



Puget Sound Regional Council

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting – PSRC Board Room: 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98101

Watch or listen

- Watch the meeting live at <https://www.psrc.org/watch-meetings>
- Listen by phone at 877 853 5257 US Toll-free or 888 475 4499 US Toll-free and enter Meeting ID: 874 6771 4886 and Passcode: 608758.

Attend

- The public can attend meetings at [PSRC's offices](#).
- PSRC staff will be available to provide floor access 30 minutes before the meeting's start time and up to 15 minutes after the meeting's start time.
- If you arrive outside of these times, please call 206-464-7090 for assistance.

Provide public comment

- **Public comment must relate to an action or discussion item on the agenda. Each member of the public will have 2 minutes to speak.**
- **In-person**
Public comment may be made in person at PSRC's offices.
- **Comment during the meeting by Zoom or phone:** [Register here](#)
To allow staff time to process requests, registration is required and closes at 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. Late registrations will not be accepted.
- **Written comments**
Comments may be submitted via email to msvob@psrc.org by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. Comments will be shared with board members.

Public comments are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter [42.56](#).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (10:00) – *Councilmember Conrad Lee, EDD President*

2. Communications and Public Comment

Public comment must relate to an action or discussion item on the agenda.

3. President's Remarks (10:15)

4. Staff Report (10:20)

5. Consent Agenda - Action Items (10:25)

- a. Approve Minutes of Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Meeting held September 4, 2024
- b. Approve Vouchers dated October 15, 2024 in the amount of \$44.50

c. Approve 2025 Economic Development District Board Meeting Calendar

6. Discussion Item (10:30)

a. 2025 Economic Development Priorities – *Jason Thibedeau, PSRC, Keith Swenson, Washington State Department of Commerce, Suzanne Dale Estey, WEDA*

7. Discussion Item (10:50)

a. EDD FY26-27 Biennial Budget Development – *Andrew Werfelmann, PSRC*

8. Discussion Item (11:00)

a. Housing Research Center Proposal – *Robin Koskey, PSRC*

9. Discussion Item (11:30)

a. Regional Economic Analysis Scoping – *Jason Thibedeau, PSRC*

10. Information Items

a. PSRC Staff Report

11. Next Meeting: March 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn (12:00)

Board members please submit proposed amendments and materials prior to the meeting for distribution. Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Mikayla Svob, e-mail msvob@psrc.org or mail.

For language or ADA assistance at PSRC board meetings, please contact us at 206-464-7090 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. For TTY-based telecommunications relay service dial 711.

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Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Hybrid Meeting – PSRC Board Room: 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98101

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Councilmember Conrad Lee, President. To determine attendance and a quorum was present, a verbal roll call was conducted by staff.

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:
<https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings>.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Lee welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance. He encouraged members to share resources and collaborate, and highlighted different EDD Board priorities, including amplifying regional efforts to grow the regional economy.

Later he shared that the board would be joined by Bill Adamson, from South Sound Military and Communities Partnership, as well as PSRC staff, including Craig Helmann, PSRC Director of Data, Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, and Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications.

STAFF REPORT

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, updated the board on PSRC projects and events, included as information items in the September 4, 2024

agenda packet, on pages 19-20. This agenda, as well as past materials for the board, can be found on the [Economic Development District Board webpage](#).

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held June 5, 2024
- b. Approve Vouchers dated June 14, 2024 in the amount of \$140.75

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Simpson/Garrido) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: STATEWIDE MILITARY AND DEFENSE SECTOR ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Bill Adamson, South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP), provided an overview of the statewide Military and Defense Sector Economic Impact Analysis that is set to be released in August.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL DATA TRENDS

Craig Helmann, Director of Data, provided a background presentation on the latest data trends in the central Puget Sound region.

DISCUSSION ITEM: 2025 PSRC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA & EDD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Staff is beginning the process to develop PSRC's Recommendations to the 2025 Washington State Legislature and a set of 2025 Economic Development Priorities. Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, and Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, reviewed the process to develop these items and gathered input from the Economic Development District (EDD) Board.

NEXT MEETING

The board will meet on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Adopted this 4th day of December 2024.

Councilmember Conrad Lee, President

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District

ATTEST: _____
Josh Brown, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTACHMENT

A. Attendance Roster – September 4, 2024

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board							
Voting Members				Voting Members			
King County	2	EXEC Dow Constantine		Ports			
		Vacant Alt		Port of Bremerton	1	COM Axel Strakeljahn*	1
		Ashton Allison Alt	1			COM Cary Bozeman Alt	
		CM Reagan Dunn		Port of Everett	1	COM David Simpson	1
		Vacant Alt				COM Glen Bachman Alt	
		Cody Eccles Alt		Port of Seattle	1	COM Ryan Calkins	
Seattle	2	CM Rob Saka				Vacant Alt	
		CM Cathy Moore Alt				Annie Tran Alt	1
		Vacant Alt		Port of Tacoma	1	COM Kristin Ang	
		MYR Bruce Harrell				COM Deanna Keller Alt	
		Vacant Alt		Commerce			
		Markham McIntyre Alt		WA Dept. of Commerce	1	Chris Green	
Bellevue	1	CM Conrad Lee*	1			Keith Swenson Alt	
		MYR Lynne Robinson Alt		Chambers of Commerce	1	Andrea Reay, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce*	
		Corbin Hart Alt				Vacant Alt	
Cities/Towns	2	CM Larry Brown, Auburn		Economic Development			
		CM Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way	1	EDC - Seattle & King	1	Rachel Smith	
		CM Ed Prince, Renton Alt				Lynnette Buffington Alt	1
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent Alt		KEDA - Kitsap	1	Joe Morrison	1
Kitsap County	1	COM Charlotte Garrido	1			James Davis Alt	
		COM Katie Walters Alt		EASC - Snohomish	1	Wendy Poischbeg	
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler				Vacant Alt	
		CM Jennifer Chamberlin Alt		EDB - Tacoma & Pierce	1	Bruce Kendall	
Cities/Towns	1	DM Ed Stern, Poulsbo*	1			Tamsin Bell Alt	
		CM John Morrissey, Port Orchard Alt		Workforce Development Councils			
Pierce County	1	CM Dave Morell*	1	WDC - Olympic	1	William Dowling	1
		CM Marty Campbell Alt		WorkForce Central		Katie Condit Alt	
Tacoma	1	CM Joe Bushnell	1	Organized Labor			
		CM Kiara Daniels Alt		WSLC	1	April Sims, WSLC President	
Cities/Towns	1	DM Bryan Yambe, City of Fife	1			Chelsea Mason-Placek Alt	
		CM Nikki Bufford, City of Fircrest Alt		Presidential Appointments			
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead				Brian Surratt, President & CEO, GSP*	
		CM Megan Dunn Alt				Rebecca Lovell, COO, GSP Alt	
Everett	1	CM Paula Rhyne	1			Tom Florino, Amazon*	1
		Vacant Alt					
		Dan Eernisse Alt	1			Terry Ryan, Snohomish County*	
		CM Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam,					
Cities/Towns	1	Arlington	1			Michael Greer, President & CEO, ArtsFund	
		CM Michael Dixon, Mukilteo Alt		Non-voting Members			
Federally Recognized Tribes				PSRC President, Ex-Officio		Bob Drewel	
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Vacant		PSRC President		MYR Becky Erickson	
		Vacant Alt		Navy Region NW		Bill Bulis, Executive Director	
Suquamish Tribe	1	CHR Leonard Forsman				Russell Byrd, CPLO Alt	1
		CM Jay Mills Alt					
				Abbreviations			
				CM Councilmember		* Executive Committee	
Voting	33	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	17	COM Commissioner		1 = Voting Member for Meeting	
				CHR Chair			



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Approve Vouchers dated October 15, 2024 in the amount of \$44.50**

IN BRIEF

PSRC vouchers are reviewed by the Operations Committee and approved by the Executive Board. To comply fully with RCW 42.24.080, vouchers for the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (CPSEDD) should be approved by the EDD Board as well.

DISCUSSION

The EDD Board should approve the following vouchers:

Approved Vouchers dated October 15, 2024 in the amount of			
\$44.50			
REQUESTED			
<u>WARRANT DATE</u>		<u>VOUCHER NUMBER</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
10/15/2024		Payroll 43149	\$ 44.50
			\$ 44.50

For more information, contact Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager, at 206-971-3292, or awerfelmann@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

A. A/P Check Batches



Puget Sound Regional Council

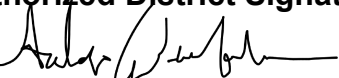
Date: November 26, 2024

A/P Check Batches		
Dated	Check Numbers	Amount
(Payroll – 10/15/24)	43149	\$44.50
Hand Checks		\$0.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$44.50</u>

Payment Certification RCW(42.24.080)

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that the materials have been furnished, the services rendered, the labor performed as described, or that any advance payment is due and payable pursuant to a contract or is available as an option for full or partial fulfillment of a contractual obligation, and that the claim(s) is(are) just, due and unpaid obligations against the above-named governmental unit, that we are authorized to authenticate and certify to said claim(s).

Authorized District Signature(s) for Payment Claims (Auditing Officer(s) or Board Member(s)):

	11/14/24		
Authorized District Signature	Date	Authorized District Signature	Date
 _____ Authorized District Signature	 _____ Date	 _____ Authorized District Signature	 _____ Date

Check Summary Report

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Meeting - December 4, 2024

Check				
Number	Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
43149	10/15/2024	Thibedeau	Ferry Pass - KEDA Meeting	44.50
Total				44.50



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

To: Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Approve 2025 Economic Development District Board Meeting Calendar**

IN BRIEF

Staff are recommending a set of dates for quarterly Economic Development District Board meetings in 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The EDD Board should approve the following meeting schedule for 2025:

- Wednesday, March 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 4 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 3 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Note that PSRC does not send out calendar holds for policy board meetings. Please add these dates to your calendar.

For more information, contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at 206-389-2879 or jthibedeau@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **2025 Economic Development Priorities**

IN BRIEF

At the December meeting, the Economic Development District (EDD) Board will discuss state and regional economic development efforts planned for 2025 and establish priorities to guide EDD staff and board efforts for the upcoming year and support efforts by regional partners.

DISCUSSION

On an annual basis, the EDD develops a set of priorities to identify ways the organization can utilize its regional role to advance economic development efforts, build economic development capacity and implement the [Regional Economic Strategy](#). These roles include:

- Analysis & Strategy Development: Analyzing the regional economy, identifying new industry opportunities and developing strategies to support growth of jobs in the region.
- Technical Assistance: Providing technical assistance to local jurisdictions in their economic development planning efforts and pursuit of federal funding and providing support to efforts that aim to expand regional economic capacity.
- Amplifying Regional Efforts: Supporting efforts to implement policies and programs that grow the regional economy and expanding knowledge about regional businesses, industries and assets.

The establishment of these priorities guide staff and board efforts for the upcoming year and are used by regional partners to support legislative advocacy efforts. The priorities

are informed by other state and regional economic development efforts including PSRC's Recommendations to the Washington State Legislature, the Washington Economic Development Association's Legislative Agenda, priorities of the Washington State Department of Commerce, as well as input from the EDD Board and Executive Committee. At its September meeting, the EDD Board provided input to staff on the 2025 Economic Development Priorities.

PSRC Recommendations to the 2025 Washington State Legislature

PSRC is finalizing its Recommendations to the 2025 Washington State Legislature to support legislative advocacy efforts in the upcoming legislative session. PSRC's final recommendations to the legislature are up for adoption at the December 5 Executive Board meeting and are based on adopted regional plans policies in the following focus areas:

- Transportation: Keep the Region Moving
- Housing: Increase Housing Choices and Affordability
- Climate: Significantly Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Economic Development: Sustain a Strong Economy

To develop these recommendations, PSRC staff sought input from the Executive Board and Executive Committee, the Equity Advisory Committee, the Growth Management Policy Board, the Transportation Policy Board and the Economic Development District Board at their fall meetings.

Economic Development District's 2025 Economic Development Priorities

Based upon input from EDD Board members, partner organizations and other input, staff identified a set of priority areas of focus in 2025 for sustaining the region's economy (see Attachment A). These priorities are identified to support near-term activities by regional partners and legislative efforts that work to reach the goals in the Regional Economic Strategy of expanding economic opportunity, maintaining global competitiveness and sustaining the region's quality of life.

Washington State Department of Commerce

The Washington State Department of Commerce has put forward Economic Development Budget Decision Packages for the upcoming legislative session. These decision packages include funding for programs such as Associate Development Organizations (ADOs), the Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program (ICAP), and the state small business disaster recovery financial assistance program.

Washington Economic Development Association's 2025 Legislative Agenda

The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) is a trade association focused on economic development in Washington state. WEDA's more than 170 members include economic development organizations, cities, counties, ports, tribes, businesses, education and community-based organizations that prioritize economic

development. Each year, WEDA develops a legislative agenda to help advocate for a strong statewide economy during state legislative sessions. WEDA's 2025 Legislative Agenda (see Attachment B) includes three top priorities:

- Strengthen the economic development ecosystem.
- Foster catalysts for job growth and economic opportunity.
- Increase economic vitality for all of Washington.

At the December meeting, staff will lead a discussion with the board on agency and partner economic development priorities for 2025.

For more information, contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at 206-389-2879 or jthibedeau@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2025 Economic Development Priorities
- B. WEDA 2025 Legislative Agenda

2025 Economic Development Priorities



The Central Puget Sound Economic Development District has identified the following priority areas of focus in 2025 for sustaining the region's economy. These priorities are submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration as part of the annual update for the [Regional Economic Strategy](#), which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). These priorities inform agency implementation efforts and support near-term activities by regional partners and legislative efforts.

Strengthen the state's economic development ecosystem. Invest in programs that support business recruitment, retention and expansion including state Associate Development Organizations (ADOs). Support efforts that drive industry cluster development, permit streamlining, and the region's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.

Strengthen workforce development efforts to meet the needs regional workers and employers. Connect local students to higher educational opportunities, align training programs with the needs of regional employers, and scale up training programs to fill job openings.

Continue to invest in regional infrastructure that supports economic development, including broadband. Support adequate funding for foundational infrastructure such as broadband and the state's Public Works Assistance Account.

Continue to modernize the region's transportation system. Continue to invest in transportation infrastructure such as ferries, high speed rail, and commercial aviation service. Support emerging transportation technologies such as vehicle automation and electric aviation.

Expand housing and childcare options in the region to meet the needs of residents and workers. Develop analysis and strategies to increase regional housing supply, lower housing costs and drive innovation to meet the needs of residents and workers. Support efforts to expand childcare capacity in the region.

Expand the region's clean energy industry to address global climate change and grow regional jobs. Continue to develop clean energy technologies in the region such as aerospace biofuels, offshore wind, hydrogen, fusion, and other emerging technologies to help meet the region's energy needs.

Strengthen state support for military installations, the defense sector and military affairs in Washington. Support the modernization of the region's military installations and operations, and better quantify ongoing economic benefits of the military and defense sector.

Support local arts, culture and tourism organizations and workforce. Support efforts to strengthen local arts, culture and tourism organizations and work to preserve the arts and culture workforce.



2025 ECONOMIC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WEDA)

—DRAFT— as of 11/14/24



Working Together for Economic Vitality & Opportunity Across Washington

Communities across Washington continue to face challenges growing jobs and fostering the needed talent for local employers. Serious equity gaps with access to capital and resources in underserved communities, including rural, persist. We are losing business recruitment and expansion opportunities due to energy capacity needs and infrastructure gaps. Building economic vitality and opportunity across all of Washington will continue to take intentional work, strategic partnerships and smart investments. The transition of Washington's Governor and a significant number of legislative seats creates a tremendous opportunity to recommit to economic vitality and establish a bold vision and thoughtful economic development strategic plan.



As Washington State's *only* trade association laser-focused on economic development, WEDA is committed to retaining, recruiting and expanding jobs and re-investment across all of Washington.



WEDA's 2025 Legislative Agenda focuses on the most critical actions lawmakers can take to help communities across Washington grow living wage jobs, foster vibrant and resilient communities, support equity and opportunity for all and spark investment.



WEDA'S TOP 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

- 1. Strengthen the Economic Development Ecosystem***
- 2. Foster Catalysts for Job Growth & Economic Opportunity***
- 3. Increase Economic Vitality for all of Washington***



WEDA's over 180 member organizations includes cities, counties, ports, economic development councils, tribes, business, education/workforce and community-based organizations that prioritize economic development.



WEDA's strategic goals are to empower communities across Washington with tools to foster economic vitality and opportunity, assisting employers large and small in competing globally and growing jobs, while supporting an equitable economy and inclusive economic development.



WEDA'S TOP 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Strengthen the Economic Development Ecosystem

WEDA believes a robust economic development ecosystem at the state, regional and local levels is crucial for sustained economic vitality, resilience and job growth.

2025 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

- **Support state-level leadership and funding for economic development, including Business Recruitment, Retention & Expansion programs.**
- **Increase equitable regional funding for Associate Development Organizations (ADOs) to coordinate and deliver economic development through a *new and ongoing* \$5 million (annual) investment in Innovation, Sustainability, Partnerships & Equity initiatives**

Governor Booth Gardner created the “Team Washington” network in 1985 and 39 years later, 35 high-performance regional economic development organizations serve all 39 counties and underpin the State’s economic development initiatives. These economic development organizations (called Associate Development Organizations-ADOs or Economic Development Councils-EDCs) enhance economic development service delivery and deliver results statewide through public-private, state-regional-local partnerships. ADOs have a mission of *confidential, client-based* economic development that public-private partnerships are uniquely equipped to provide.

The collective results from these entities are outstanding. Over the last five years, ADO/EDCs have helped over **627 businesses expand or develop new facilities** and **assisted 1,112 startups**. These companies have invested over **\$10.2 billion** in land, buildings and equipment. These growing businesses have created over **20,444 new jobs and retained over 21,532 jobs**. ADO business clients generate over **\$100 million in new tax revenues** for Washington State and local communities annually.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, ADOs have been shouldering significant *new* responsibilities, providing locally-driven resources and tools to employers across the state, rapidly responding to business and community leaders to recover and grow jobs. In recent years, Commerce has implemented new performance measurement and accountability systems and universal usage of an online platform which more efficiently and rigorously provides for quarterly reporting on performance metrics, initiatives and ADO work to foster equity and inclusive economic development. ADOs are working with Commerce and many others on strategies to address equity gaps with increased outreach, capital and technical assistance and efforts to stimulate markets in underserved communities, including rural. There are also multiple state/regional initiatives underway and emerging to foster improved workforce development, innovation, sustainability and regional partnerships and collaboration for results-driven economic development.

Beyond the legislative restoration of prior severe state funding reductions from the Great Recession and one-time only funding during the pandemic and a partial investment which excluded the three largest counties in 2024, ADO funding levels have remained stagnant for almost 15 years. Despite significant additional responsibilities and challenges retaining and recruiting staff, ADOs do not receive any Cost-of-Living, inflation or annual population adjustments. *Now is the time* to support additional funding for the many important, exciting *and additional* responsibilities that ADOs have undertaken. Additional ADO funding is critical if Washington wants to grow jobs, retain and expand existing firms, recruit new business, support key industry clusters and support an equitable economy and inclusive economic development. Every state dollar leverages a match of at least six dollars from other public and private sources. **WEDA supports a new and ongoing \$5 million (annual) investment for ADOs which would catalyze ADO initiatives that are fostering innovation, sustainability, partnerships and equity, and would provide critical and much-needed support to these organizations, including helping address the needs of the state’s most urban and most rural communities.** New funding for ADOs is supported by Washington Commerce.



2. Foster Catalysts for Job Growth & Economic Opportunity

WEDA supports investments in infrastructure and programs — as well as matching funds — that catalyze business retention, expansion and recruitment at the regional and local levels.

2025 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

- **Protect the TIF for Jobs tool (2021)** now being employed/explored by over 25 jurisdictions
- Support **site readiness programs**, and the creation of a **site certification program**
- **Support broadband and clean energy capacity initiatives, investment and permitting**
- Support state **Tourism** investments & catalytic opportunities through **World Cup & FIFA26**
- **More state matching funds to improve WA's competitiveness & attract out-of-state investment**
- **Support Catalytic Innovation & Investment Programs: pursuit of exports & "Go Global" website program for small businesses, resources for microenterprises & entrepreneurs**
- **Support state public works programs designed to help expand businesses** including: Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), Public Works Trust Fund & Transportation Improvement Board
- **Support and protect investments in road, rail and transit infrastructure, maintenance and services** to move people and freight more efficiently
- **Support ongoing Small Business funding for a Disaster Fund for rapid assistance**
- **Support the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Fund**
- **Protect targeted incentives to foster innovation clusters and stimulate private investment**

Adequate reliable, modern infrastructure is critical for successful economic development. Underpinning all commerce is physical infrastructure: roads, transit, airports, railroads, water/sewer, broadband and energy. Public investments in infrastructure create construction jobs, set the stage for future private investment and shape an area's prospects for generations. Responding swiftly to infrastructure needs of new or relocating businesses is also crucial to economic development. Washington's economic future depends on both infrastructure capacity and the wise stewardship of these resources, **particularly as capacity challenges increase**. Each year, hundreds of businesses invest in new facilities around Washington. Many of these firms can immediately tap into existing public services, but some must rely on public sector partnerships to access infrastructure, and demands continue to increase. Development predictability and permit streamlining are also critical.

WEDA supports tools and programs that fund infrastructure which enables economic development, encourages out-of-state public and private investment, improves the State's competitiveness and helps Washington capitalize on federal funding opportunities. An unprecedented amount of federal investment is still available through federal funding programs that require state and/or local match. To be eligible for federal funds and submit competitive grant proposals, and to support Washington's goal of doubling manufacturing jobs by 2031, Washington needs to make more substantial investments. WEDA also supports proposals to catalyze Economic Opportunity by: 1) investing in economic development strategies and clusters in new and legacy industries; 2) the "Go Global" e-commerce program and resources to secure new export opportunities for Washington businesses; 3) small business disaster funding to nimbly address emergencies, and other small business support.

The COVID-19 crisis heightened awareness that small businesses are the backbone of our economy, creating two-thirds of net new jobs and anchoring the vibrancy of business districts. Unfortunately, over 70% of US small businesses shut down in March 2020 and at least one-third did not reopen. Small businesses including microenterprises need additional short-term assistance, short and long-term technical assistance, capital and new tools to pivot and grow.

Washington also has some key tax policies that lead to job retention, expansion and recruitment, including Business & Occupation (B&O) tax credits and incentives for trade and logistics, food processing and agriculture. These key tax policies should be maintained so jobs are not lost.



3. Increase Economic Vitality for all of Washington

WEDA supports policies and investments that ensure that all parts of the state, and all people, benefit in economic growth through inclusive economic development. The economic vitality of rural and underserved urban areas is critical to the long-term health of the entire state.

2025 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

- **Protect the .09 percent Sales & Use Tax for Public Facilities and economic development activities in Rural Counties.** Rural counties in Washington have benefitted from up to a .09% “rebate” of locally generated state sales & use tax for over twenty years. This tool helps build critical infrastructure, attract new industry, diversify economies and create and retain jobs.
- **Protect new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion investments** in outreach and assistance programs for equitable and inclusive statewide economic development to ensure that historically disadvantaged businesses, particularly underserved and underrepresented communities statewide have an equal opportunity to achieve economic vitality.

Many of Washington’s high-wage industries weathered the COVID-19 crisis, yet many rural and underserved communities continue to struggle without adequate access to capital and resources. This has negative impacts on communities’ broader ability to grow their tax base and provide basic government services. WEDA supports strategies to address equity gaps with increased outreach, capital, tools and technical assistance and efforts to stimulate markets in underserved communities, including rural communities which face unique capacity and capital gaps.

ADDITIONAL WEDA PRIORITIES

Workforce Development: In a global economy, human capital is an essential ingredient that drives business innovation, growth and competitiveness. WEDA supports Washington’s 12 Local Workforce Development Boards, which apply an equity lens to meeting talent pipeline needs with innovative, data-driven solutions. WEDA supports resources that offer regions flexibility to implement programs and strategies to address the myriad workforce challenges faced by historically disadvantaged communities, low-income populations and emerging industry sectors, including the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program. Maintaining funding for EcSA (Employment Security Department and Department of Commerce request) is critical for Local Boards to leverage resources to help provide a quality workforce through reskilling and reemployment in family-sustaining jobs. Simplifying these funding streams to align with the codification of EcSA will support local boards’ business services to move people out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. Other important workforce programs include the Job Skills Program, Customized Training, Apprenticeships, One-Stop WorkSource Centers, work-based learning and reskilling.

WEDA also supports the preservation and needed growth of state funding for Washington’s community colleges and public four-year universities. Maintaining investments in post-secondary education and producing a highly skilled workforce are vital for economic development, and Washington is falling terribly short at meeting employers’ needs of 70% post-secondary attainment by our students. Talent development starts with strong early learning, a robust K-12 system and completion with credentials from the State’s top-quality educational institutions and internationally recognized research universities. We also face severe childcare capacity gaps that must be addressed to support early child development and working families. Our education systems can’t be taken for granted and need sustainable funding and support.

Housing Affordability & Supply: WEDA will support legislation to improve housing affordability and expand opportunities for housing at all income levels, particularly workforce and attainable housing.

Clean/Green Economy: WEDA supports programs, funding and incentives to create jobs in the Clean Economy including the circular economy, hydrogen, fusion, fission, solar, wind and other renewable technologies including industrial symbiosis while also maintaining a balanced approach.

Rulemaking: State agency rule proposals should address their impact on economic development. WEDA supports permit streamlining/efficiency initiatives that increase predictability in development.



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Principal Economic Development Manager

Subject: **Proposed FY2026-2027 Biennial Budget and Work Program**

IN BRIEF

PSRC is in the process of developing the agency's FY 2026-2027 Biennial Budget and Work Program. The Economic Development District Board reviews and provides comments on the economic development task of the overall PSRC budget (Task 300), which serves as the budget for the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District.

DISCUSSION

Between September and October 2024, PSRC's Operations Committee reviewed revenue and expenditure assumptions as well as PSRC's financial policies and will release the full draft FY 2026-2027 Biennial Budget and Work Program in late November. The draft budget will be available to members online at:

[Budget | Puget Sound Regional Council \(psrc.org\)](https://psrc.org).

The draft PSRC biennial budget includes estimated revenues and expenditures of \$41.6 million. The proposed economic development portion of the biennial budget includes estimated revenues and expenditures of \$567,000. Revenues for this budget task consists of \$200,000 from a planning grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, as well as an estimated \$367,000 in dues collected from PSRC's membership to support the district's work.

NEXT STEPS

January 2025

- In addition to review by the Economic Development District Board, the draft budget will be reviewed by the Transportation Policy Board, Growth Management Policy Board and Regional Staff Committee. Comments on the budget should be forwarded to the Operations Committee for consideration by March 12.

March 2025

- Operations Committee submits final draft Budget and Work Program and any additional changes to the Executive Board. Executive Board transmits final draft budget including revisions to the General Assembly.

May 2025

- General Assembly adopts final draft budget.

June 2025

- Economic Development District Board adopts economic development portion of PSRC budget as the budget for the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District.

For more information, please contact Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager, at 206-971-3292 or awerfelmann@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Economic Development District (Task 300)

Economic Development District (Task 300)

Objective

Provide staff support to the Economic Development District (EDD) Board of Directors. Maintain the central Puget Sound region's eligibility for economic development planning and technical assistance funding from the federal Economic Development Administration. Develop, update, and assist in implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy, which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Under direction from the EDD Board of Directors, coordinate with public, private, and community stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives that strengthen the region's economy.

Sub-Tasks

Sub-Task 1. EDD General

Ongoing administrative, managerial, and operational efforts are required to maintain status as the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (EDD), including:

- a. Convene and provide staff support to the EDD Board of Directors, subcommittees, and other working groups or taskforces.
- b. Annually update the Regional Economic Strategy.
- c. Develop and maintain tracking tools, performance measure data and other products to facilitate strategy implementation.
- d. Coordinate events and programs, as appropriate, to aid in implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy.
- e. Prepare budget and work program.
- f. Review and evaluate employee performance.
- g. Develop, apply for, and monitor grants and contracts in support of the Regional Economic Strategy.
- h. Secure and manage U.S. Economic Development Administration Planning Grant.

Sub-Task 2. Regional Economic Strategy Implementation

The Regional Economic Strategy, adopted in December 2021, is the guiding document for key regional economic initiatives. The EDD Board will maintain a work plan of initiatives to implement the strategy, informed by ongoing evaluation. Economic development staff will work with regional partners to implement these initiatives, including:

- a. Identify emerging industry opportunities, subsectors, or cross-cluster opportunities;
- b. Identify challenges and opportunities faced by the region's economy;
- c. Perform and coordinate qualitative and quantitative analysis to help detail the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and develop targeted strategies to improve the region's competitive position;

- d. Develop, run, and collaborate on events that bring together economic development interests in the region and highlight regional priorities.

Unfunded Sub-Tasks

None

Major Milestones and Products

1. Annual Economic Development Work Plan Developed (*2026 and 2027*)
2. U.S. Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Secured (*April 2026*)
3. Regional Economic Strategy Updated (*January 2027*)

Mandates

This work element provides for program development, administration and management of regional economic development planning activities as required by:

1. **EDD/PSRC Memorandum of Agreement** dated June 27, 2002.
2. Authority for the CPSEDD creation is by a **Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement** between the counties of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish dated May 5, 1971 and amended November 13, 2003.
3. Federal authority for the creation, recognition and funding of multi-jurisdictional economic development districts is found in the **Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965** (Public Law 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*) as amended, including the comprehensive amendments by the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-393) and the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-373). Criteria for district program functions and funding are found in 13 CFR Part 301 (area eligibility), 302 (district designation), 303 (district planning process) and 306 (planning assistance).

Policy Direction and Interagency Staff Involvement

Economic Development receives policy direction from the EDD Board of Directors.

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures

Summary Revenues & Expenditures	
Revenues:	
EDA Grant	\$200,000
EDD Dues	\$326,000
PSRC Local	\$42,000
Total	\$567,000

Expenditures:	
Salaries & Benefits	\$372,000
Overhead	\$172,000
Direct Costs	\$23,000
Consultants	\$0,000
Total	\$567,000

Budget Comparison:	
Draft FY 26-27	\$567,000
July 24 Amended Supplemental FY 24-25	\$501,000

FTE Staffing Comparison:	
Draft FY 26-27	1.13
July 24 Amended Supplemental FY 24-25	1.13

Summary of Consultants within Economic Development District



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Housing Research Center Proposal**

IN BRIEF

Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations, will brief the board about the need for a state research center focused on housing.

DISCUSSION

The cost of housing affects all our communities in the region. It has become a critical issue across Washington state, disproportionately impacting Black and Indigenous residents and other people of color. Housing affordability is consistently reported as a top priority for the public. Every community in the region has prioritized housing policy and actions in its comprehensive plan update and housing has been an important topic of several of the recent legislative sessions.

PSRC provides housing data, tools and strategies to support local governments developing housing strategies for their comprehensive plan updates. PSRC has also provided analysis of potential housing legislation during prior legislative sessions. However, there is no central location for housing research that operates statewide and PSRC's capacity to conduct housing research is limited. Data and research would help guide the state legislature and local governments as they grapple with addressing housing and affordability needs.

Housing research centers like the [Turner Center for Housing Innovation](#) at UC Berkeley and the [Furman Center at NYU](#) provide great models to learn from and replicate in Washington state.

Potential areas of research could include:

- Expanding access to quality homes and communities to support racial, social and economic inclusion
- Increasing the supply and lowering the cost of housing in ways that align with equity and environmental goals
- Driving innovation in housing policy and practice
- Analysis that supports efforts to maximize housing production around planned transit investments while addressing displacement

PSRC has been doing individual outreach to housing advocates, state legislators, business leaders and developers to explore creating a housing research center Washington state. The agency is working closely with the University of Washington, Bellwether Housing, Housing Development Consortium and Urban Land Institute to develop and implement a public-private campaign to bring a center to fruition.

Please see the attached one-pager for additional about the need for a housing research center in Washington.

For additional information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations, at [206-798-4462](tel:206-798-4462) or RKoskey@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. The Need for a Housing Research Center in Washington

The Need for a Housing Research Center in Washington

The cost of housing is a critical issue for communities across Washington state, disproportionately impacting Black, Indigenous and people of color residents. Public opinion surveys consistently report housing affordability as a top priority for the public. Comprehensive data and research would help guide the state Legislature and local governments as they grapple with addressing housing and affordability needs.

Proposed Mission

The mission of the Washington State Center for Housing Research is to provide timely analysis and data-driven research to formulate bold strategies supporting programmatic innovation for policymakers, practitioners and advocates.

The Center aims to provide actionable, pragmatic paths that can bring together a coalition to urgently and equitably address housing affordability by providing homes for all in vibrant sustainable communities.

Potential Areas of Research

- Expanding access to quality homes and communities to support racial, social and economic inclusion
- Increasing the supply and lowering the cost of housing in ways that align with equity and environmental goals
- Driving innovation in housing policy and practice
- Analysis that supports efforts to maximize housing production around planned transit investments while addressing displacement

Has This Been Done Before?

Yes. Housing research centers such as the [Turner Center for Housing Innovation](#) at UC Berkeley and the [Furman Center](#) at NYU provide great models for what we could learn from and replicate in Washington state.

Is Another Organization Doing This Work Already?

No. Washington state does not have a permanent housing research center to inform the public and policymakers.

Today, advocacy groups, non-profits and government entities (such as the Department of Commerce, PSRC and Washington State Finance Commission) produce some research or analysis—but not in a comprehensive way. Each agency has limitations, and no single organization is dedicated fully to producing statewide housing research.

Next Steps

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is helping to activate this initiative by convening a Housing Research Center Summit in the fall of 2024 to hear from experts on the work of housing centers from across the U.S. and develop alignment on the focus of a center in Washington state. The Summit will seek to mobilize a coalition campaign for public-private funding from the Washington State Legislature and the private and philanthropic sectors to make the center a reality in 2025.

The housing research center is a project of Puget Sound Regional Council and Bellwether Housing, in partnership with Housing Development Consortium and Urban Land Institute.



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Regional Economic Analysis Scoping**

IN BRIEF

Staff will discuss the development of a regional economic analysis which will be used to inform the development of the region's updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in 2026.

DISCUSSION

The Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (EDD) is responsible for updating the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years. A CEDS is designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of a region, building off other regional planning efforts. Implementation of the CEDS is accomplished by a broad set of regional stakeholders, highlighting important ongoing economic development programs and initiatives as well as identifying new opportunities for implementation. Adoption of a regional CEDS enables local jurisdictions and eligible organizations to qualify for funding under U.S. Economic Development Administration programs.

The CEDS is used as the framework for establishing the EDD's economic development workplan over the five-year period. The CEDS is required to include an economic analysis including a summary background of the economic conditions and a SWOT analysis for the region. In addition, it also must identify strategies and implementation efforts to address the identified challenges and opportunities.

The EDD Board adopted the current CEDS, referred to locally as the Regional Economic Strategy, at its December 2021 meeting. The strategy covers the period from

2022-2026. The EDD is required to adopt an updated 5-year CEDS by the end of 2026. In preparation for strategy development, staff will coordinate the development of a regional economic analysis in 2025. To develop a scope of work for this analysis, staff are reviewing previous economic strategies adopted by the EDD Board, other commonly used regional evaluation methodologies, draft comprehensive plans from regional jurisdictions and other sources. The regional economic analysis will serve as a foundational resource for the development of an implementation plan and evaluation framework in 2026.

The currently adopted strategy is organized around three overarching goals: expanding economic opportunity, maintaining global competitiveness and sustaining the region's high quality of life. It also includes analysis of conditions and strategic direction covering an array of subjects, including:

- Economic Opportunity & Equity
- Education & Workforce Development
- Business Climate
- Innovation & Industry Resiliency
- Arts, Culture & Tourism
- Trade Development
- Critical Economic Sites
- Regional Growth & Environment
- Regional Geographies

At the December meeting, staff will provide an overview of the approach and timeline for the development of the regional economic analysis.

For more information contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at 206-389-2879 or jthibedeau@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

December 4, 2024

INFORMATION ITEM

To: Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: December 2024 PSRC Staff Report

DISCUSSION

Telework in region drops from pandemic high in 2021

PSRC released a trend analyzing telework patterns in the region, utilizing data from the regional [Household Travel Survey](#). Before the pandemic, under a quarter of workers in the region teleworked for one or more days per week. Weekly telework participation surged to a high of 52% of the region's workers in 2021. Data from 2023 show that telework participation has declined to 36% of the workforce, with 12% of the region's workers being fully remote. See the [full trend and more telework data](#) on PSRC's website.

People with disabilities in region experience higher unemployment rates and lower median wages

In October, PSRC celebrated Disability Awareness Month with an [equity trend](#) on the employment of the region's people with disabilities. Exploration of the data found significant disparities between people with and without disabilities. Those in the region with disabilities have a 9.9% unemployment rate, compared to 3.8% for the rest of the population. In 2023, these disparities amounted to median annual earnings of \$51,000 for those reporting disabilities in 2023, compared to \$70,300 median earnings for the population overall. See the [full trend](#) and more disability employment data at PSRC's website.

PSRC and UW Launches Campaign for Housing Research Center

Affordability and the cost of housing continue to be major concerns for people and communities across Washington state. Over the past few months, PSRC has been exploring the potential of establishing a housing research center at University of Washington to provide data-driven research and analysis to help policymakers,

practitioners and advocates formulate bold strategies to address the housing crisis. PSRC is launching a public-private campaign to bring the center to fruition that includes a request for funding from the state legislature in 2025.

PSRC reviewing draft local Comprehensive Plans

Over 80% of local jurisdictions in the region have submitted draft comprehensive plans for review, and PSRC staff continue to review these plans and provide feedback. In addition, staff are analyzing the various Economic Development elements contained in the drafts plans to help inform development of a regional economic analysis in 2025. These plans include common themes that help better understand economic priorities of the various jurisdictions in the central Puget Sound region.

TOOLBOX: Transit Oriented Communities and Commercial Displacement

On September 27th and November 1st, PSRC hosted TOOLBOX sessions on Transit Oriented Communities and Commercial Displacement. The Transit-Oriented Communities webinar focused on planning around transit that includes human-centered considerations such as open space, arts and community activation. The Commercial Displacement webinar focused on strategies to combat the challenges of commercial affordability and displacement risk, highlighting incentive programs, inclusionary zoning practices and subsidy programs. The next TOOLBOX session will be held on February 7, 2025, and will provide planners with an overview of the Puget Sound Regional Council's robust data resources. Visit [PSRC's website](#) to view recordings and slides from past sessions and to register for upcoming sessions.

For additional information, please contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at 206-389-2879 or jthibedeau@psrc.org.