



February 1, 2026

Puget Sound Regional Council
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Comments on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan

Dear Members of the PSRC Executive Board, Executive Director Brown, and PSRC Staff,

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) released in December. We thank PSRC staff for the extensive work that has gone into developing a comprehensive, multimodal, and forward-looking plan to guide transportation investments across the central Puget Sound region.

We also wish to acknowledge the ongoing collaboration throughout the RTP update process between PSRC staff and the City of Seattle, alongside our peer member agencies in the region, and including City Council members and local staff. We appreciate PSRC's responsiveness, technical engagement, and partnership over the course of this work, which has certainly strengthened the draft plan.

Seattle strongly values PSRC's role in coordinating regional transportation planning, particularly given the RTP's importance in shaping federal funding eligibility, project prioritization, and long-term investment decisions. Overall, SDOT supports the direction of the Draft RTP and offers the following comments and recommendations to further strengthen alignment with local priorities and advance shared regional goals related to safety, equity, climate action, and system performance.

Alignment with Local and Regional Policy Goals

We appreciate the Draft RTP's emphasis on safety, equity, climate, mode shift, multimodal access, transit investment, emerging mobility, and system preservation, which closely align with Seattle's adopted transportation and climate policies. As the plan is refined, we encourage PSRC to continue highlighting explicit alignment between regional goals, performance measures, and local plans, particularly in urban centers where the majority of regional travel demand, emissions, and safety risks are concentrated.



Clear linkage between regional objectives and local implementation can help ensure that the RTP functions not only as a compliance document, but also as a practical framework supporting jurisdictions in delivering measurable outcomes.

Safety and Vision Zero Outcomes

We strongly support the Draft RTP's focus on improving safety for all users. We encourage PSRC to continue to elevate safety as a foundational outcome by:

- Strengthening regional performance measures related to traffic fatalities and serious injuries;
- Explicitly prioritizing investments that address high-injury networks (regional and/or local) and historically underserved communities; and
- Reinforcing the role of system design, speed management, and multimodal infrastructure in achieving safety outcomes.

A clear connection between safety goals, investment decisions, and accountability supports local and regional efforts to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes, advancing our Vision Zero goals.

Climate Action, Emissions Reduction, and Mode Shift

We appreciate the Draft RTP's recognition of climate change and the need to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. We strongly support the inclusion of regional mode-shift targets, transit investment, and emissions reduction goals, and we appreciate that the plan incorporates performance measures to track progress.

Given the region's exposure to sea level rise and increased storm events, we encourage continued attention to climate resilience, particularly along Puget Sound and other low-lying areas that include ports, industrial corridors, and critical transportation infrastructure. Proactive coordination on shoreline management, flood protection, and climate-adaptive infrastructure is a shared regional need that should be explicitly referenced as part of resiliency planning.

Additionally, we encourage PSRC to continue highlighting strategies that support:

- Reduction of single-occupancy vehicle travel through mode shift incentives and regional transit coordination;
- Integration of active transportation investments (walking, biking, micromobility) with climate and equity goals; and



- Where appropriate, coordinate regional transportation priorities with the State of Washington and City of Seattle climate action commitments, including the City's Climate Action Plan, Climate Change Response Framework, Transportation Electrification Roadmap and greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Strengthening these elements will help ensure that climate outcomes are a measurable and integral part of regional planning.

Transit Investment and Regional Coordination

Seattle strongly supports the Draft RTP's emphasis on multimodal access, and we appreciate the plan's recognition of transit as the backbone of the regional system. Investment in high-capacity transit, bus rapid transit, and improved local and regional connections is critical to reducing congestion, supporting equity, and achieving climate and mode-shift goals.

We encourage PSRC to:

- Continue highlighting Seattle's planned transit expansions, including light rail extensions, RapidRide improvements, and bus service enhancements;
- Emphasize opportunities for interjurisdictional coordination to strengthen regional transit networks; and
- Support service and capital investments that provide reliable access for historically underserved communities, consistent with the Draft RTP's equity objectives.

Emerging Mobility and Automated Vehicle Coordination

Autonomous vehicles present potential benefits, but realizing them requires proactive, coordinated local leadership with clear, consistent frameworks to protect safety, sustainability, and livability. As part of the 2026 RTP Work Program, SDOT encourages PSRC to create a regional forum focused on automated vehicle (AV) regulations and emerging mobility technologies. Such a forum could bring cities together to coordinate approaches, share best practices, and advance a unified regulatory framework, helping prevent inconsistent or preemptive policies driven solely by industry deployment.

Shared autonomous vehicles highly impact dense urban areas, and managing operational impacts will fall to local transportation jurisdictions, not state or federal agencies. Proactive regional coordination will ensure that AV adoption aligns with safety, equity, and mobility objectives while supporting local planning authority, traffic enforcement and emergency response.



Maintenance, Modernization, and Operations

Seattle strongly supports the RTP's recognition of system preservation as a core regional goal. We encourage PSRC to continue emphasizing not only maintenance, but also modernization and efficient operations, to ensure the region's transportation assets remain safe, reliable, and resilient. SDOT recommends that the RTP:

- Emphasize the importance of preservation for roads, bridges, transit facilities, and other critical infrastructure;
- Continue to include strategies for modernization that leverage technology, data, and operational improvements to maximize system performance; and
- Encourage and support coordinated operations across jurisdictions to enhance reliability, reduce congestion, and safety for all travelers.

Investing in maintenance, modernization, and operational excellence is essential to extend the life of existing assets, protect prior investments, and maintain public confidence in the transportation system.

Financial Strategy and Investment Priorities

We recognize the complexity of developing a fiscally constrained long-range plan and appreciate PSRC's work to develop the funding scenarios, including robust public engagement, and final assumptions built into the draft plan demonstrating a balanced approach across many regional voices. As the plan moves toward adoption, we encourage PSRC to:

- Continue to support maintenance and preservation of existing assets, particularly in mature urban systems;
- Emphasize co-benefits of planned investments and revenue strategies for regional goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring equity considerations, and encouraging shifts to sustainable transportation options; and
- Clearly articulate how limited resources are balanced between system preservation, safety improvements, climate outcomes, and capacity investments.

We also encourage PSRC to engage with the Policy Boards and Executive Board post-adoption to review and, if appropriate, update the federal funding policy framework, ensuring stability for capital projects during periods of federal uncertainty and rising costs.

We look forward to working closely via committees and Boards to support future discussions on alignment with the Regional Safety Action Plan, Regional Climate Action



Plan, and other emerging local needs. Ensuring alignment between the RTP and federal funding policy frameworks can help maximize regional investment outcomes and maintain momentum on critical multimodal projects.

Equity and Community-Centered Implementation

We support PSRC's emphasis on equity and appreciate the extensive public engagement conducted during development of the Draft RTP. We encourage continued focus on:

- Centering equity focus areas and populations in performance evaluation and investment decisions;
- Emphasizing the potential equity benefits (or impacts) at the nexus of land use, housing and transportation in support of improved local and regional outcomes;
- Ensuring that benefits and burdens of the regional transportation system are analyzed; and
- Supporting long-term, relationship-based engagement approaches that complement local community partnerships.

We appreciate PSRC's leadership in advancing a regional transportation vision that reflects shared priorities across jurisdictions. We look forward to continued collaboration as this cycle of the RTP is refined and implemented, and we appreciate consideration of these comments as part of the public review process.

Please feel free to contact us if additional clarification or coordination would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Brady".

Angela Brady

Acting Director

Seattle Department of Transportation

CC: Megan Hoyt, Acting Deputy Director, SDOT

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