Executive Board
Thursday, March 28, 2019 • 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
PSRC Board Room • 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

The meeting will be streamed live over the internet at www.psrc.org.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (10:00) - Executive Dave Somers, President
2. Communications and Public Comment
3. President's Remarks
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Committee Reports
   a. Transportation Policy Board - Councilmember Rob Johnson, Chair
   b. Growth Management Policy Board - Councilmember Ryan Mello, Chair
   c. Operations Committee - Executive Bruce Dammeier, Vice President
   d. Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board - Councilmember Terry Ryan, CPSEDD
6. Consent Agenda (10:20)
   a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held February 28, 2019
   b. Approve Vouchers Dated February 15 through March 15, 2019 in the Amount of $941,695.70
   c. Approve Contract Authority for 2019 General Assembly
   d. Approve Contract Authority to Purchase Closed Captioning Service for Video Web Streaming
7. New Business (10:25)
   a. Recommend Adoption of Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Budget and Work Program -- Diana Lauderbach, PSRC
8. Discussion Item (10:40)
   a. Update on Ultra-High-Speed Ground Transportation Study -- Jason Beloso, Strategic Planning Manager, WSDOT Rail, Freight & Ports Division
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting:
    - Executive Board - Thursday, April 25, 2019, 10 - 11:30 a.m., PSRC Board Room
    - SAVE THE DATE! General Assembly - Thursday, May 30, 2019, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., The Conference Center at The Washington State Convention Center. Registration will open soon.
11. Adjourn (11:30)

Board members please submit proposed amendments and materials prior to the meeting for distribution. Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Sheila Rogers, e-mail srogers@psrc.org; fax 206-587-4825; or mail.

Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 711. العربية, 中文, Deutsch, German, Français, French, 한국, Русский, Russian, Español, Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt, Vietnamese, Call 206-587-4819.
March 7, 2019

Economy and Jobs in VISION 2050

The board was briefed on regional economic data and forecasts and how economic trends have affected housing affordability and transportation patterns.

Between 2010 and 2017, the region added 378,000 new jobs and 376,000 more people. King County metro cities (Seattle and Bellevue) and Bremerton have experienced stronger job growth in recent years than anticipated by the Regional Growth Strategy, while growth in Everett and Tacoma has been less than the growth strategy objective, although both cities have seen stronger growth in the last few years.

Board members participated in breakout sessions about how VISION 2050 can support economic growth in all parts of the region, improve regional distribution of jobs, and improve access to opportunity for the region’s residents. Staff will use the feedback from the board to identify potential revisions to policies in VISION 2050.

For more information, please contact Paul Inghram at 206-464-7549 or PInghram@psrc.org, or Jason Thibedeau at 206-389-1879 or JThibedeau@psrc.org.
Draft VISION 2050 Supplemental EIS released for public comment

Board members heard a presentation on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for VISION 2050. The draft SEIS reviews the environmental impacts of three growth alternatives. People are encouraged to review the SEIS information and provide comments on PSRC’s website at https://www.psrc.org/vision/seis. Also, five open houses are being held around the region during March 2019.

PSRC is seeking feedback on the Draft SEIS until April 29, 2019. Comments will help shape a preferred alternative. View the presentation.

For more information, contact Erika Harris, SEPA Official, at 206-464-6360 or EHarris@psrc.org, or Paul Inghram at 206-464-7549 or PInghram@psrc.org.

Environment Policies in VISION 2050

The board discussed proposed draft changes to the Environment multicounty planning policies and actions in VISION 2050. The proposed revisions include a select set of new and updated policies and actions to better address current environmental conditions and needs, including:

- Strengthening provisions to address climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation
- Recognizing and supporting efforts to accelerate Puget Sound recovery
- Integrating recommendations from the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan
- Building racial and social equity into new and revised environment policies and actions more explicitly

Based on the discussion, staff will prepare proposed draft changes for board feedback prior to review of the draft plan in summer 2019.
Development Patterns Policies in VISION 2050

The board discussed potential revisions to the Development Patterns multicounty planning policies and actions in VISION 2050. These draft changes include:

- Policies and actions to implement the Regional Growth Strategy and support growth in transit station areas
- Policies and actions to reflect and implement the Regional Centers Framework
- Revised policies to address equitable development and equitable community engagement
- Policies and actions to address health and health disparities
- Revised policy and action on urban growth area adjustments
- Revised action to support annexation

The board will continue discussion of Development Patterns policies at its April meeting.

For more information, contact Liz Underwood-Bultmann at 206-464-6174 or LUnderwoodBultmann@psrc.org, or Paul Inghram at 206-464-7549 or PInghram@psrc.org.
MINUTES

Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board
Thursday, February 28, 2019
PSRC Board Room

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Executive Board was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Executive Dave Somers, President. The signatures on the Attendance Sheet, as well as documentation by staff, determined attendance and that a quorum was present.

[To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to: http://psrcwa.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx.]

Members and Alternates that participated for all or part of the meeting included:
(**participated via teleconference)

Executive Bruce Dammeier, PSRC Vice President, Pierce County
Executive Dave Somers, PSRC President, Snohomish County
**Commissioner Glen Bachman, Port of Everett
Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, King County Other Cities & Towns
Councilmember Claudia Balducci, King County
**Mayor John Chelminiak, City of Bellevue
Executive Dow Constantine, King County
Mayor Allan Ekberg, Tukwila, King County Other Cities & Towns
Mayor Becky Erickson, Poulsbo, Kitsap County Other Cities & Towns
**Mayor Cassie Franklin, City of Everett
Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County
Councilmember Rob Johnson, City of Seattle
Councilmember Kathy Lambert, King County
**Mayor Denis Law, City of Renton
**Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, King County Other Cities & Towns
**Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent
Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, King County Other Cities & Towns
Ms. Patty Rubstello, WSDOT
Councilmember Terry Ryan, Snohomish County
Commissioner Hester Serebrin, Washington State Transportation Commission
Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, King County Other Cities & Towns
Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck, Port of Seattle
Mayor Penny Sweet, City of Kirkland
**Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn, Port of Bremerton**
**Mayor Barbara Tolbert, Arlington, Snohomish County Other Cities & Towns**
Councilmember Mike Todd, Mill Creek, Snohomish County Other Cities & Towns
Mayor Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton
**Mayor Victoria Woodards, City of Tacoma**
**Councilmember Stephanie Wright, Snohomish County**
**Councilmember Derek Young, Pierce County**

Members absent included:
(*alternate present)
Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, King County Other Cities & Towns
*Commissioner Cary Bozeman, Port of Bremerton
*Commissioner Courtney Gregoire, Port of Seattle
Mayor Jenny Durkan, City of Seattle
Mayor Jim Ferrell, City of Federal Way
Councilmember Mike O’Brien, City of Seattle
*Mayor Amy Ockerlande, Duvall, King County Other Cities & Towns
Mayor Ron Lucas, Steilacoom, Pierce County Other Cities & Towns
Commissioner Dick Marzano, Port of Tacoma
*Secretary Roger Millar, WSDOT
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, City of Seattle

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The following person addressed the board:
- Alex Tsimerman

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Executive Dave Somers, Chair, welcomed the following new Executive Board members and alternates:
- **Councilmember Kevin Gorman** appointed as alternate for City of Bremerton.
- **Councilmember Derek Young** we welcome him back to the Executive Board as 2nd representative for Pierce County.
- **Councilmember Scott Murphy** appointed as alternate for City of Everett.
- **Mike Cotton and John Wynands** have been appointed as alternates for Washington State Department of Transportation.
- **City of Tukwila Mayor Allan Ekberg** appointed as alternate for King County Other Cities & Towns.
- **Mayor Penny Sweet** appointed as member representing City of Kirkland.

Executive Dave Somers mentioned that in the coming weeks, board members and alternates would receive an email from him forwarding the performance goals for PSRC
Executive Director Josh Brown. He stated that “these goals will be used to evaluate Josh’s performance during his next annual performance review in December 2019.”

Executive Somers reported that in preparation for the General Assembly he has appointed members for the nominating committee, which will propose candidates for the positions of PSRC President and Vice President. The following people will serve on the committee:

- Executive Dave Somers, Snohomish County, Chair
- Executive Dow Constantine, King County
- Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County
- Mayor Cassie Franklin, City of Everett
- Mayor Victoria Woodards, City of Tacoma
- Mayor Becky Erickson, City of Poulso
- Mayor John Marchione, City of Redmond
- Commissioner Glen Bachman, Port of Everett
- Councilmember Doug Richardson, Pierce County

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Josh Brown, Executive Director:

- Shared results of the Puget Sound Regional Council and Central Puget Sound Economic Development District audit exit conference. He reported that the Fiscal Year 2018 audit included a clean audit report, both for PSRC and CPSEDD, with no findings and no management letters. Fiscal Year 2018 was the seventh year in a row that PSRC and CPSEDD have been without findings since their audits were combined in Fiscal Year 2005.
- He informed the board that PSRC has received its second Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the Supplemental 2018-2019 Budget. He acknowledged Chief Financial Officer Diana Lauderbach and her team for their outstanding work.
- Highlighted data trends on commute patterns, as well as telework rates, in the region.
- Drew attention to a handout at members’ places on the Forward Washington Package. The handout identified projects that are being funded, where the revenue is being raised from, and how it is being spent.
- Reported on his outreach for the month, a lot of it focused on the Regional Aviation Baseline Study, including meetings with Executive Director Andrea Ray, Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce; Tukwila Mayor Allan Eckberg; Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin; and Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell. Continued airport tours with Swanson Airport, Kenmore Air, McChord Field, Thun Field and Tacoma Narrows Airport. Met with Senators Steve Hobbs and Karen Keiser.
- Recognized Senior Graphic Designer Doug Clinton who will be retiring this month after thirty-three years with PSRC.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Executive Bruce Dammeier, Chair, Operations Committee, reported that the Operations Committee met this morning and recommended approval of the vouchers dated January 10 through February 15, 2019, in the amount of $1,179,880.18; and recommended contract approval for web streaming services.

He reported that the Washington State Auditor’s Office shared results at an exit conference during the Operations Committee meeting. The Fiscal Year 2018 audit included a clean audit report, for both PSRC and the Economic Development District, with no findings, management letters, or exit items. PSRC has had only one audit finding in the last 18 years and only two in the last 28 years. The audits of CPSEDD have been without findings since the PSRC and CPSEDD audits were combined in fiscal year 2005.

Executive Dammeier then called on Thu Le, HR Manager, who introduced new employee Choo Ling Khoo, Communications Department, Associate Graphic Designer.

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Roberts/Garrido) to: (a) Approve Minutes of Meeting held January 24, 2019; (b) Approve Vouchers Dated January 10 through February 15, 2019 in the Amount of $1,179,880.18; (c) Approve Contract Authority to Purchase Audio/Video Web-Streaming Service; (d) Adopt Routine Amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program; (e) Approve Certification of the Lakewood Regional Growth Center Subarea Plan; and (f) Approve Full Certification of Comprehensive Plan for Puyallup. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on Seattle’s Working Waterfront

Steve Metruck, Executive Director, Port of Seattle, and Kurt Beckett, Deputy CEO, Northwest Seaport Alliance, provided an update on port activities around the Seattle Harbor. Last fall, the Port of Seattle Commission supported the blue print of an ambitious waterfront 5-year capital improvement plan that includes projects from Fishermen’s Terminal down to the SODO neighborhood.

Draft Biennial Budget and Work Program FY 2020-2021

Diana Lauderbach, PSRC Chief Financial Officer, and Ben Bakkenta, PSRC Director of Regional Planning, provided information on the draft FY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program. The draft budget includes work on the Regional Aviation Baseline Study, advances Equity Analysis tools for VISION 2050, and continues to implement the region’s long-range plans.

VISION 2050 Environmental Review
Paul Inghram, PSRC Director of Growth Management, reported that the VISION 2050 Draft Supplemental EIS has been released for public comment through April 29, 2019. The Draft SEIS evaluates the environmental effects of three regional growth alternatives for VISION 2050 that distribute growth in unique patterns throughout the region. The three alternatives are: Stay the Course (no action alternative), Transit Focused Growth, and Reset Urban Growth.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the board.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 10 - 11:30 a.m., PSRC Board Room

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Adopted this 28th day of March, 2019

____________________________________
Executive Dave Somers, President
Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTEST:

____________________________________
Josh Brown, Executive Director
CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Bruce Dammeier, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: Approve Vouchers Dated February 15 through March 15, 2019 in the Amount of $941,695.70

IN BRIEF

Two representatives of the Operations Committee review and sign off on the vouchers. In accordance with RCW 42.24.080, following the Operations Committee’s review, the Executive Board approves the vouchers.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend the Executive Board approve the following vouchers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUESTED WARRANT DATE</th>
<th>VOUCHER NUMBER</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/15/19 - 03/13/19</td>
<td>AP Vouchers</td>
<td>$362,838.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/28/19 - 03/15/19</td>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>$578,856.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$941,695.70

For additional information, please contact Diana Lauderbach at (206) 464-5416; email dlauderbach@psrc.org.
CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Bruce Dammeier, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: Approve Contract Authority for 2019 General Assembly

IN BRIEF

Authorization by the Executive Board is required for the Executive Director to enter into a contract in excess of $10,000 per year. A request is being made to authorize the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts for space rental, catering, and audio/visual expenses related to the 2019 General Assembly.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts for support of the 2019 General Assembly. The total cost for all contracts will not exceed $25,000.

BUDGET IMPACT

The adopted Biennial Budget and Work Program for fiscal year 2018-2019 includes funding for this project. Total budget for the contract is not to exceed $25,000.

DISCUSSION

The Puget Sound Regional Council General Assembly includes all mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers of PSRC member jurisdictions, Tribes and statutory members. Each elected representative is a voting member of the General Assembly. The General Assembly will meet on May 30, 2019, to establish the FY2020-2021 biennial budget and work program and elect new officers.

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Olson at 206-971-3050 or email
rolson@psrc.org; or Sheila Rogers at 206-464-5815 or email srogers@psrc.org.
CONSENT AGENDA

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Bruce Dammeier, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: Approve Contract Authority to Purchase Closed Captioning Service for Video Web Streaming

IN BRIEF

Authorization by the Executive Board is required for the Executive Director to enter into a contract in excess of $10,000 per year. On February 28, 2019, the Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts to purchase audio/video web streaming equipment and service not to exceed $60,000 total for three years.

After reviewing quotes, staff selected a vendor that will provide those services well within that amount. Staff also requested quotes for adding closed captioning to streamed video, and that cost, when added to that of the web streaming service, may exceed the $60,000 threshold over three years. This service may be procured from the web streaming vendor or a third-party service.

A request is being made to increase the authorization for the purchase of new equipment and services for streaming of sound and video of board meetings from the Boardroom from $60,000 to $75,000.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts to purchase audio/video web streaming equipment and service not to exceed $75,000 total for three years to replace the prior authorization of $60,000 over three years.

BUDGET IMPACT
The adopted Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Biennial Budget and Work Program includes sufficient funds within the overhead/information systems budget for this project for the current fiscal year. The proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget contains sufficient funds for the next biennium.

DISCUSSION

The PSRC Technology Plan includes as one of its strategies “Leverage technology to make PSRC board meetings available beyond 1011 Western Avenue.” Implementing that strategy, PSRC has been streaming live audio and video of board meetings (Executive Board, Transportation and Growth Management Policy Boards and Economic Development District Board) over the Internet since 2008 using in-room camera and sound systems in the Boardroom.

As part of PSRC’s commitment to increasing accessibility in its communications, closed captioning service will also be added to streamed video for the first time.

The current contract for web streaming and agenda management services expires March 31, 2019. New contract authorization is needed to secure the services of one or more firms to provide these services. The recommended action will provide this authorization so that PSRC may continue to make Board meetings available to the public on the Internet. Costs are estimated at $10,000 per year for web streaming services and agenda management software and an additional $10,000 to 14,000 per year for closed captioning, for a total of up to $24,000 per year.

For more information, please contact Jerry Harless at 206-464-5325 or jharless@prsc.org.
ACTION ITEM

To: Executive Board

From: Executive Bruce Dammeier, Chair, Operations Committee

Subject: Recommend Adoption of Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Budget and Work Program

IN BRIEF

On March 28, 2019, the Operations Committee will be asked to recommend to the Executive Board the Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program for adoption by the General Assembly on May 30, 2019. The entire proposed Biennial Budget and Work Program is available online at https://www.psrc.org/about/budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Recommend that the Executive Board approve the Proposed FY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program and recommend adoption by the General Assembly on May 30, 2019.

2. Recommend that the General Assembly adopt Resolution PSRC-A-2019-01 authorizing the submittal of the adopted Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program.

BUDGET IMPACT

The proposed FY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program of $27.4 million is based on revenue and expense assumptions illustrated in Tables 1 through 7, beginning on page 18 of the Draft FY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program document.
BACKGROUND

The Puget Sound Regional Council is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the four-county area and has specific responsibilities under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Clean Air Act (CAA), the state Growth Management Act (GMA), the Economic Development Act (EDA), and the Interlocal Agreement approved by PSRC members.

PSRC is funded through a combination of federal and state grants and local funds. The federal grants traditionally make up nearly 79 percent of the funding, while state grants contribute about 4 percent. Local funds provide approximately 17 percent and are used to match the state and federal grants, and also fund work not covered by federal and state grants.

PSRC’s major activities in the FY 2020-2021 Budget and Work Program will build on and enhance efforts carried forward from Fiscal Years 2018-2019, focusing on meeting mandates and continuing to provide essential services to members. The budget contains the following elements: Planning Management, Regional Growth Planning, Transportation Planning, Economic Development, Data, Council Support, Communications, and Administrative Services.

The Operations Committee, which has primary responsibility for developing the annual Budget and Work Program, had an in-depth review of the proposed draft Budget and Work Program on December 6, 2018. The Executive Board, Transportation Policy Board, Growth Management Policy Board, and Economic Development District Board were given information on the proposed draft Budget and Work Program in January and February. The Operations Committee has prepared this recommended Budget and Work Program for presentation to the Executive Board for approval at its March 28 meeting. The action to adopt the Proposed FY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program by the General Assembly is contingent upon Executive Board approval at its March 28, 2019 meeting.

During the review period PSRC received a comment on Friday, March 15th. Please see the attached memo for more information.

To view the Proposed FY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program online, please refer to: [https://www.psrc.org/about/budget](https://www.psrc.org/about/budget).

If you have questions, please call Diana Lauderbach, PSRC Chief Financial Officer, at 206-464-5416 or email dlauderbach@psrc.org.

Attachments:
- BudgetWorkProgram_Resolution GA2019
- Comments re_ Draft PSRC Budget and Work Plan _ (002)
RESOLUTION NO. PSRC-A-2019-01

A RESOLUTION of the Puget Sound Regional Council
Authorizing Submittal of the Fiscal Years 2020-2021 Biennial
Budget and Work Program

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), at its meeting on May 30, 2019, adopted the Biennial Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020-2021;

WHEREAS, that the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council is authorized to submit to the federal and state agencies the grant application to carry out the Biennial Budget and Work Program, and all supporting information, including procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Economic Development Administration; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Federal Aviation Administration; the United States Geological Survey; and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Director is designated as the authorized official to execute grant contracts on behalf of the Puget Sound Regional Council with the United States Department of Transportation, the Economic Development Administration; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Federal Aviation Administration; the United States Geological Survey; and the Washington State Department of Transportation in support of the adopted budget and work program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of PSRC is authorized to incur costs beginning on July 1, 2019, and receive planning monies from the federal and state agencies and local jurisdictions pursuant to the adopted Biennial Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 for the Puget Sound Regional Council.

ADOPTED by the Assembly this 30th day of May, 2019.

__________________________________
Dave Somers, Executive
Snohomish County
President, Puget Sound Regional Council

ATTEST: ____________________________
Josh Brown, Executive Director
To: Diana Lauderbach
From: Transportation Choices Coalition, Futurewise, Climate Solutions, Puget Sound Sage, Cascade Bicycle Club, Housing Development Consortium, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club Washington State Chapter
Date: March 15, 2019
Re: Draft FY2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program

Dear Ms. Lauderbach,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft FY2020-2021 Biennial Budget and Work Program. We believe that a budget and work program is important not only to support PSRC’s core regional planning, funding and data activities, but to ensure accountability to our collective regional vision, both through the regional transportation plan and VISION 2050.

During the course of the VISION 2050 update, social and racial equity has been raised as a top concern, both by Board members and by members of the public. At a recent peer networking event, electeds, agency staff, and advocates from all four counties worked side-by-side in an at-capacity workshop to imagine how regional planning could better address issues of social and racial equity. For us, that discussion reinforced both the challenge implementing equitable growth policies and the necessity of doing this work. If VISION 2050’s process and budget don’t adequately incorporate equity, then its aim of keeping our region healthy and vibrant as it grows—which also entails equitably addressing climate change—will not be achieved. Everyone needs to be a part of problem solving and solutions for our aims to have the necessary broad and lasting impact.

We are very pleased to see that Equity and Social Justice has been included as a sub-task in the draft work program provided. The scope of work listed is very broad, and we would like to ensure that the budget allocates sufficient funds to perform these tasks. It is currently unclear how much funding has been allocated directly to this task. To fully “incorporate and center equity and social justice in its public and member engagement, approaches to analysis, and development of regional policy,” as the work program states, PSRC should ensure sufficient funds are available to cover the following:

- **Funding for staff, board and consultant expertise and training.**
  - Consider hiring staff with social and racial equity expertise.
  - Consider funding for social and racial equity training for staff and board members.
  - Adequately fund new in-house staff and additional consultants as needed to implement recommendations from previous equity consultants.
● Funding for action items on equity that come out of VISION.
  ○ Example recommended actions could include adopting specific performance targets for equity policies (e.g. end disparities in air pollution exposure) and developing a plan for incorporating equity goal accountability into comprehensive plan certification.

● Funding for incorporating equity into project selection frameworks.
  ○ Reimagining the transportation investment framework to ensure alignment with equity goals will be a critical mechanism to evaluate progress.

● Funding to improve engagement.
  ○ Achieving the equity outcomes we hope to see in the region will take both time and expertise from the frontline communities that have been most impacted.
  ○ Best practices show that community groups and members should be resourced to participate and may have very different engagement needs, whether through time of day, type of meeting, translation and interpretation. Funds should be sufficient to build in both the financial incentives and PSRC staff time to develop these relationships.
  ○ Because PSRC can be challenging for many community members to engage in, we also recommend providing adequate funding to study how to develop an environmental justice committee with resourced equity experts and community representatives to guide planning at PSRC in an ongoing way.

Thank you,

Transportation Choices Coalition
Climate Solutions
The Wilderness Society
Cascade Bicycle Club
Futurewise
Housing Development Consortium
Puget Sound Sage
Sierra Club Washington State Chapter

Attachments:
Joint comment letter to GMPB on social equity session
Climate solutions testimony to GMPB on social equity session
DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Executive Board
From: Josh Brown, Executive Director
Subject: Update on Ultra-High-Speed Ground Transportation Study

IN BRIEF

The board will be briefed on a study underway to connect Vancouver, B.C., to Seattle and Portland with ultra-high-speed ground transportation.

DISCUSSION

The states of Washington and Oregon, along with the province of British Columbia, are currently engaged in a study of ultra-high-speed ground transportation connecting Seattle, Portland and Vancouver.

In upcoming months, the Washington State Department of Transportation and its consultants will be refining a business case analysis, which is due to the Governor and legislature in June 2019. The business case will include:

- Corridor options, including station and alignment opportunities
- Technologies, and costs
- Potential ridership and revenue
- Governing structures and economic impacts
- Funding and finance alternatives

Governor Inslee’s budget proposes $3.25 million to continue work on this concept. His proposal calls for development of a governance and operating structure to move the project forward, as well as a robust community engagement process. The state legislature is currently considering this request. B.C. Premier John Horgan recently committed an additional $300,000 CAN to support this next step.
Staff from the Rail, Freight and Ports Division of WSDOT will provide the board with an update on the current study.

For more information, please contact Rick Olson at 206-971-3050 or email rolson@psrc.org.
Save the Date!

Puget Sound Regional Council – Annual General Assembly

Thursday, May 30, 2019 @ 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
The Conference Center @ Washington State Convention Center
8th & Pike, Seattle, WA 98101-2310