alt.					
Total Members	51	Attended	33				



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 15, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Erika Harris, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: **Puget Sound Recovery Update**

IN BRIEF

Staff from the Puget Sound Partnership will update the Regional Staff Committee on the state of Puget Sound's health and planning efforts and funding for Puget Sound recovery.

DISCUSSION

The Puget Sound Partnership is the state agency leading the collective effort to restore and protect Puget Sound. Larry Epstein, the Partnership's Deputy Director, will provide an update to the committee. Larry will brief the committee on the latest findings from the [State of the Sound](#). He will highlight opportunities for PSRC members to support planning and implementation of the [Action Agenda for Puget Sound](#), the shared plan for advancing protection and restoration efforts across the region. He will also describe [funding opportunities](#) for projects and activities that support Puget Sound recovery, including a focus on aligning transportation and Puget Sound restoration work.

VISION 2050 supports the work of local jurisdictions and the Puget Sound Partnership to promote a coordinated approach to watershed planning and restoring the health of Puget Sound. PSRC's guidance on [Integrating Stormwater Solutions into Comprehensive Plans](#) was developed to support [Puget Sound recovery](#) through comprehensive planning.

Next Steps

The committee is encouraged to share information with interested staff and integrate support for Puget Sound recovery into comprehensive plans and other work.

Lead Staff

Questions? Contact Erika Harris, AICP, Senior Planner, at eharris@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 15, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process

IN BRIEF

At the February 15 meeting, the Regional Staff Committee will be briefed on PSRC's upcoming 2024 project selection process.

PSRC has project selection authority for several sources of funds from both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Prior to each funding cycle, the policies and procedures for the project selection process are reviewed and updated as needed to reflect current regional priorities and requirements and are documented in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*. The next process will be conducted in 2024 for PSRC's 2027-2028 FHWA and FTA funds.

Over the last five months, the Transportation Policy Board discussed potential improvements to the 2024 project selection process, focused on the specific emphasis areas of safety, climate, and equity. At their January 25 meeting, the Executive Board approved the policies and procedures for the 2024 project selection process as recommended by the Transportation Policy Board, to be documented in the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*.

The call for projects is anticipated for release in February.

DISCUSSION

Safety, equity, and climate are priority themes in both the Regional Transportation Plan and PSRC's funding processes. Over the past five months the Transportation Policy Board reviewed how these policy focus areas were addressed in the 2022 Policy Framework, and discussed various options for improvements to the 2024 project selection process. Information was provided to support these discussions, including background on the project evaluation criteria, information on the projects funded in the last cycle, and administrative details of the project selection process. Specifically, the Transportation Policy Board reviewed and discussed potential revisions related to safety, climate and equity including options for both criteria and scoring

changes. The following summarizes in greater detail the suite of improvements adopted for the 2024 project selection process.

Safety

1. Update the scoring values for safety in the project evaluation criteria.
2. Update the safety criterion & language to more concretely tie to the [Safe System Approach](#) and [FHWA proven safety countermeasures](#).
3. Require that each agency have, or commit to develop, a safety plan based on a Safe System Approach in order to be eligible to compete for PSRC funding. The specific language to be included in the 2024 application is as follows:

“USDOT is developing a framework for assessing how projects align with the Safe System Approach, and PSRC is developing a Regional Safety Action Plan due in early 2025. Does your agency commit to adhering to the forthcoming guidance and continuing to work towards planning and implementation actions under a Safe System Approach, to reduce fatalities and serious injuries?

PSRC will continue to monitor local safety action plans and revisit prior to the 2026 project selection process.”

Climate

PSRC uses a project-level emissions estimation tool to evaluate every project, regardless of funding source. Projects resulting in a substantial reduction in fine particulate and/or greenhouse gas emissions – the two highest priority pollutants in the region - score the highest under the Air Quality / Climate criterion.

PSRC is in the process of updating the project-level emissions estimation tool to reflect current state of the practice, including consideration of induced demand for capacity expansion of highways and major arterials. In addition, the Air Quality / Climate Change criterion will continue to prioritize projects that result in significant emission reductions of greenhouse gases and fine particulates through the substantial elimination of vehicle trips, reduction of vehicle miles traveled, conversion to alternative fuels, and reduction of heavy duty diesel truck idling or the shortening of heavy duty diesel truck trip lengths.

The Transportation Policy Board considered increasing the point values for the Air Quality / Climate criterion. However, since this criterion is already more heavily weighted (currently 20-50 points depending on the funding source), and since the impact from this option would reduce the points allocated to the support for Centers criterion, this option was not advanced. In addition, the Transportation Policy Board considered prohibiting from the competition projects adding general purpose capacity expansion on limited access highways. The board felt further evaluation was needed on this proposal before advancing and directed staff to continue researching the impacts and nuances from this topic for future consideration.

Equity

The Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) finalized recommendations on the Equity Pilot, which was established as part of the 2022 process and conducted in 2023. The EAC recommendation included improvements to both the equity criteria and scoring values in

the upcoming project selection process. Specific criteria improvements include updates to how community outreach and engagement and displacement risk is evaluated and incorporating equity throughout all criteria.

The Transportation Policy Board also considered setting a threshold for funding projects only above a certain total score, since the final scores and rankings reflect how well each project meets all of the project evaluation criteria and regional policies. This proposal was not advanced, but the board directed staff to continue working with PSRC's Regional Project Evaluation Committee on options and administrative procedures to present to the board later in 2024.

At the January 25, 2024, meeting, the Executive Board took final action to adopt the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*, as recommended by the Transportation Policy Board. The adopted *Framework* includes a number of other elements that are retained from the previous process, including the preservation and bicycle/pedestrian set-asides and other administrative details. The call for projects is anticipated for release in February.

Lead Staff

Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at 206-971-3601 or kmcgourty@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 15, 2024

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Craig Helmann, Director of Data

SUBJECT: Regional Transportation Plan Dashboard

IN BRIEF

At the Regional Staff Committee meeting on February 15, 2024, staff will share an annual report presentation highlighting prior year transportation trends and share the updated performance dashboard with the committee.

DISCUSSION

The [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (RTP) identified numerous implementation items, covering all the major plan elements and policy focus areas. These implementation items call for new and continued work to be done by PSRC, local agencies and other regional and state partners. One of the implementation items was the development of a performance dashboard. Specifically, the RTP calls for PSRC to identify and report on performance measures related to key aspects of VISION 2050 and the RTP, including but not limited to, emissions, safety, active transportation, vehicle miles traveled and transit ridership. The plan also calls for PSRC to track the progress of these measures through an online dashboard.

The Transportation Policy Board provided feedback on the draft dashboard in fall 2022 and the dashboard was released in January of 2023. The data has been continually updated throughout 2023 and several improvements have been incorporated in the dashboard. At the RSC meeting on February 15, PSRC staff will provide an annual report of 2023 RTP Dashboard trends highlighting key changes related to safety, climate and travel and growth trends. Some of the key metrics that will be reviewed include changes in vehicle miles traveled, serious and fatal collisions, transit use, commute trends and zero-emission vehicle registrations.

Lead Staff

For more information, please contact Craig Helmann, Director of Data, at 206-389-2889 or chelmann@psrc.org.



SAVE THE DATE

Puget Sound Regional Council

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 30, 2024 | 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Location TBD

PSRC's General Assembly will meet on **May 30, 2024**, to vote on major decisions, establish the budget, and elect new officers. Please save the date!

All mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers of PSRC member jurisdictions and tribes have votes at the Assembly and are encouraged to participate.

Registration will open in **early April**.

For questions, please contact **Sheila Rogers** at (206) 354-6560 or email srogers@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

VISION 2050 AWARDS

Call for Nominations 2024

The Puget Sound Regional Council is seeking nominations for the VISION 2050 Awards Program through April 1, 2024.

The VISION 2050 Awards celebrate progress to enhance the region's communities and natural environment while advancing equity and opportunity for all. The awards recognize innovative work to create a better future for central Puget Sound.

We welcome nominations in the following categories:

On the Ground

Projects that show VISION 2050 in action today, including housing, mixed-use development or redevelopment, expanding access to opportunity, open space preservation, and transportation investments.

Planning Ahead

Comprehensive or subarea plans, economic development plans, climate action plans, equity initiatives, design guidelines, outreach programs, and other similar efforts that are shaping a positive future for the region.

Working Together

Cross-jurisdictional or public/private partnerships focused on solutions or working together to tackle tough problems and advance VISION 2050. Examples include multijurisdictional work on housing affordability, environmental and climate initiatives, corridor transportation planning, or other similar efforts to face long-term regional challenges.

The region's vision for 2050

is to provide exceptional quality of life, opportunity for all, connected communities, a spectacular natural environment, and an innovative, thriving economy. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at www.psrc.org

Eligibility

New this year: PSRC will only be accepting nominations directly from its [membership](#). Firms seeking to nominate projects can do so through the member jurisdiction in which the project is located.

Nominations must be for projects, programs, plans or partnerships within the four-county region of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties that help achieve VISION 2050. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at psrc.org/vision.

All nominated projects must be completed and open, plans must be adopted by their jurisdictions, programs must be in operation and partnerships must be formally working together.

Submit a Nomination!

Nominations must be submitted online through the [VISION 2050 Awards Nomination Form](#)

Learn more at: www.psrc.org

Scan the code for
the nomination form



Schedule

- April 1, 2024 – Nominations due
- April-May 2024 – Awards Selection Committee composed of PSRC board members will select the award winners
- Summer/Fall 2024 – Awards presented on location around the region



VISION 2050 AWARDS