Regional FTA Caucus Meeting Summary

Date: August 14, 2019  
Location: PSRC Conference Room, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

Welcome and Introductions
Sara Walton, Vice-Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:30 a.m. Self-introductions were provided around the room and on the phone.

Approval of Meeting Summary
The summary for the May 8, 2019 Caucus meeting was approved.

Action: King County Metro Obligation Date Extension Request
Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, provided an overview of the King County Metro request for an obligation date extension on their “Route 48 South Electrification” project from June 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. The Caucus unanimously recommended the request for approval by the Transportation Operators Committee.

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822

Discussion: PSRC’s FTA Project Tracking Policies
Kelly McGourty, PSRC, and Sarah lead a discussion about potential updates to PSRC’s Project Tracking Policies, last updated in 2015. The Caucus first reviewed the process for granting FTA funding obligation deadline extension requests.

The Caucus then discussed obligation deadline policies for regional funds. Per current policies, FTA 5307 regional funds are considered on time if sponsors submit them to TrAMS by one year after their estimated obligation date. Funds that have been submitted to TrAMS but not yet obligated are counted as having met their deadline, in consideration of the occasionally long processing times for grant applications. However, there had recently been a few grant applications with very long lags between submittal and obligation, some of which were eventually withdrawn.
Sarah then provided some general information on lag times between submittal and obligation for recent TrAMs grant applications. The Caucus discussed some of the potential reasons for delayed grant obligations and how to update the project tracking policies under review. Kelly said that PSRC would ask FTA for further perspectives on these issues to help inform the next update of PSRC’s Project Tracking Policies for PSRC’s Federal Funds.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822*

**Discussion: 2020 FTA Project Selection Process**

Ryan Thompto, PSRC, lead a discussion on the items related to FTA funding in the 2020 Project Selection Process Key Policy Framework Elements memorandum. He informed the Caucus that the Project Selection Task Force would be convening starting in September to prepare for the upcoming 2020 project selection process. The Caucus provided feedback to share with the Task Force on the key elements related to FTA funding.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822*

**Discussion: Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill**

Kimberly Pearson, PSRC, provided an update on the upcoming reauthorization of the federal surface transportation bill. As the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was set to expire in October 2020, a new act for a five-year reauthorization of the FAST Act had recently been introduced. Kimberly provided details on some potential changes in the act related to FTA funding and said PSRC would provide further updates on the reauthorization at future Caucus meetings.

*For more information, contact Kimberly Pearson at (206) 464-5833*

**Other Business**

Sara Walton announced she would be leaving her position at the City of Seattle and therefore would no longer be able to serve on the Caucus. Ben Smith would be replacing her as the City of Seattle representative. Sarah Gutschow noted that with Sara Walton’s departure there would be a vacancy in the Caucus Vice-Chair position. After the meeting Sarah would be sending an email asking for nominations to fill the Vice Chair position. The Caucus would then vote by email on the nominations received.

Lisa Wolterink, Sound Transit, reported on Sound Transit’s upcoming construction work for tying the new East Link line to the Central Link line and how the work would impact light rail riders.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822*

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
Members and Alternates Present
Sara Walton, City of Seattle and Vice-Chair; Melinda Adams, Everett Transit; Krishan Agganwal, WA State Ferries; *Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit; Dave Morrison, King County Metro; Tina Lee, Pierce Transit; Kathryn Rasmussen, Community Transit; Clint Ritter, Pierce County Ferries; Lisa Wolterink, Sound Transit

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present
Monica Adkins, PSRC; Sarah Gutschow, PSRC; Eric Irelan, King County Metro; *Kirste Johnson, Sound Transit; *Peter Lewis-Miller, Pierce County Ferries; Kelly McGourty, PSRC; *Monica Overby, Sound Transit; Kimberly Pearson, PSRC; Ryan Thompto, PSRC; *Kenneth Wilson, Sound Transit

*via remote participation