Regional FTA Caucus Meeting Summary

Date: May 8, 2019
Location: PSRC Conference Room, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

Welcome and Introductions
Melissa Cauley, 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 December 11, 2018 meeting was approved.

Discussion: PSRC’s 2019 Annual FTA Adjustments
Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed the current status and timeline for the 2019 Annual FTA Adjustments process. As project changes were not yet ready, the Caucus would be taking action via vote by email on its recommendation to the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) in advance of the June 26th TOC meeting. The TOC recommendation would then go to the Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board in July, with the project changes approved into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in mid-August.

Sarah noted that there were some errors in the published FTA 5307 2019 apportionment to the Seattle-Tacoma-Everett Urbanized Area (UZA), resulting in the UZA receiving less 5307 funding. She was waiting for a resolution from the FTA, but this issue would not likely impact the 2019 funding as any funding adjustments to resolve the errors would occur as part of the 2020 FTA apportionments. The Caucus then discussed its recommendation for the additional 5307 regional competitive funding available for 2019, including which projects would be advancing to earlier years and how freed up 2022 funds would be awarded to projects on the adopted 2018 contingency list.

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822
Discussion: 2020 FTA Project Selection Process

Ryan Thompto, PSRC, presented on the results from the 2018 Project Selection Process Survey and reviewed the ways that PSRC staff would be working to improve the process based on the survey results. He informed the Caucus that the 2020 Project Selection Task Force would be convening in September to prepare for the upcoming 2020 project selection process. Sarah noted that at upcoming meetings the Caucus would be asked for feedback to share with the Task Force on project selection for FTA funding.

The presentation is available on the PSRC website here: https://www.psrc.org/fta-meetings

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

Discussion: FTA Project Tracking and Progress Reports Update

Sarah provided an update on the on-going project tracking of FTA-funded projects, including information from PSRC’s March 2019 Progress Reports. She noted that under PSRC’s current project tracking policies, regional funds were considered on time if sponsors submitted them to TrAMS by one year after their estimated obligation date. However, in a few recent cases there was a long lag time between when funds were submitted and when they were obligated, with some grant applications eventually being cancelled. The Caucus then discussed some of the possible reasons for the long lag times. Sarah said that PSRC would be looking into this issue and potentially making some updates to its project tracking policies for FTA funds.

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Other Business

Sarah noted that there was a vacant alternate seat for Pierce County Ferries. Clint Ritter, Pierce County, said he would continue representing Pierce County as the voting member and would be working on identifying a new alternate to represent Pierce County Ferries on the Caucus.

Melissa Cauley, Chair, reported on the April meeting of Community Transit, Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, and King County Metro to discuss the methodology for splitting Direct Route Miles (DRM) for shared services. The meeting resulted in updated DRM splits between agencies, which were then incorporated into calculations for the 2019 annual FTA adjustments.

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

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
Members and Alternates Present
Melissa Cauley, Community Transit and Chair; Sara Walton, City of Seattle and Vice-Chair; Krishan Aggarwal, WA State Ferries; *Dawn Erickson, Everett Transit; Peter Heffernan, King County Metro; *Kirste Johnson, Sound Transit; Tina Lee, Pierce Transit; Dave Morrison, King County Metro; Clint Ritter, Pierce County Ferries; Lisa Wolterink, Sound Transit

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present
Monica Adkins, PSRC; *Jessica Gould, Intercity Transit; Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, Eric Irelan, King County Metro; Steve Lovengood, Seattle Center Monorail; Kenneth Wilson, Sound Transit

*via remote participation