



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES

Transportation Policy Board

March 13, 2025

1201 3rd Ave., Ste 500, Seattle, WA 98101

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the discussion, go to

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 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.

Roll call determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Mayor Ralph reminded the board that the meeting would be extended until noon.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, waived her remarks in the interest of time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held February 13, 2025
- b. Routine Amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- c. Recommend Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for Two Projects: City of Fife's I-5/Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Project and Kitsap Transit's SR 16 Park and Ride Project

- d. Recommend Certification of Comprehensive Plans for Bellevue, Bothell, Burien, Port Orchard and Wilkeson

ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Zarlingo/Arnold) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Robin Koskey, PSRC, reported on various executive orders and other federal updates that may result in impacts throughout the region, including the transportation budget. Ms. Koskey then provided information on the state legislative session, noting key bills and upcoming cutoff dates. She shared information on the state transportation budget and the expected challenges for the future. Ms. Koskey briefly discussed various bills related to a variety of transportation-related topics.

ACTION ITEM: 2025 PROJECT DELIVERY TRACKING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING ACTION

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, provided an overview of the project tracking policies which have been in place since 2013 and ensure efficient and timely project delivery with minimal cost of delay to preserve future federal funds for the region. The delivery targets for PSRC's Federal Highway Administration funds must be met or there will be a loss of unused funds. A delivery gap can become larger from factors such as project delays or cancellations. Ms. Barnes discussed the adopted strategies that are followed in priority order when there are not enough projects able to deliver in a given year. These include advancing projects from later years, exchanging federal funds for local funds under certain conditions, increasing the federal share of awarded projects and funding immediately ready to go projects on contingency lists.

Kalon Thomas, PSRC, discussed the details contributing to the 2025 delivery gap which totals to a preliminary estimate of \$25.6 million. Underlying factors include the 2025 project requests for extensions and exceptions, which will be brought to the board in April, and returned funds. Adding to the uncertainty is the lack of the final federal 2025 allocation amounts, which will determine the final target amount needing to be achieved.

Mr. Thomas discussed the request for an increase in federal shares for the current 2025 projects, up to \$35 million to streamline the processing and approval timeframes and expedite the use of these funds to support the 2025 delivery target. This amount includes a buffer to address the uncertainties over the next several months and maximizes the eligible federal share for the majority of projects. Staff anticipate presenting the final 2025 rebalancing information to the board in April for action, including extension requests and any further changes that may impact the target.

ACTION: The motion was made and seconded (Baron/Paully) to recommend the Executive Board approve a supplemental funding action to increase the federal shares for projects awarded PSRC's 2025 FHWA funds. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL SAFETY ACTION PLAN PUBLIC COMMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC, reminded the board that PSRC has been developing the draft Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) since fall of 2023 and the public comment period on the draft plan was recently closed. Comments were received from approximately 60 members of the public, PSRC member jurisdictions and other organizations. Mr. Bakkenta reviewed the preliminary themes from the comments received, including bicycle and pedestrian safety, driver awareness, infrastructure, speeding and others. He described some of the key comment themes specific to local jurisdictions. Mr. Bakkenta noted that staff are working on categorizing and responding to the comments provided and pointed the board to where the comments may be found on PSRC's website. He then briefed the board on two preliminary topics flagged for more detailed board discussion: addressing local safety planning and high injury networks, and how the RSAP will inform PSRC's future planning work including project selection and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

As a precursor to the April board discussion and action, Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reminded the board how safety is currently addressed in both the project selection process and the RTP. In particular, she noted that safety was significantly strengthened in the evaluation criteria for the 2024 project selection process. She further described how safety is a priority in the current RTP and included in the plan consistency evaluation of regional capacity projects. Ms. McGourty then described preliminary suggestions from PSRC staff, which would be to incorporate regional and local or state high injury networks in these two processes.

Prior to recommendation in April, staff will complete the categorization and response of all submitted comments and work on any edits to the draft plan. The Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board will be asked for a recommendation of adoption of the RSAP at their April meetings, for final action at the General Assembly on May 22.

Board feedback included support for acknowledging and incorporating local high injury networks, a request to address issues with the timing of impairment data, and a discussion of enforcement issues.

DISCUSSION ITEM: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT: CURRENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, described the various classifications of the streets and highway system in the region, indicating which aspects are included in PSRC's regional planning. She noted that this network serves not just passenger vehicles but also transit buses, freight trucks and bike and pedestrian facilities. Ms. Barnes provided information on the modes of travel people use to get around the region and various travel metrics such as trends in vehicle miles traveled, congestion levels and how availability of transit influences hours of delay per household. She then described additional analyses that

PSRC staff are considering to further inform the needs and gaps for this aspect of the transportation system.

Doug Cox, PSRC, discussed the major commodities that move through the region using modes of freight such as trucks, air, water and rail. Mr. Cox then discussed the freight transportation corridors in the region and areas of freight-intensive land uses such as the regionally designated Manufacturing / Industrial Centers (MICs), ports, intermodal facilities, major airports and other industrial lands. He provided information on the movement of freight trucks throughout the region, noting that heavy trucks travel on the same corridors as passenger vehicles and identifying areas of major bottlenecks. Mr. Cox described the freight issues and needs identified by PSRC's Freight Advisory Committee, including maintenance and preservation, decarbonization, truck parking and safety strategies specific to MICs and major freight corridors.

Gary Simonson, PSRC, described the transportation system technologies in use around the region, to improve communications and traffic flow to enhance the safety, efficiency and reliability of the transportation system. He provided information on the inventory of technologies recently updated, which highlighted an increase in accessible pedestrian signals, Automatic Traffic Signal Performance Measures and adaptive signal control. Mr. Simonson then discussed additional analyses that will be conducted to assess gaps in the technology systems, such as transit signal priority and coordinated signals.

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, summarized the information presented as it relates to the staff analysis approach and key findings from these elements of the transportation system. She reminded the board that a report on the current transportation system is anticipated to be published in late April.

Board members discussed additional information related to the effectiveness of various strategies, last mile data and additional tools and technologies that may be available. Board members also noted the importance of freight needs and intermodal interfaces.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2025.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Attendance Roster – March 13, 2025.

Transportation Policy Board - March 13, 2025				5.a - Att. A			
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members			✓
King County	2	CM Jorge Barón	1	Associate Members			
		Vacant		Island County	1	COMM Melanie Bacon	
		Vacant Alt				COMM Jill Johnson, Alt	
Seattle	2	CM Rob Saka	1	Thurston Regional Planning Council	1	MYR Andy Ryder, Lacey	
		CM Robert Kettle	1			Marc Daily	1
		CM Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Alt		Public Agency Members			
Bellevue	1	CM Dave Hamilton	1	Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1	Vacant	
		CM Jared Nieuwenhuis, Alt				Brandy DeLange, Alt	1
Cities/Towns	3	MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair	1	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1	CM Joe Bushnell	
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1			Christine Cooley, Alt	1
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac		Public Health	1	Jessica Jeavons, Seattle-King County	1
		CM Susan Honda, Federal Way Alt				Dennis Worsham, Snohomish Co. Alt	
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1	WA Tran. Improvement Board	1	Vacant	
		CM Matt Mahoney, Des Moines Alt	1			CM Sam Low, Snohomish Co. Alt	
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski	1	PSRC Committees			
		Vacant Alt		Equity Advisory Cmte.	1	Shannon Turner	1
Kitsap County	1	COM Oran Root	1			Julius Moss, Alt	1
		COM Christine Rolfes, Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1	Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake	1
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1			Kelly Snyder, Snohomish Co. Alt	
		CM Eric Younger, Alt		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1	Doug McCormick, Snohomish Co.	1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl	1			Shane Weber, Bremerton Alt	
		CM Doug Newell, Poulsbo Alt		Transit Operators Cmte.	1	Peter Heffernan, King County	1
Local Transit	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard, Vice-Chair				Alex Krieg, Sound Transit Alt	
		CM Anna Mockler, Bremerton		Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor			
Pierce County	1	CM Rosie Ayala		WA Trucking Associations	1	Sheri Call	
		CM Bryan Yambe, Alt		exp. 12/31/26		Jeff DeVere, Alt	
Tacoma	1	CM Kristina Walker	1	Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce	1	Lorelei Williams, WSP USA	1
		CM Olgy Diaz, Alt		exp. 12/31/26		Amy Grotefendt, Enviroissues Alt	
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton		Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment			
		MYR Pro Tem Edward Wood, University Place Alt		Puget Sound Partnership	1	Bebhinn Dechery	1
				exp. 12/31/26		Larry Epstein, Alt	
Local Transit	1	CM Doug Fagundes, Fife		Non-voting	13	Non-voting members present	11
		DEP MYR John Hines, Tacoma					
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead	1				
		CM Strom Peterson, Alt					
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1				
		MYR Cassie Franklin, Alt					
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1				
		CM Jacob Walker, Monroe, Alt	1				
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens	1				
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt					
Regional Transit	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton					
		MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife Alt					
Federally Recognized Tribes							
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	1	CM John Daniels, Jr.					
		Vacant Alt					
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Vacant					
		Robert Barandon, Alt					
Suquamish Tribe	1	CM Luther (Jay) Mills					
		CHRMN Leonard Forsman, Alt					
Statutory Members							
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle					
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt	1				
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jim Restucci					
		COM Nicole Grant, Alt					
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew	1				
		Todd Lamphere, Alt	1			Abbreviations	
Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)						CHRMN Chairman	
House Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant				CM Councilmember	
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt				CP Council President	
		REP Dan Griffey, R				COM Commissioner	
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt				DEP MYR Deputy Mayor	
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	SEN Marko Liias, D				MYR Mayor	
		Vacant Alt				MYR Pro Tem	
		Vacant, R				REP Representative	
		Vacant, R Alt				SEN Senator	
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	18				
		Total Voting members present	21				