Economic Development Board

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 • 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
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 (1:00)
2. Communications and Public Comments
3. President’s Remarks
4. Staff Report
5. Consent Agenda (1:20)
   a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held February 7, 2018
   b. Approve Vouchers Dated February 14, 2018 through February 21, 2018 in the Amount of $113.57
6. Action Items (1:30)
   a. Ratify Executive Committee for the 2018-2020 Term
   b. Implementation Action Item: Regional Aviation Baseline Study  -- Josh Brown, Puget Sound Regional Council
7. Discussion Item (2:15)
   a. Cross Laminated Timber Efforts in the Puget Sound Region  -- Matt Ojala, Director of Government Affairs, Forterra
8. Information Items
   a. Amazing Place Update
   b. 2050 Forecast of People and Jobs
   c. VISION 2050 Scope of Work
9. Next Meeting - July 11, 2018
10. Adjourn (3:00)

Board members please submit proposed amendments and other materials prior to the meeting for distribution. Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Ruth Wezeman at rwezeman@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.

MINUTES
Puget Sound Regional Council Economic Development Board
Wednesday, February 7, 2017
PSRC Boardroom

Call to Order and Roll Call
The meeting of the Economic Development Board was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, 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:
(***participation via teleconference)
Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, President
Councilmember Terry Ryan, Vice President
Councilmember Mariah Betisse
Brian Bonlender
Neepaporn “A” Boungjaktha
Commissioner Ryan Calkins
Kevin Clark
Elizabeth Court
Tom Florino
Commissioner Charlotte Garrido***
Councilmember Kevin Gorman
Deputy Mayor Nick Harper
Councilmember Lisa Herbold
Rebecca Lovell
Pat Iolavera
Councilmember Conrad Lee
Erin Monroe
Patrick Pierce
Alex Pietsch
John Powers
Councilmember Ed Prince
Paige Shevlin
Stan Sorscher
Councilmember Ed Stern
Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn
Mayor Geoffrey Thomas
Dan Trimble
Mayor Greg Wheeler**

Members absent included:
(*)alternate present
Executive Dow Constantine*
Bob Drewel
Leonard Forsman
Mayor Cassie Franklin*
Councilmember Lillian Hunter
Bruce Kendall*
Councilmember Connie Ladenburg
Commissioner Clare Petrich
Councilmember Shannon Reynolds
Executive Dave Somers
Chad Wright

Communications and Citizen Comments
The following citizens approached the board for comment: Hendrick W. “Hank” Haynes, Marguerite Richard, Alex Tsimerman, and Regina Glenn.

President’s Remarks
Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, President, made the following announcements:

- Reviewed her term as presidency and thanked the board;
- Announced outgoing board members:
  - Heather Engelbrecht, EDC of Seattle and King County
  - Regina Glenn, Pacific Communications Consultants, Inc.
  - Dr. David Mitchell, Olympic College
  - Ralph Pease, Maritime & Tourism
  - Russell Steele, The Suquamish Tribe
- Welcomed the new board members:
  - Councilmember Mariah Bettise, City of Issaquah
  - Commissioner Ryan Calkins, Port of Seattle
  - Mayor Cassie Franklin, City of Everett
  - Councilmember Lillian Hunter, City of Tacoma
  - Councilmember Conrad Lee, City of Bellevue
  - Councilmember Ed Prince, City of Renton
  - Councilmember Shannon Reynolds, City of Fircrest
  - Mayor Greg Wheeler, City of Bremerton
- Welcomed the new alternates:
  - Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, City of Federal Way
  - Councilmember Kevin Gorman, City of Bremerton
  - Deputy Mayor Nick Harper, City of Everett
  - Councilmember Tom King, City of Marysville
  - Jay Mills, Suquamish Tribe
  - Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis, City of Bellevue
  - Councilmember Dan Roach, Pierce County
  - Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, City of Medina
Staff Reports
Josh Brown, Executive Director of Puget Sound Regional Council, made the following announcements:

- On behalf of the board and PSRC staff, thanked Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford for all her work and outstanding leadership;
- Talked about the role of board members and work ahead to implement Amazing Place and;
- Called on Jason Thibedeau and Emily Wittman who gave brief reports on the Commercial Space Sector Study and Boeing’s New Market Aircraft Action Items.

Consent Agenda

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Stern/Thomas) to: (a) Approve Minutes of Meeting held December 6, 2017 and (b) Approve Vouchers Dated November 9, 2017 through December 28, 2017 in the Amount of $3,228.56. The motion passed.

Action Items

Election of Economic Development Board Officers
ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Powers/Pierce) to elect Councilmember Terry Ryan and Councilmember Connie Ladenburg as President and Vice President, respectively. The motion passed.

Ratify Presidential Appointments for the 2018-2020 Term
ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Lee/Powers) to ratify the following Presidential Appointments:

- Neepaporn “A” Boungjaktha, Trade Development Alliance
- Kevin Clark, Argosy Cruises and Tillicum Excursion
- Tom Florino, Amazon
- Caroline King, Washington STEM
- Alex Pietsch, Washington State University
- Tony To, HomeSight

The motion passed.

Discussion Item

Economic Development Opportunities for Autonomous Electric Vehicles in the Puget Sound Region
Daniel Malarkey of Sightline led a presentation and discussion on the advantages, disadvantages, and possible economic impacts of autonomous electric vehicle technology.

Next Meeting
The Economic Development District Board will next meet on Wednesday, May 2, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the PSRC Boardroom.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.
CONSENT AGENDA

To: Economic Development Board
From: Josh Brown, Executive Director
Subject: Approve Vouchers Dated February 14, 2018 through February 21, 2018 in the Amount of $113.57

IN BRIEF

PSRC vouchers are reviewed by the Operations Committee and approved by the Executive Board. In order to comply fully with RCW 42.24.080, vouchers for the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (CPSEDD) should be approved by the EDD Board as well.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The EDD Board should approve the following vouchers:

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$ 113.57

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

Attachments:
EDD AP Vouchers 02-14-18 thru 02-21-18
### Check Register - APPROVAL

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**As of:** 4/17/2018

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**Acct Sub Total:** 113.57
CONSENT AGENDA

To: Economic Development Board
From: Josh Brown, Executive Director
Subject: Ratify Executive Committee for the 2018-2020 Term

IN BRIEF

The bylaws of the EDB state that its Executive Committee, which is appointed by the President, must be ratified by the board.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Economic Development Board should ratify the new Executive Committee members.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Terry Ryan, President, will discuss his recommendations for the new Executive Committee at the May 2 board meeting. The bylaws state, “The Executive Committee, to the extent provided in these Bylaws, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the affairs of the Corporation between regular meetings of the Board; Provided, that such committee shall not have the authority of the Board of Directors in reference to altering, amending, or repealing the Bylaws; or, amending or repealing any resolution of the Board of Directors which by its terms provides that it shall not be amended, altered or repealed by such committee. The Committee shall be appointed by the President with ratification by the Board.”

The President’s nominees for the Executive Committee are as follows:

- Councilmember Terry Ryan, President
- Councilmember Connie Ladenburg, Vice President
- Neepaporn “A” Boungjaktha, Trade Development Alliance
- Tom Florino, Amazon
- Melinda Goforth, Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County
- Patrick Pierce, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County
- Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn, Port of Bremerton
For more information, please contact Josh Brown at 206-464-7515 or jbrown@psrc.org.
ACTION ITEM

To:            Economic Development Board
From:          Josh Brown, Executive Director
Subject:       Implementation Action Item: Regional Aviation Baseline Study

April 25, 2018

IN BRIEF

PSRC staff will present an Amazing Place Action Item for board consideration. This proposed study will analyze aviation capacity and demand in the region as an implementation project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Economic Development Board should adopt “Develop a Regional Aviation Baseline Study” as an implementation Action Item for Amazing Place.

DISCUSSION

Under the goal Compete Globally, Amazing Place’s second strategy is “sustain and grow commercial air travel connections domestically and globally”. Implementation guidance for this strategy calls for the development of a long-term strategy to ensure that the region’s airports keep pace with the needs of an expanding population and economy. The EDD board will hear from PSRC staff on the development of a baseline study to provide a clear picture of the aviation activities and needs in the region and set the stage for future planning efforts. The development of this analysis will serve as an Action Item to help implement the region’s economic strategy.

For more information, please contact Jeff Storrar at 206-587-4817 or jstorrar@psrc.org.

Attachments:
Regional Aviation Study Action Item
Regional Aviation Baseline Study-DRAFT Scope
Opportunity

Airports are key contributors to a region’s economy. Airports link a region to the global economy, facilitating the movement of people and goods, and supporting trade, tourism and business activities. Regions need to ensure that airports keep pace with economic growth in order to compete in the global economy.

Regional Perspective

Commercial aviation is a cornerstone of the region’s economy and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is its aviation powerhouse. The airport is a major regional employment center with more than 18,000 workers and indirectly supports 172,000 jobs throughout the state. King County International Airport (Boeing Field) in Seattle averages around 200,000 takeoffs and landings each year. This airport serves smaller commercial passenger airlines, private aircraft owners, cargo carriers and the military. Paine Field currently handles around 100,000 annual flights for Boeing operations. The Bremerton National Airport is the largest airport on the Kitsap Peninsula and continues to support general and corporate service.

The region’s airports facilitate significant economic activity. Major imports through regional airports include high value aerospace components and industrial machinery destined for aerospace companies. Exports include fresh cherries grown in central and eastern Washington and seafood, including live geoduck. Passenger traffic and cargo volumes are at record levels and are on a high-growth trajectory, driven in part by tourism and leisure activities. Sea-Tac is among the fastest growing major airports in the United States and ranks as one of the top 10 busiest airports in North America. Current projections are for passenger traffic through Sea-Tac to reach 66 million by 2034.
In response to anticipated demand, the Port of Seattle is developing a Sustainable Airport Master Plan for Sea-Tac. Master planning is underway at other regional airports as well, including King County International Airport (Boeing Field) and Renton Municipal Airport. New commercial service is expected to begin at Paine Field in Everett in late 2018. The region needs to ensure that airport growth plans are in line with projected demand for these facilities.

**Project Details**

The Federal Aviation Administration has requested that PSRC lead a new regional aviation baseline study that would build on emerging airport master plans and set the stage for future planning. PSRC staff has worked with the FAA to develop a draft scope of work for the study, which is expected to produce information critical for understanding the region’s aviation needs and options for policy makers to consider for meeting those needs. PSRC anticipates the study will begin in June 2018 and be completed by the end of 2019.

**Next steps:** PSRC anticipates selecting a consultant and working to finalize the grant through FAA by June 2018.
The objective of the Regional Aviation Baseline Study is to provide a clear picture of the aviation activities and needs in the central Puget Sound region (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish) and set the stage for future planning. Master planning is underway at several airports within the central Puget Sound region, including King County International Airport (Boeing Field), Renton Municipal Airport, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Overall growth in activity at the region’s airports is increasing due to the strength of the regional economy and therefore, now is the time to identify how future demand for air transportation will be met. The baseline study is expected to produce information critical for understanding the region’s aviation needs and options for policy makers to consider for meeting those needs in the future.

SCOPE OF WORK

- **Project Administration and Management** – This task includes the overall management of the project, including working closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on grant administration, invoicing and billing with the selected consultant, and providing oversight on the other study tasks and adjusting work accordingly.

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Education** - The study will be conducted with an emphasis on transparency and education with all interested stakeholders. A focus will be placed on providing clear communication for a diverse audience and robust communication and regular engagement with interested parties. Expected work will:
  - Develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy, including social media, web based communication, media and community relations, and a mechanism for stakeholders to provide meaningful input
  - Identify stakeholders and provide regular outreach and engagement opportunities, including community members, aviation stakeholders, and businesses
  - Develop and complete a public opinion survey on the region’s aviation activities to identify views about the region’s current and future aviation activities
  - Develop visuals and infographics to communicate on topics identified in the study
  - Perform government relations and engagement with policy makers (local, state, and federal) and prepare and provide presentations to a wide variety of interested parties

- **Identify Existing Conditions and Trends** – This task will identify existing conditions and recent trends that form the baseline for current aviation activity in the region. Work products associated with this task will provide an overview of the region’s civil and military airports, indicate the share, interaction between, and recent growth of different aviation sectors, describe the economic impact of airports and aviation sectors to the region, and identify the key relationships and dependencies between airports within and outside the region. Expected work will:
  - Develop an inventory of all airports in the region and identify significant trends, issues and anticipated needs among them, including impacts on surrounding communities, beginning with information from existing plans
  - Conduct an economic analysis of the region’s airports and describe how the region’s population and economic growth pressures are influencing each airport within the region
  - Identify the aviation markets and sectors in the region (e.g. commercial service, air cargo, aerospace manufacturing, general aviation, etc.) and conduct an analysis that identifies trends and influencing factors by sector
  - Identify how the airspace is currently configured within the region to serve each airport. Identify the current challenges facing operation of that airspace given the regional population and economic growth pressures
• **Evaluate Aviation Issues and Needs** - This task draws on the findings and products from the work described above, as well as the outputs associated with various airport master planning efforts currently underway. It will evaluate known and anticipated issues and needs for the continued operation of a safe, efficient, and high-functioning aviation system that underpins the region’s economy and population growth. To the extent practicable, implications and trade-offs would be clearly identified. Expected work will:
  - Summarize existing airport master planning and air cargo study efforts
  - Conduct a high-level analysis of future regional aviation needs vis-à-vis existing and future capacity by activity type. This includes both landside and airside
  - Conduct an assessment of the highest priority challenges and implications of approaches to address them
  - Provide options for addressing the central Puget Sound region’s future aviation needs, including institutional relationships and examples from other regions
  - Summarize issues that need further analysis

• **Final Report & Presentation** - This task would summarize the key findings of the study in a variety of formats (e.g. executive summary, final report, presentation, etc.) and to communicate these to study stakeholders and policy makers to set the stage for future planning.
DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Economic Development Board

From: Josh Brown, Executive Director

Subject: Cross Laminated Timber Efforts in the Puget Sound Region

IN BRIEF
Matt Ojala, Director of Government Affairs at Forterra, will give a presentation on efforts to grow the cross laminated timber (CLT) industry in the region.

DISCUSSION
Forterra is leading a statewide coalition of lawmakers, timber industry, academics, small town mayors, architects, and environmentalists to grow the cross laminated timber industry in Washington. Cross laminated timber (CLT) is a building material of engineered panels of wood, which has been used to construct buildings in Europe for decades and is now gaining attention in the U.S. Matt Ojala will provide an overview of Foreterra’s work to grow the regional industry, including the status of pilot projects, work to update state and local building codes, as well as potential upcoming cross laminated timber production facilities in the state.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jason Thibedeau at 206-389-2879 or jthibedeau@psrc.org
Amazing Place: Growing jobs and economic opportunity in the central Puget Sound Region

Implementation Update: As of 4/19/2018

Below is an update on recent efforts and accomplishments that PSRC staff and other regional partners are working on to implement the strategies adopted in the region’s economic strategy: Amazing Place.

**Governor’s Choose WA NMA Council making state case as the NMA home team** ([link](#))
Since December, Governor Inslee’s Choose Washington NMA Council – made up of representatives of business, labor, education, local and state government, and others – have been making Washington’s case as the NMA Home Team, offering the lowest risk and highest return on Boeing's potential investment in a new mid-market airplane. In February, the Governor’s Choose WA NMA Council announced the selection of the Teal Group to conduct a transparent and independent in-depth analysis of the state’s competitive position to design, manufacture, and assemble Boeing’s New Midmarket Aircraft (NMA). In March, Dr. Noel Schulz and Rick Bender were announced as co-chairs of the Council. Read about Dr. Schulz and Mr. Bender’s proven leadership [here](#). At its April meeting in Spokane, the Council discussed the aerospace industry’s economic impact on communities across the state, with data slated to be released in May. This effort will implement the **Action Item** for Amazing Place that the ED Board approved at its December 2017 meeting.

**Space sector study underway** ([link](#))
In February, PSRC finalized a contract with BERK to develop a space sector study. The study will provide an analysis of the region’s commercial space sector, describing and quantifying the sector and identifying the region’s competitors and competitive strengths, to help support the growth of the sector. The study is scheduled to be released in May 2018. This effort will implement the **Action Item** for Amazing Place that the ED Board approved at its December 2017 meeting.

**State building code council directed to adopt rules for Cross Laminated Timber** ([link](#))
Governor Inslee signed SB 5450 into law, which directs the state building code council to adopt rules for the use of mass timber products, including Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) for use in commercial and residential construction. Forterra’s work to promote the development of this material is a strategy to help grow economic opportunities in rural communities in the region.

**Bill passes to help expand broadband access in Kitsap County** ([link](#))
Governor Inslee signed SB 6034, which will allow the Kitsap County Public Utility District to extend broadband access to the county’s rural communities - a goal laid out in the region’s economic strategy. This enables the PUD to provide broadband service directly to users when other commercial retailers are not providing that service.

**Autonomous vehicles working group to be established** ([link](#))
At its February meeting, the ED board discussed economic opportunities related to the adoption of autonomous vehicles on the region’s roadways. In March, Governor Inslee signed HB 2970 which requires the transportation commission to convene a work group to develop policy recommendations to address the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roadways in the state.
PSRC’s regional economic forecast updated

In January, staff presented PSRC’s latest regional macroeconomic forecast to the Executive Board. PSRC’s economic forecast is a long-range forecast of projected jobs, population, households, and other economic and demographic variables at the regional scale. The region is projected to reach a total of 5.8 million people and 3.4 million jobs by the year 2050. This translates into an additional 1.8 million people and 1.2 million jobs between now and 2050.

New tourism marketing plan for Washington state released

Since 2011, Washington has been the only state without a state-funded tourism office. Lack of marketing activity has left visitors unaware of experiences in small cities and rural communities throughout the state – preventing local businesses from fully engaging in economic opportunity. Efforts have been underway since 2011 to reestablish these marketing activities. In February 2018, GreenRubino released a new marketing plan for the state, and a bill to fund these marketing activities was signed into law in March.

Eco-Nomics project kicks off (link)

The Association of Washington Cities - Center for Quality Communities (AWC-CQC) kicked-off the Eco-Nomics project, growing the green economy in Washington State. In February AWC-CQC signed a contract with Community Attributes Inc (CAI) to study how the region can grow the green economy in Washington State focusing on four sectors: energy, water, agriculture and forestry and building materials.

WA Department of Commerce reviewing Opportunity Zone applications (link)

The Opportunity Zone program is part of the recent U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs act. It allows the governor of each state to designate up to 25 percent of eligible census tracts as Opportunity Zones, which is designed to provide tax incentives to investors who fund businesses in underserved communities. The Washington State Department of Commerce has been designated to facilitate the application process, and is currently reviewing applications.

Regional Centers Framework Approved (link)

A new Centers Framework has been approved by PSRC’s Executive Board. The Centers Framework defines the types of central places that are the focus of growth, planning, and investment in the region.

Draft Regional Open Space Plan available (link)

The Regional Open Space Conservation Plan knits together open space and related plans from counties, tribes, resource agencies, salmon recovery groups, and other organizations. Regional open spaces provide an estimated $11.4 to $25.2 billion annually to the economy. PSRC staff is currently reviewing public comments and the final plan is expected to be completed by summer 2018.

PSRC project selection process for transportation funding underway (link)

The project selection process for PSRC’s 2021-2022 federal transportation funds has begun. The process distributes funds via regional competitions, as well as through processes established within each of the four counties. The various project competitions will be conducted through June, with project recommendations presented to the PSRC Boards in July.
INFORMATION ITEM

To: Economic Development Board

From: Josh Brown, Executive Director

Subject: 2050 Forecast of People and Jobs

IN BRIEF

In March 2018, staff presented PSRC’s updated regional macroeconomic forecast to the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB). The latest forecast has been extended out to the year 2050 and establishes the long-range growth assumptions for VISION 2050.

This memo provides the Economic Development Board with an overview of key highlights from the provisional (final draft) forecast. A link to the GMPB presentation is provided here as reference.

DISCUSSION

PSRC’s macroeconomic forecast is a long-range forecast of projected jobs, population, households, and other economic and demographic variables at the regional scale. PSRC refreshes this forecast every 2-4 years and has been working with the economic consulting firm ECONorthwest (Portland, OR) to update and refine our model and extend the forecast out to the year 2050 for the first time.

The macroeconomic forecast provides big-picture regional summary inputs to PSRC’s land use, travel demand, and other downstream models and tools. It also establishes the future growth assumptions that will be used to support the development of the VISION 2050 plan, including extension of the regional growth strategy out to 2050 as well as environmental analysis of the VISION plan alternatives.

2050 Population and Employment

The region is projected to reach a total of 5.8 million people and 3.4 million jobs by the year 2050. This translates into an additional 1.8 million people and 1.2 million jobs being added to the region between now and 2050.

The jobs forecast reflects a slight upward increase from our previous series, attributable to the
strength of the regional economy relative to the broader U.S. economy in the recovery period from the Great Recession. The Services and Retail sectors – which include key technology industries and Internet retail, as well as more locally focused industries – are key drivers of the anticipated job growth, increasing at annualized rates of 1.8% and 1.5% per year respectively. The Construction/Resource, Finance/Insurance/Real Estate, Wholesale/Transportation/Utilities, and Education sectors are projected to expand at annualized rates of between 0.5% and 1.0% per year, while Government is expected to grow at a slower pace and Manufacturing to contract.

The population forecast reflects a more substantial upward adjustment from the previous series, in part due to the higher jobs forecast but primarily due to model adjustments that better account for the relationship between job growth, the workforce population, and the aging of the boomer generation in the forthcoming decades.

Seniors as a share of the region’s total population nearly doubles from 2000 to 2030, when the last baby boomer crosses the threshold into retirement age. The revised forecast better reflects the resulting bump in the 65+ age cohort as well as an increase in the 20-64 age cohort due to in-migration by working age adults to meet the labor force demands of the growing regional economy.

2050 Households and Household Size

The region is projected to add 830,000 households to reach a total of 2.4 million households by the year 2050. Average household size (or persons-per-household ratio), which has been relatively stable over the last two and a half decades, is anticipated to begin declining again as boomers age and the number of empty-nester and one-person households increases. Decreasing fertility rates also contribute to this trend. A smaller persons-per-household ratio translates into a greater demand for housing to meet the needs of a growing population.

Next Steps

The forecast is expected to be finalized in late Spring 2018 and will establish the growth assumptions that will inform VISION 2050 planning work moving forward.

For more information, please contact Carol Naito, (206) 464-7535, CNaito@psrc.org or Michael Jensen, (206) 464-7538, MJensen@psrc.org.
IN BRIEF

PSRC has initiated the planning process for VISION 2050, the region’s long-range growth strategy. Following a plan scoping process this winter, the Growth Management Policy Board will adopt a scoping report this spring.

DISCUSSION

VISION 2040 is the long-term strategy for sustainable growth in the central Puget Sound region. With an integrated approach, VISION 2040 addresses land use, transportation, economic prosperity, and the environment. VISION 2040 includes goals, Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs), and implementation actions. It also sets forth the Regional Growth Strategy that provides numeric guidance for planning for population, housing, and employment growth that is reflected in countywide targets and local comprehensive plans.

With Executive Board direction in July 2017, PSRC initiated a two-plus-year planning process for VISION 2050. Work in late 2017 focused on gathering data to support the update and reviewing existing aspects of VISION 2040.

Following board action in January 2018, a scoping notice was released to solicit comments from February 2 through March 19, 2018. The notice was distributed through multiple means, including via PSRC’s website and blog, a press release, and various social media platforms. The notice was sent to all PSRC boards and committees, and various PSRC members and other stakeholders shared the notice through local forums, newsletters, and social media. The agency was seeking public input on how to update VISION 2040 and to identify regional issues to address in the plan.

During the scoping period, PSRC received comments from three countywide organizations, 24 individual jurisdictions, 24 other organizations and agencies, and 37 individuals. PSRC held five listening sessions in February and March to solicit input from jurisdictions, other stakeholders, and members of the public on the scope of the update. More than 160 individuals participated in
the listening sessions, and staff recorded comments at the sessions to inform the scoping process. Combined with the listening session comments, staff have delineated over 1,300 individual comments to inform the plan scope and SEPA environmental review.

The full set of written correspondence and categorized comments is available on the Plan Scoping webpage.

In addition to the public outreach activities, PSRC worked with consultant Cocker Fennessy to conduct a statistically valid public opinion survey to gauge the broad public sentiment towards growth and planning in the region. The survey was conducted online and over the phone and was offered in multiple languages to allow PSRC to hear from a wide range of residents. It also included questions asked during a 2003 survey to allow for comparison in responses over time. Full results from the survey will be available in May 2018.

NEXT STEPS

Following the scoping process, the Growth Management Policy board is anticipated to work on developing the updated plan throughout the remainder of 2018 and into 2019. VISION 2050 is scheduled to be adopted in the spring of 2020.

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