



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2016

**TO:** Transportation Policy Board

**FROM:** Erika Harris, AICP, SEPA Responsible Official

**SUBJECT:** Transportation 2040 Update – SEPA Background Memorandum

## IN BRIEF

The Puget Sound Regional Council has initiated an update of the region's long-range transportation plan, Transportation 2040, and is scheduled to approve a draft work program in the winter of 2017. Per federal statutory requirements, Transportation 2040 will be updated in 2018 to reflect changes in the region since the plan was adopted in May 2014 and amended in June 2015.

The purpose of the draft work program is to define what will be included in the Transportation 2040 plan update. The draft work program is based on four key themes with supporting tasks. Approval of the plan update is scheduled for PSRC's General Assembly in the spring of 2018.

## DISCUSSION

The following statements describe the relationship of the 2018 update to the Transportation 2040 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A key premise of the draft work program is that the 2018 update will be limited in scope such that the environmental impacts from its adoption will be within the range of impacts already described in the Transportation 2040 FEIS. Consequently, the draft work program states: "The limited scope of the update is likely to rely on the existing Transportation 2040 environmental analysis, with an addendum." This conclusion is supported by the following assumptions:

- The update will not produce new alternatives. However, a major plan update with alternatives analysis is likely in 2022 (this would be the next required update of Transportation 2040). At that point there will be a new VISION 2050 and an opportunity to extend the transportation plan to 2050.
- The update will not include new or expanded projects, programs, or strategies which would have any significant impacts exceeding those contained in the Transportation 2040 FEIS dated March 19, 2010. There will, however, be a limited call for projects, allowing sponsors to add or amend projects.
- New alternatives, projects, programs, or strategies will likely be evaluated in the next regular plan update (2022).
- Other key components of the Transportation 2040 FEIS, such as the Purpose and Need Statement, will not be revised in the plan update.
- The draft work program contains multiple tasks that focus on project, strategy or investment changes that are not anticipated to increase region-wide system impacts.

Based on these assumptions, PSRC anticipates that significant adverse environmental impacts of the update will be within the range of impacts described in the Transportation 2040 FEIS.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information or to discuss this memorandum, please contact Erika Harris, SEPA Responsible Official, at [eharris@psrc.org](mailto:eharris@psrc.org) or (206) 464-6360.