

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Recommendations



Puget Sound Regional Council

PSRC is working in partnership with major metro Metropolitan Planning Organizations to expand funding opportunities for regional collaboration to bring resources to areas of persistent poverty and rural communities and to improve, enhance and expand transportation infrastructure funding to accommodate increased construction costs and growing needs. PSRC priorities include:

- **Metropolitan Planning (PL)** – Increase PL funding for the Metropolitan Planning Program to ensure that PSRC has the resources to continue bringing together local governments to tackle shared regional challenges created by growth, including housing affordability, transportation needs and economic competitiveness. Additional resources will allow PSRC to improve planning by developing new data products and enhancing engagement to underserved communities that include Tribes and active-duty military personnel. Perhaps most essential, an increase in PL funding will support efforts that go beyond planning by focusing on implementation. PSRC leading the launch of a housing research center at the University of Washington and supporting efforts to recapitalize Washington State Ferries are two recent examples of our regional leadership coming together to solve challenging problems.
- **Ferry Programs** – Increase funding and policies to restore, improve and modernize the Washington State Ferries system to ensure reliable service for our Marine Highway System, including policies to streamline federal certification process for crew with the Coast Guard and TSA to ensure a strong workforce. The program has benefitted the PSRC region. Last year, Kitsap Transit received \$13.5 million from the Passenger Ferry program to purchase a new fast ferry for the Kingston/Seattle route, to replace an older ferry that must be taken out of service.
- **Increase funding for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation** – Roadway safety is a critical priority in the Puget Sound region, in the Regional Transportation Plan and in PSRC's transportation funding distributions. PSRC received two SS4A planning grants to create a Regional Safety Action Plan and assist 20 jurisdictions to create local safety plans to work toward zero road fatalities in the region. Additional funding is needed to ensure that cities and counties can implement these plans to save lives.

About PSRC

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the greater Seattle area, develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. PSRC is composed of nearly 100 members, including the four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies, and Tribal governments within the region.

VISION 2050 is the cornerstone regional plan that includes a Regional Growth Strategy focusing on growth in the region's 30 designated centers and near transit. The goal of the plan is to sustain and create different types of urban communities, while preserving the region's working resource lands and open spaces. Forecasts show the central Puget Sound region will grow from 4 million people to 5.8 million people by 2050.

PSRC supports federal policies that advance solutions to achieve a thriving and sustainable Puget Sound region through leadership, visionary planning and collaboration.

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