



Puget Sound Regional Council



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
May 2022





In October, the Northgate Extension of Link Light Rail opened with three new stations: University District, Roosevelt and Northgate. PSRC provided \$102 million in funding for the project as well as \$1.3 million for the John Lewis Memorial Bridge, a key walking and biking connection across I-5 between North Seattle College and Northgate Station.

Message from the President and Executive Director



**Councilmember
Claudia Balducci**
PSRC President



Josh Brown
Executive Director

After two long years since the start of the pandemic, we are finally beginning to see glimmers of a sustained recovery and return to some normalcy in the central Puget Sound region. At the same time, we are cognizant that we must remain flexible and adapt to changing circumstances.

Our annual report is a time to reflect on and celebrate the successes of the past year and look ahead to what's coming. There was welcome news for transportation this year with the passage of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which represents a historic investment in transit, bridges, ports, and more. At the state level, the passage of the Move Ahead Washington transportation package is key to achieving our regional transportation goals, with unprecedented state investment in transit and non-motorized priorities, along with needed funding for preservation and maintenance of roads, bridges, ferries and sidewalks in the region.

PSRC also took an important step this year with the adoption of the first ever Regional Housing Strategy. The Regional Housing Strategy lays out regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing availability in the region and help guide and support upcoming local comprehensive plan updates. Other notable accomplishments include:

- The culmination of a two-year process to update the Regional Transportation Plan that included a robust outreach and engagement process to ensure all voices are heard in transportation decision making.
- Working to advance equity in all aspects of regional planning with the new Equity Advisory Committee.
- Directing funding to priority projects and shoring up transit agencies hit hard by the pandemic.
- A new Regional Economic Strategy to address the current challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to support the region's long-term economic success.
- An update to the Washington State Space Economy Report showing the sector has doubled in the region since 2018.

We're proud of the work we've accomplished to deliver on our key responsibilities and to advance new approaches to the challenges facing the region.

Councilmember Claudia Balducci, PSRC President
Josh Brown, Executive Director

Keeping the Region Moving

PSRC keeps transportation funds flowing to the region and plans for the future of central Puget Sound's transportation systems.

Move Ahead Washington

Washington's Legislature passed an unprecedented \$16.9 billion transportation funding package which directs funding to key projects within the central Puget Sound region and will help advance the Regional Transportation Plan. The investments signal the beginning of a new era of transportation planning and funding in the state.

“A big thank you for your endorsement of the Move Ahead proposal. We really appreciate the region stepping up, not only to ask for the Legislature to take action, but once we took action, you've said: yes, we can take this to the finish line.” — **Senator Marko Liias** speaking to PSRC's Executive Board in March



Providing pandemic relief funding for transit

PSRC distributed critical federal funding to help transit agencies weather the impacts of the pandemic. In April, the Executive Board approved \$580 million from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 for the region's nine transit agencies. This was followed by an additional distribution of \$901 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds in September 2021.



Making the most of available transportation dollars

PSRC keeps a close watch on the delivery of projects in the region. This allows us to move funds to projects that can proceed faster and secure the maximum amount of federal funding coming to the region. In 2021, PSRC directed about \$63 million to projects on our contingency lists due to revised estimates, new allocations, and actions necessary to meet the region's annual delivery target.



Regional leaders celebrate the completion of a segment of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail on a rainy day in Bellevue. This project received contingency funding last year to keep the region on target with its project delivery. (Credit City of Bellevue)

Region reaches milestone for clean air

In September 2021, the central Puget Sound region marked 20 consecutive years below the PM10 air quality standard for coarse particulate matter. Thanks to successful partnerships to improve air quality since 2001, the region no longer has a conformity requirement for PM10 levels to be evaluated prior to funding or approval of transportation projects.





Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program

Over \$5 million was awarded to eight projects to support transportation needs of rural town centers:

- SR 104 Holding Lanes in Kitsap County
- US-2 / Main Street Roundabout in Sultan
- Whitehawk Boulevard Extension in Orting
- 332nd Ave SE Corridor Traffic Safety Study in King County
- South Fork Extension Bypass in North Bend
- Viking Way Phase 2 in Stanwood
- E Entwistle/NE 45th Sidewalk in Carnation
- Bickford-Weaver Intersection Improvement in Snohomish

Funding a variety of transportation options

The Transportation Alternatives Program funds community-based transportation improvements, such as bicycle/pedestrian facilities, historic preservation of transportation assets, or environmental mitigation. Nine projects were awarded a combined total of \$13.5 million:

- Airport Station Pedestrian Improvements in SeaTac
- J Street Bicycle Boulevard in Tacoma
- 148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge in Shoreline
- Green River Trail Connector Project in Tukwila
- Main Street Off-Street Multipurpose Pathway (108th Avenue to 112th Avenue) in Bellevue
- Meeker Street Multimodal, Kent Elementary School in Kent
- Scriber Creek Trail (Phase 3) in Lynnwood
- Naval Avenue: 1st Street – 15th Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Enhancements in Bremerton
- North Creek Trail Section 4 Phase 3 in Bothell



“Infrastructure investment is about the quality of life for all the people that we represent.”
 — U.S. Representative Marilyn Strickland on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law at Executive Board

Setting a new policy framework for federal funds

A key responsibility of PSRC is to select projects to receive federal transportation funds through a competitive, merit-based process supporting the regional growth strategy, VISION 2050. In January 2022, the Executive Board adopted a new policy framework for the next project selection process for about \$580 million in PSRC funding. The new framework establishes an Equity Pilot Program and strengthens criteria for equity and safety.



Mayor Dana Ralph
City of Kent,
Transportation
Policy Board Chair

“The Regional Transportation Plan describes the proposed investments and policies needed to keep pace with growth and create a safe, clean and efficient transportation system that is essential to the region’s health and economy. This will help guide local planning for the future.”



Washington State Representative Jake Fey spoke to the Transportation Policy Board in June about the results of the 2021 Legislative session. He listened to the region’s transportation priorities to help lay the groundwork for the future Move Ahead Washington package.

Developing the Regional Transportation Plan

In spring 2022, PSRC wrapped up a two-year process to develop the draft Regional Transportation Plan extending the plan to 2050. This process included extensive research, data collection and analysis, board discussions, and public engagement.

The plan outlines investments the region is making to improve all aspects of the transportation system – from transit, rail, ferry, streets and highways, freight and bicycle and pedestrian systems – and ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. As the region continues to grow, this plan will improve mobility and ensure that all people equitably benefit from the region’s transportation system.



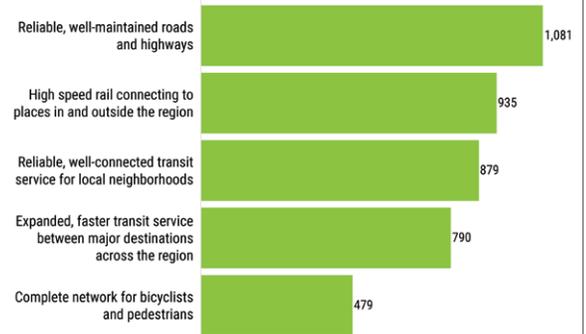
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Future of Transportation Survey

PSRC conducted a survey of over 1,900 residents from the four-county region as part of the Regional Transportation Plan development. One of the questions asked respondents to choose their top three priorities for a complete and reliable transportation system. The chart on the right shows the top responses.

Transportation System Priorities

Responses in favor of each priority



Source: PSRC, 2021 Future of Transportation Survey

Coordinated Mobility Plan

Outreach to identify how people who face mobility challenges due to age, ability or income are using the transportation system was an important part of the work to develop the Coordinated Mobility Plan. The top mobility concerns identified in outreach were long travel times when using public transportation or specialized transportation services and a lack of services at times when they are needed. Some emerging needs show a need for safety and better communication with providers. This work is a part of the Regional Transportation Plan.



“I like my freedom and being able to get out on my own and not have to depend on other people, to just have independence. Paratransit takes care of that for me, it gets me to my appointments, it gets me to grocery shopping. I’ve used these services for all kinds of stuff. It’s a godsend.” — Jamin originally shared this as part of the Disability Rights Washington’s Transportation Access Story Map.

Working Toward a More Equitable Region

PSRC strives to advance racial equity to ensure that the region's vision for a prosperous and healthy future is possible for all people in the region

Developing the Regional Equity Strategy

The Regional Equity Strategy aims to improve outcomes for marginalized communities. It will provide guidance on ways to work toward the region's goal of providing an exceptional quality of life and opportunity for all. It will also provide guidance and training for staff to ensure the agency effectively uses its roles to advance racial equity.

Equity Advisory Committee launched

PSRC's new Equity Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly since November 2021. The new 19-member committee is a working group composed of residents as well as governmental and community-based organizations in the central Puget Sound region representing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities and other marginalized groups. The committee will be guiding development of the Regional Equity Strategy.

PSRC staff team up to focus on equity

Staff have begun work on a Racial Equity Action Plan focused on transforming what we do at PSRC to advance equity. Employees are contributing to work groups focused topics including hiring and recruitment, procurement, inclusive engagement, expanding data and analysis, and developing learning opportunities.



*Executive Board hosted a joint board workshop on Building a Foundation for Racial Equity in July. **Glenn Harris**, President of Race Forward, facilitated the workshop. Board members discussed how racial equity plays a role in the work of PSRC and decisions related to transportation, growth management, and economic development.*



Planning Together for a Better Future

Over the next 30 years, the central Puget Sound region will add another million and a half people, reaching a population of 5.8 million. VISION 2050 is the region's plan to create thriving communities, good jobs, and a healthy environment as the region grows.

Regional Housing Strategy addresses urgent housing challenges

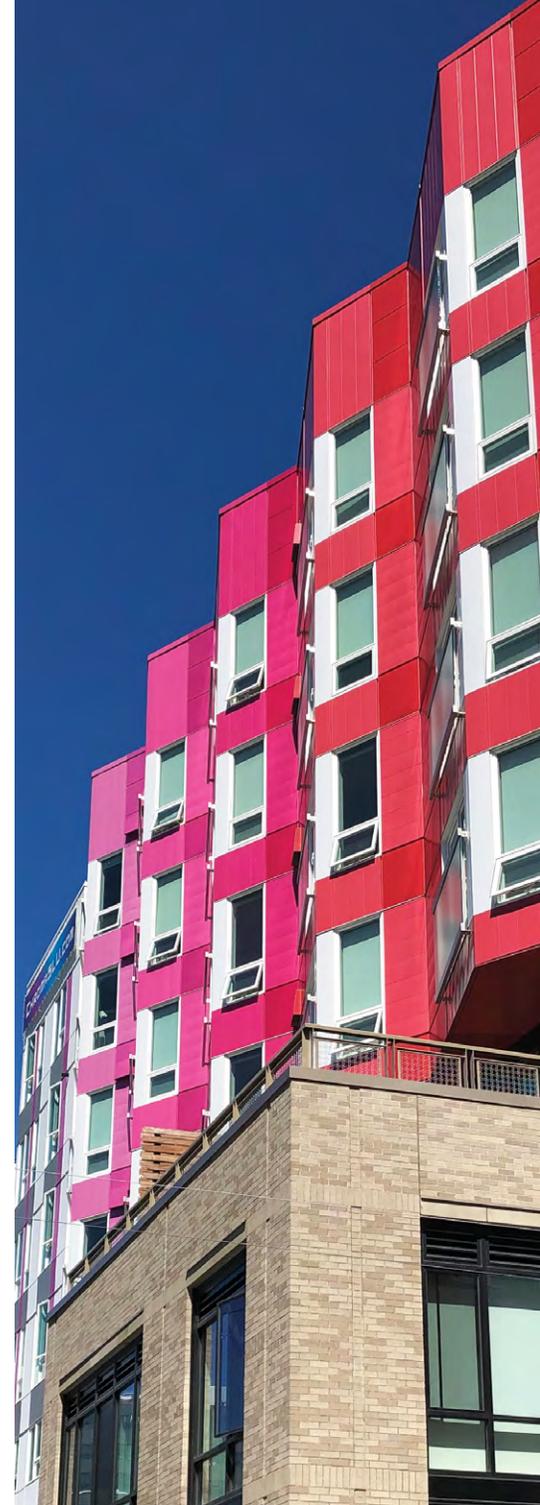
The Executive Board unanimously adopted PSRC's first Regional Housing Strategy in February 2022. The Regional Housing Strategy lays out regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing access and availability in the region and help guide and support upcoming local comprehensive plan updates.



Renton Councilmember Ed Prince, Chair of the Growth Management Policy Board

The goal of VISION 2050 is to make a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices available to every resident and to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people. The Regional Housing Strategy focuses on three areas for action:

- Supply:** Build more housing of different types
- Stability:** Provide opportunities for residents to live in housing that meets their needs
- Subsidy:** Create and sustain long-term funding sources to create and preserve housing for very low-income households and unhoused residents



WHAT'S NEEDED NOW?

46,000 housing units needed to address the current supply backlog.

WHAT'S NEEDED BY 2050?

800,000 total new housing units needed to accommodate the population in 2050.



“Adopting the Regional Housing Strategy is an important first step for PSRC. We have our work cut out for us if we are going to maintain our economic competitiveness, if we are going to be a humane place where people can afford to live and succeed and be close to their jobs, their schools and their families, and if we’re going to be a desirable place to live.” — **Councilmember Claudia Balducci, PSRC President**

“We’ve got to get serious about our housing crisis... it’s time for all of us to get tough on this issue and look at our own jurisdictions and make the changes necessary so we can build housing.” — **Mayor Becky Erickson, PSRC Vice Preside**



Moving transit-oriented development forward

New and existing transit stations bring exciting opportunities to develop more housing and services in areas close to transit. Coinciding with the opening of three new light rail stations, PSRC hosted the event *Transformational Development: Breaking Down Barriers to Transit-Oriented Development* in October 2021. National and local speakers gave presentations during the morning webinar and the afternoon featured in-person walking tours of Lynnwood City Center, Seattle’s Northgate Link and Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood.



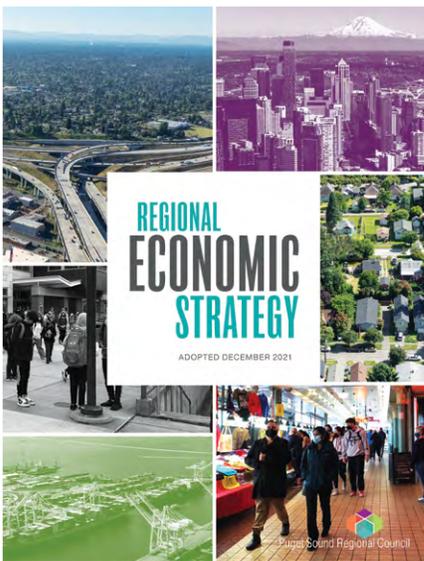
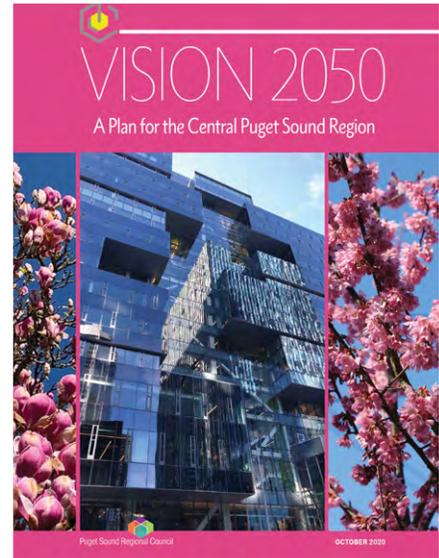
TOD Event 2021

VISION 2050 wins Smart Growth Award

The VISION 2050 plan was honored with a Governor’s Smart Communities Award in 2021. Five cities in the region, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Stevens, North Bend and Renton, were also recognized for their outstanding work.

Supporting local planning

PSRC develops guidance, research, and data products to support local planning and advance VISION 2050. New and updated resources published in 2021 include the Plan Review Manual, Growth Target Guidance, Tribal Coordination Guide, Economic Development Element Guide, and a VISION 2050 Planning Resources web page.



Regional Economic Strategy adopted

The Economic Development District Board unanimously adopted the Regional Economic Strategy in December 2021. The strategy aims to address the current challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and looks ahead to what needs to happen to support the region’s long-term economic success. The strategy is organized around three overarching goals: expanding economic opportunity, maintaining global competitiveness, and sustaining the region’s high quality of life. New and expanded regional challenges identified include equity, health, childcare, regional job distribution, broadband, housing, business recovery, and industry resilience.

The Economic Development District Board also approved a set of focus areas, which are being used as a work plan to guide board and staff efforts to implement the Regional Economic Strategy in 2022.

Region's space economy surges

The central Puget Sound region's space industry has doubled its economic impact in recent years, according to PSRC's 2022 update to the Commercial Space Economy report. **The space industry accounted for \$4.6 billion in economic activity** in 2021, supporting a total of **13,103 jobs** and **\$1.6 billion in labor income**.

This 2022 report provides fresh data building on the 2018 Washington State Space Economy report, which found that the central Puget Sound region is well positioned to be a leader in commercial space exploration and development into the future, given longstanding activity in the aerospace sector, high-tech manufacturing resources, information technology assets, and a strong pool of talent.



“Supporting the commercial space sector is an opportunity to expand on the region's long aerospace history and build resiliency into the region's economy. This study offers valuable data and analysis that will help guide future efforts to support businesses involved in the space economy and grow these jobs throughout the region.” — *Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn, Central Puget Sound Economic Development District President*

Aviation Study: Demand for air travel expected to double by 2050

PSRC released the Regional Aviation Baseline Study in May 2021, which projects demand for take-offs and landings in the region will double by 2050. This will result in a projected regional gap in service by 2050 that is roughly equivalent to all the passengers served at Sea-Tac in 2019. The study provides a foundation for regional decision makers as they consider if the region should accommodate the growing demand for aviation, and how to do so.

“The two-year Regional Aviation Baseline Study conducted by PSRC has provided the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission with an exceptional understanding of the current status of the airports within the region as well as the future capacity needs as communities and businesses continue to grow.” — *David Fleckenstein, WSDOT Director of Aviation*



Regional Data and Forecasting

PSRC is a center for regional data and forecasts that help the region's communities plan for the future.

Shining a light on regional trends and data

PSRC produced data stories throughout the year highlighting trends on population, equity, housing and more. You can explore more trends at psrc.org/data.

What is the new normal?

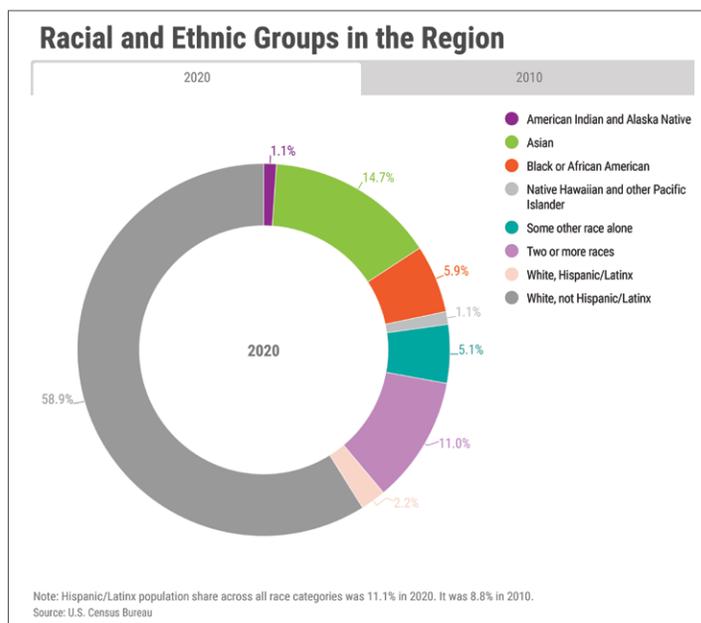
PSRC has partnered with the University of Washington Mobility Innovation Center to help model scenarios for near-term travel patterns as the pandemic subsides. The goals are to explore return to work plans and attitudes of using transit services post COVID-19, identify possible impacts on road and transit networks, and support informed decision-making.

Region grew by 600,000 in 10 years

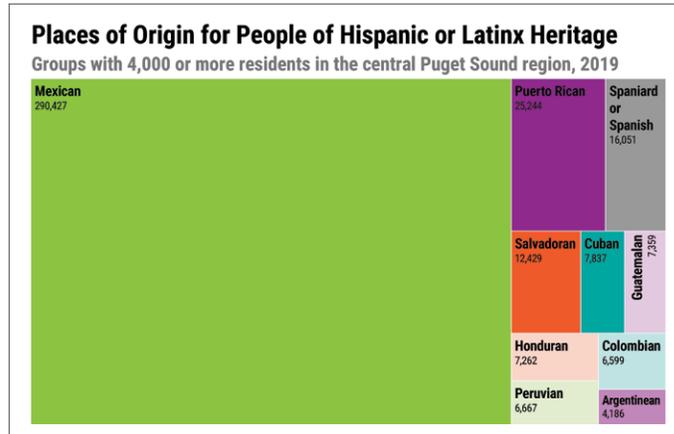
The 2020 Census showed the central Puget Sound has continued its strong growth. The population now stands at 4.3 million, up from 3.7 million in 2010. To put that in perspective, we've added about the equivalent of two Kitsap counties (or 165 people per day) since the last census count.

Region becoming more diverse

The 2020 Census shows a shift towards a more diverse region.



People of Asian descent increased by 56% and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders grew by 54%. The region’s Hispanic/Latinx population grew by 46%. Black or African American residents grew by 35%.



About 3% of residents in the four-county region identify as having American Indian and Alaska Native heritage. There were 142,400 people in the region who checked this box on the 2020 Census, up from 92,200 in 2010. People with First Nations heritage in our region are very diverse, with over 50 Tribal groups represented.

The Census also showed there are more than 12,000 same-sex married couples living in the region and another 7,000 same-sex couples that live together but aren’t married.

Segregation and inequality continue to exist in the region

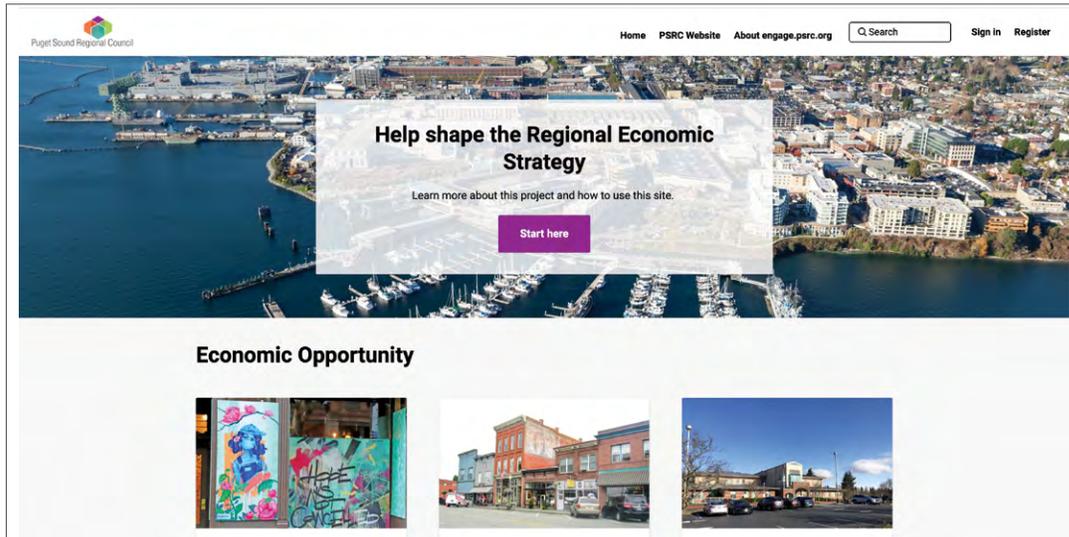
The region’s Black population continues to experience higher levels of segregation and almost half of all Black households live in areas of lower opportunity. Many of these areas have limited access to high quality schools, laying the groundwork for pathways to further disparities. Black or African-American householders have median household incomes that are nearly \$40,000 less than white householders regionally. Disparities in income combined with the high cost of housing in the region have caused a decline in Black homeownership, going from 36% of households that owned their homes in 2000 to 30% today. PSRC is working to identify disparities through its data program to help inform regional planning and improve outcomes for all people.

Median Income for Black or African American Householders		
Central Puget Sound region, 2019		
County	Non-Hispanic Black Householder Median Income	Non-Hispanic White Householder Median Income
King	\$52,500	\$107,500
Kitsap	\$67,100	\$81,200
Pierce	\$61,200	\$83,100
Snohomish	\$70,100	\$88,700
Region	\$57,300	\$95,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau PUMS, 2019 1 year estimate;
 Note: data includes non-Hispanic white and Black or African American residents only

Reaching Out and Working Together

Regional coordination is key to creating a positive future for central Puget Sound. PSRC works to ensure that all voices are heard and reflect the communities we serve.



Engaging with communities

PSRC provided multiple ways for individuals and groups to offer their expertise and feedback to help craft major plans and strategies for transportation, housing and economic development.

The agency has explored new ways to engage with communities and ensure all residents help inform plans and outcomes. While the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the ability to meet in person, the move to a virtual format opened up new ways to reach people through virtual focus groups, online open houses, and individual interviews.

In April 2021, PSRC launched a new community engagement website to make it easier for people across region to participate in our work. Videos, blog posts and social media advertising also helped to spread the word about key regional issues and planning efforts. Explore community engagement at engage.psrc.org.



About the Puget Sound Regional Council



The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is the regional transportation, growth management and economic development planning agency serving the four-county central Puget Sound region. PSRC brings together elected leadership and regional partners to help the region thrive today and for the long term.

Our work includes:

- Long-range planning for transportation, economic development and growth management
- Selecting projects to receive PSRC's federal transportation funding and maintaining a four-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- Regional data analysis and forecasting



Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson, PSRC Vice President, chairs the Operations Committee, which reviews and makes recommendations to the Executive Board on the budget and work program, and on contracts and other financial and personnel issues.

Organization and decision making

The **General Assembly** is composed of all member jurisdictions and agencies. The General Assembly meets annually to vote on major decisions, approve the budget, and elect new leadership.

Members of the **Executive Board** are appointed by their General Assembly constituents to represent the member governments. The Executive Board is chaired by the PSRC president, meets monthly, and carries out delegated powers and responsibilities between meetings of the General Assembly.

The **Growth Management Policy Board**, **Transportation Policy Board**, and **Operations Committee** make recommendations to the Executive Board.

PSRC also supports the work of the **Central Puget Sound Economic Development District**.

Budget and funding sources

The Puget Sound Regional Council's proposed supplemental biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2022 – 2023 (July 2021 – June 30, 2023) is \$32 million. The agency's work program is funded by a combination of federal and state grants, dues paid by PSRC members, and by other local sources.



Juneteenth becomes official state holiday

Juneteenth refers to June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and informed the last remaining enslaved people of their freedom, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was to go into effect. PSRC's Executive Board acted unanimously to make Juneteenth an official PSRC holiday beginning in 2022.

Puget Sound Regional Council membership

COUNTIES — King County, Kitsap County, Pierce County, Snohomish County

CITIES & TRIBES — Algona, Arlington, Auburn, Bainbridge Island, Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bonney Lake, Bothell, Bremerton, Buckley, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Darrington, Des Moines, DuPont, Duvall, Eatonville, Edgewood, Edmonds, Enumclaw, Everett, Federal Way, Fife, Fircrest, Gig Harbor, Granite Falls, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Lake Stevens, Lakewood, Lynnwood, Maple Valley, Marysville, Medina, Mercer Island, Mill Creek, Milton, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Mukilteo, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Orting, Pacific, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Puyallup, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Redmond, Renton, Roy, Ruston, Sammamish, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Stanwood, Steilacoom, Sultan, Sumner, Tacoma, The Suquamish Tribe, Tukwila, Tulalip Tribes, University Place, Wilkeson, Woodinville, Woodway, Yarrow Point

STATUTORY MEMBERS — Port of Bremerton, Port of Everett, Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington Transportation Commission

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS — Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, Cascade Water Alliance, Port of Edmonds, Island County, Puget Sound Partnership, Snoqualmie Tribe, Thurston Regional Planning Council, University of Washington, Washington State University

TRANSIT AGENCIES — Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, Metro (King County), Pierce Transit, Sound Transit

Funding for this document provided in part by member jurisdictions, grants from U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation. PSRC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <https://www.psrc.org/title-vi>.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, at **206.464.6175**, with two weeks' advance notice. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, through TTY Relay 711.

Additional copies of this document may be obtained by contacting:

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