



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

February 2, 2026

Puget Sound Regional Council
1201 Third Ave #500
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Draft Regional Transportation Plan 2026–2050

Dear Director Brown:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). I write on behalf of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (hereafter, Agency), the regional air pollution control authority encompassing PSRC's same counties. The Agency works to realize a vision of healthy air, climate, and environmental justice for the benefit of all people in the Puget Sound region.¹

Mobile sources are one of the largest contributors to air pollution in our region, making our continued coordination and collaboration to implement aspects of the RTP vital.

Air pollution, Public Health, & Equity Benefits

Passenger cars and light trucks emit particle pollution (PM_{2.5}), the main driver of air pollution health risk in the Puget Sound region.² PM_{2.5} from diesel vehicles is particularly hazardous, presenting the greatest cancer risk from air toxics. Additionally, vehicles emit nitrogen oxides, a main precursor to ozone. The Agency is encouraged that the air quality conformity analysis reflects substantial reductions in criteria pollutants over the timeframe of the plan, due mainly to technology advances (especially zero emission technology) and fleet turnover. The plan's multimodal focus can also help to reduce exposures to harmful mobile source pollutants.

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¹ Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. 2023. Strategic Plan.

<https://pscleanair.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5038/2030-Strategic-Plan-Final->

² Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. 2026. Criteria Air Pollutants. <https://pscleanair.gov/163/Criteria-Air-Pollutants>.

Overburdened communities in our region live disproportionately near major roadways.³ The reduced emissions and corresponding improvements in ambient air quality are particularly impactful in these communities, which face increased health risks from more limited access to healthcare, higher environmental exposures based on where they live, and other societal barriers.

Climate impacts and Co-Benefits

On-road transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 25% of emissions in our 4-county region.⁴ As PSRC knows only too well, our region is already experiencing the effects of climate change including increased wildfires, heat risk, lower snowpack, larger flooding events, and lower summer stream-flows. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions will worsen these effects and lead to other long-term impacts like increasing acidity in Puget Sound and raising sea levels.⁵

While we are encouraged by the RTP's modeling that reflects an 83% reduction in GHG from 1990 to 2050, we will need to work together to achieve even deeper reductions. This will be especially important with the recent headwinds seeking to slow down the transition to zero emission vehicles. These headwinds will make reaching our emission reduction targets more challenging, requiring even greater innovation, collaboration, and commitment across the region.

The Agency looks forward to working with PSRC, its committees, and jurisdictions to deliver the region's recently completed [Comprehensive Climate Plan](#). The CCAP outlines strategies and actions for transportation and beyond that will help us meet our ambitious and necessary climate targets. In addition to greenhouse gas emission reductions, the actions and strategies outlined in the CCAP can improve air quality and public health, spur green job growth, and reduce energy costs for Puget Sound Region residents.

We strongly support the Regional Transportation Plan and look forward to working with you to transition our region to a cleaner, more equitable, and sustainable transportation network.

Sincerely,



Christine Cooley
Executive Director, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

³ Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. 2026. Overburdened Communities. <https://pscleanair.gov/382/Overburdened-Communities>.

⁴ Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. 2026. Climate Change. <https://pscleanair.gov/164/Climate-Change>.

⁵ WA State Dept of Ecology, 2025, 2025 Summary Report on the Science of Human Caused Climate Change and Recommendations for Washington State's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Limits, <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2514064.pdf>.