



Puget Sound Regional Council

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: August 13, 2025, 9:30a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Location: Remote – Online Meeting Only (Zoom Meeting)

Welcome and Introductions

Doug Cox, PSRC, welcomed everyone at 9:30 a.m. Roll call was completed to confirm the members and alternates present.

Action: Approval of Meeting Summary

The June 11, 2025 meeting summary was approved as presented.

Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan Status Update

Doug Cox, PSRC, provided the committee with an update regarding the development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan. PSRC's Transportation Policy Board (TPB) gave PSRC direction regarding which investment scenarios PSRC should use for modeling and analysis. The scenarios will include new revenues, reduced investments, or a combination of both. PSRC will share these results with the TPB in September.

The presentation is provided on PSRC's website [here](#).

For more information, contact DCox@psrc.org.

Discussion: Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad Freight Rail Service

Bethan Maher, Executive Director, Western Forest Industries Museum (WFIM), informed the committee about plans to expand the existing tourist Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad for short-line freight rail service. Western Forest Industries Museum is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to preserving and sharing stories of those who worked on and were impacted by the railroads while promoting sustainable and responsible economic development in the area.

The Scenic Railroad re-opened after the 2020 closure in 2023 with very successful tourist ridership. In 2024, WFIM began restoring 32 miles of track and upgrading bridges to freight service. WFIM purchased 32 miles of track from Tacoma Rail. WFIM formed Mt. Rainier Railroad LLC which has right-of-way ownership and common carrier obligation. The Mt. Rainier Railroad will operate all railroad services and launch freight operations for local lumber/timber industry. WFIM plans to use a phased approach to begin freight service, with the first phase focusing on transloading goods from the mills near Morton to Mineral.

For more information, contact DCox@psrc.org.

Discussion: Other Business and Announcements

Doug Cox, PSRC, shared that the USDOT is updating the National Freight Strategic Plan. This is a 5-year update to the first plan which was released in 2020. The update will include identifying corridors that emphasize four major sectors: agricultural, manufacturing, medical resources, and energy extraction. The plan will include performance metrics for corridors with the highest volume of these commodity types. The Plan will also summarize data provided by state freight plan, such as performance metrics, bottleneck locations, etc.

Xochitl Castaneda, Pacific Northwest and Alaska Gateway, shared that the USDOT has an opportunity for public comment regarding transportation safety that is open until September 10th.

Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, shared two announcements. First, the East Marginal Way Heavy Haul Pavement and Bike Lane project is being completed with a ribbon cutting at the end of August. Second, the Port of Seattle has an adult education program called Port University that provides tours of the port facilities

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

***Members and Alternates Present**

See attached attendance roster for the member or alternate representing each agency/jurisdiction at the meeting; additional alternate(s) present are listed below.

Interested Parties and PSRC Staff Present

Amy Cruver; Bethan Maher, Western Forest Industries Museum; Gabriel Clark, City of Auburn; Justin Peng, Port of Seattle; Scott McCollister WSDOT; Ted Vanegas; Xochitl Castaneda, Pacific Northwest and Alaska Gateway Director

PSRC

Doug Cox, Alexa Leach, Jennifer Barnes, Mitch Koch,

**All attendees were present via remote participation*

Freight Advisory Committee Attendance Roster

Date: August 13, 2025 9:30 - 11:00 A.M.

Remote/Online Only

NOTE: Members are invited to sit at the table and vote. Alternates may sit at the table and vote when the member is absent. Please coordinate representation in advance of the meeting.

Jurisdictions	✓	Name	✓	Name, Jurisdiction
Counties				
King County (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Vander Sluis	Cascade (1)	Jim Kelly, Arlington
		Grace Carlson (Alt.)		Ryan Morrison, Arlington (Alt.)
Kitsap County (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Forte	Paine Field / Boeing Everett (1)	Jesse Hannahs, Marysville
		Melissa Mohr (Alt.)		Tom Hood, Everett (Alt.)
Pierce County (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Lewis-Miller	PSIC - Bremerton (1)	Chris Dimmitt, Bremerton
		Bekah Osterhaus (Alt.)		Vicki Grover, Bremerton (Alt.)
Snohomish County (1)		Joseph Bervell	Ballard - Interbay (1)	Chris Eaves, Seattle
		Jay Larson (Alt.)		Joanna Valencia, Seattle (Alt.)
Ports				
Port of Bremerton (1)		Arne Bakker	Duwamish (1)	(represented by Seattle)
		James Goodman (Alt.)		(represented by Seattle) (Alt.)
Port of Everett (1)		Adam LeMieux	North Tukwila (1)	VACANT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Gurley (Alt.)		Vacant (Alt.)
Port of Seattle (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geri Poor	Kent (1)	David Paine, Kent
		Kyra Lise (Alt.)		Rob Brown, Kent (Alt.)
Port of Tacoma (1)		Ryan Medlen	Sumner Pacific (1)	Michael Kosa, Sumner
		Deirdre Wilson (Alt.)		Ryan Windish, Sumner (Alt.)
WSDOT (1)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Beloso	Frederickson	(represented by Pierce County)
		Wenjuan Zhao (Alt.)		(represented by Pierce Co.) (Alt.)
Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) (1)				
		Brandy DeLange	SeaTac (1)	Florendo Cabudol, SeaTac
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fred Wenhardt (Alt.)		Zack Shields (Alt.)
Tribal Agencies				
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (1)		VACANT	Auburn (1)	Vacant (Alt.)
		Vacant (Alt.)		Non-Voting (4)
Puyallup Tribe (1)		VACANT		Denise Plumb, United Parcel Service (UPS)
		Vacant (Alt.)		Eric Jessup, WSU, Freight Policy Transportation Institute
Suquamish Tribe (1)		VACANT		Jared Faker, Intl. Longshore and Warehouse Union #23
		Vacant (Alt.)		VACANT
Tulalip Tribe (1)		VACANT		rev 3/2025
		Vacant (Alt.)		