



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **MINUTES**

**Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board  
April 11, 2024  
1201 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Ste 500, Seattle, WA 98101**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph stated that a video of the meeting would be streamed live as well as recorded. The video would be available for viewing on PSRC's website. A call-in number was provided on the meeting agenda for members of the public to call in by phone and listen to the meeting live.

Mayor Ralph welcomed one new board member:

- Councilmember Doug Newall, Poulsbo, alternate for Kitsap County Cities & Towns

Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Niles provided public comment to the board.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Ralph noted that there was a full agenda and would call on Kelly McGourty for the Director's Report.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, noted there had not been enough time at the March meeting to discuss the future work program items topic. Staff had intended to follow up with members via email to prompt feedback on the topic. The board will receive an email by the end of the week asking for member input.

Ms. McGourty shared that action item 6 on today's agenda had been reviewed by the board at its previous meeting. The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) had

recommended approval by the Executive Board. At the Executive Board meeting, the City of Everett shared some concerns about the action. The Executive Board asked that the Transportation Policy Board review the action again. Ms. McGourty shared that she has been in conversations with Everett and more details will be provided later in the meeting.

Ms. McGourty noted that there was an information item listed on the agenda cover for the Washington State Transportation Commission. The Commission is updating the Washington Transportation Plan and hosting information meetings throughout the state. The link to register for meetings is included on the agenda cover.

Ms. McGourty highlighted that project selection is underway. She shared highlights of the eligibility review process and the expanded focus on delivery and project timelines, and that staff is providing much more robust communications and review. Applications for the regional competition have been posted on PSRC's website.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held March 14, 2024
- b. Routine amendment to 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Mayhew/Pauly) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.**

### **ACTION ITEM: UPDATES TO PSRC'S FTA PROJECT TRACKING POLICIES**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reminded the board that this item had been on TPB's March consent agenda. Concerns were raised at the Executive Board from the City of Everett, so the item was pulled and sent back to TPB. She indicated that she had worked with Councilmember Zarlingo, who had proposed a modest revision to the language.

Ms. McGourty provided an overview of how PSRC distributes FTA funding and the new FTA equity distribution procedures. She also shared guidance for the equity funding distribution and how it was developed. Ms. McGourty then reviewed the project tracking policies and the proposed changes that would provide flexibility for equity funded projects. The Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) developed revisions that would still adhere to a high bar of how equity funds should be awarded. She discussed the background of why exceptions and flexibility in the policies were warranted.

Ms. McGourty then described the follow-up conversations with Councilmember Zarlingo and the refinement to the policy changes being proposed. Councilmember Zarlingo provided remarks on the related experiences of Everett Transit.

Members discussed the reference to a timeframe in the proposed amendment. It was noted that it could add further constraints to projects. It was agreed to remove the timeframe requirement from the amendment.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Zarlingo/Daughtry) that The Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve the revisions to PSRC’s FTA project tracking policies as amended including the removal of section b. The motion passed.**

#### **ACTION ITEM: 2024 PROJECT TRACKING AND EXTENSION REQUESTS**

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, shared that today’s discussion is a continuation of last month’s action. She provided background on the project tracking policies and the adopted five-step process to address gaps in delivery each year.

The adopted policies allow for a one-time extension within certain parameters. Ms. Barnes reviewed the project extension process and how extensions will or will not be granted. She provided a summary of the reasons for the 2024 extensions and described the process with WSDOT and the chairs of the Regional Project Evaluation Committee and the four countywide forums to develop the recommendation.

**ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Pauly/Mayhew) that The Transportation Policy Board should recommend the Executive Board approve the actions related to 2024 project extensions as detailed in Attachment A.**

Kelly McGourty shared the background and policies related to how and when project cost increases are addressed for PSRC funded projects. Per policy, the only opportunity to provide cost increases is during the annual rebalancing effort to meet the delivery gap. The process uses the estimates at the time of award, to ensure consistency and fairness across all agencies.

Ms. McGourty noted there are opportunities outside of PSRC to receive funds for project cost increases. She shared that through the state each year there has been an opportunity to receive funds when construction bids come in higher than project estimates. In order to be eligible, however, the region must first meet its required annual delivery target. She outlined the narrow requirements to be eligible for this funding.

Members asked that in the following cycle there be an opportunity to look at changing the policy regarding funding increases and limiting the estimates to those created at the time of award.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2026-2050) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Ms. McGourty, PSRC, thanked members for their previous feedback on priorities for the next RTP. Today the board would review in greater detail what is included in the current RTP.

Ms. McGourty provided a general overview of the RTP, and the various elements included. She discussed investments in the integrated multimodal transportation system, indicating that the RTP addresses all modes including intercity rail, aviation, freight, ferries, mobility on demand, transportation demand management, transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, etc.

Ms. McGourty reviewed key new features included in the current plan, such as expanded data collection, updated system inventories and a new visualization tool that not only assisted PSRC with identifying gaps, but also serves as a tool for member jurisdictions. She then reviewed key outcomes of the plan and described the different lenses such as geographies and equity populations.

Ms. McGourty went over the details of the financial strategy to pay for the plan. She shared the breakdown of investments and revenues. She reviewed current law revenues that are forecast into the future and described the options to cover the remaining gap. The current RTP does include assumptions of the transition to a road usage charge (RUC). The plan makes assumptions that are distinct from the current state assumptions related to a RUC. The RTP includes an action item to develop more details related to implementation of a RUC. Ms. McGourty indicated that the board will have an opportunity to dig deeper into the current financial strategy in the coming months.

Members further discussed the RUC and funding for state ferries. Members discussed safety being a primary concern and the regional safety plan should coordinate with the highway patrol. Staff shared that consultants supporting the regional safety plan public outreach will be coordinating with those partners.

Chair Ralph asked members to reach out to Kelly to share feedback early in the development of the plan.

Chair Ralph noted that the agenda packet included the work program tracker. She also reminded members that PSRC's General Assembly is scheduled for May 30.

Members asked if PSRC is considering the implications for the World Cup. Staff shared that some conversations have happened, but PSRC is not directly involved. Members shared it will be a regional concern. Members shared that the Washington State Department of Transportation is working closely with the city of Seattle in advance.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2024.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Attachment:

- A. Attendance Roster – April 11, 2024.

Transportation Policy Board - April 11, 2024				05a. - Att. A	
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members	✓
<b>King County</b>	2	CM Jorge Barón	1	<b>Associate Members</b>	
		Vacant		Island County	1
		Vacant Alt			1
Seattle	2	CM Rob Saka		Thurston Regional Planning Council	1
		CM Robert Kettle	1		1
		CM Tanya Woo, Alt		<b>Public Agency Members</b>	
Bellevue	1	CM Dave Hamilton	1	Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1
		CM Jared Nieuwenhuis Alt			1
Cities/Towns	3	MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, <b>Chair</b>	1	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1		1
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac	1	Public Health	1
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt			1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt		WA Tran. Improvement Board	1
		CM Matt Mahoney, Des Moines Alt	1		1
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski		<b>PSRC Committees</b>	
		Vacant Alt		Equity Advisory Cmte.	1
<b>Kitsap County</b>	1	COM Christine Rolfes	1		1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1		1
		CP Jennifer Chamberlin Alt		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl			1
		CM Doug Newell, Poulsbo Alt	1	Transportation Operators Cmte.	1
Local Transit	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard			1
		CM Anna Mockler, Bremerton	1	<b>Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor</b>	
<b>Pierce County</b>	1	CM Ryan Mello, <b>Vice Chair</b>	1	WA Trucking Associations	1
		CM Dave Morell Alt		exp. 12/31/26	1
Tacoma	1	CM Kristina Walker		Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce	1
		CM Olgy Diaz Alt		exp. 12/31/26	1
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton		<b>Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment</b>	
		MYR Pro Tem Edward Wood, University Place Alt		TBD	
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County		Non-voting	10
		DEP MYR John Hines, Tacoma			10
<b>Snohomish County</b>	1	CM Jared Mead			
		CM Strom Peterson Alt			
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1		
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt			
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1		
		CM Michael Dixon, Mukilteo Alt			
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1		
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt			
<b>Regional Transit</b>	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton	1		
		MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife Alt			
<b>Federally Recognized Tribes</b>					
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			
<b>Statutory Members</b>					
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle	1		
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt	1		
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jim Restucci	1		
		COM Nicole Grant Alt			
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew	1		
		Todd Lamphere Alt			
<b>Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)</b>					
House Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant			
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt			
		REP Dan Griffey, R			
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt			
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	SEN Marko Lias, D			
		SEN Emily Randall, D Alt			
		Vacant, R			
		Vacant, R Alt			
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	18		
		Total Voting members present	20		