Regional Staff Committee

March 15, 2018 • 9:30 – 11:30 am
PSRC Board Room • 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500 • Seattle, WA 98104

9:30  1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Barb Mock, Snohomish County, Co-Chair

9:35  2. **Public Comment**

3. **Reports:**
   a. Meeting Summary for February 15, 2018*
   b. PSRC Board Reports*
   c. Updates from PSRC Planning Department

9:50  4. **Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan: Public Comment & Approval Schedule***
Kelly McGourty, PSRC

10:20  5. **Discussion: Regional Aviation Baseline Study***
Ben Bakkenta & Jeff Storrar, PSRC

10:35  6. **Discussion: VISION 2050***
Paul Inghram & Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC

11:00  7. **Discussion: Around the Room Highlights**
Committee members will be given the opportunity to report on topics of interest from their jurisdiction.

8. **Information Items:**
   a. Toolbox Peer Networking Series – Save the Dates*
   b. 2018 Regional Staff Committee Schedule*

9. **Future Meeting:** April 19, 2018, 9:30 am, PSRC Board Room (*meeting length TBD*)

11:30  10. **Adjourn**

*Supporting materials attached

*Meeting Call-in Option Available Upon Request – Contact Casey Moreau, cmoreau@psrc.org
Welcome and Introductions, Public Comment

Barb Mock, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Co-Chair Mock acknowledged new members to the Regional Staff Committee (RSC): Mat Sheldon and Alex Krieg, Sound Transit; Darin Stavish, Pierce County Transit; Mark McCaskill, WA State Department of Commerce; Linda Gehrke, FTA; Sharleen Bakeman, FHWA. Co-Chair Mock noted that Rob Allen, representing Pierce County Economic Development, would move from alternate to member with Denise Dyer’s retirement. There were around the room introductions.

Co-Chair Mock informed the committee that the scoping notice for VISION 2050 had been distributed via email to the committee Friday, February 2. The scoping period is open through March 19. PSRC will hold four listening sessions. More information was included in the packet on a flyer. Co-Chair Mock noted that some of the RSC member table tents had a small orange sticker to note those serving as alternates.

There was no public comment.

Reports

Co-Chair Mock noted that the RSC meeting summary from the previous month and PSRC board report was in the packet. There were no updates from the planning department and the meeting proceeded to presentations.

Regional Transportation Plan Update: Public Comment & Approval Schedule

Ms. Kelly McGourty informed the committee that the public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) ended as of January 31. Ms. McGourty shared that PSRC has received 151 individual responses, with about 850 individual comments. PSRC is currently in the process of going through each of the individual comments. Ms. McGourty reviewed the list of agencies and organizations that submitted comments and the breakdown of how many were from member agencies, state agencies, other organizations and individuals. Each
letter received from the agencies and organization will be posted online, while individual comments will be
packaged together and provided online.

Ms. McGourty stated that most commenters are supportive of the plan. A key theme is supporting various
elements of the plan, requesting increased emphasis. The highest percentage of individual types of responses
were focused on specific projects or requesting investments in particular areas. Related to finance, PSRC received
fairly balanced remarks on the use of tolls and/or road usage charge. Other themes from public comment
requested further clarification, inclusion of equity and airport planning.

Staff will work through preparing a response to each of the comments, which will be posted online. The
Transportation Policy Board (TPB) will receive full detail of the public comment process in March. Staff will also
return to RSC in March to share that information as well. In April the TPB will be asked to make a recommendation
on the plan to the Executive Board, with adoption by the General Assembly scheduled for May 31.

The City of Tacoma commented that they would like to see passenger only fast ferries addressed in the plan.

For more information, contact Kelly McGourty, PSRC (206) 971-3601, kmcgourty@psrc.org

Macroeconomic Forecast to 2050

Ms. Carol Naito informed the committee that PSRC released the final draft of our latest regional
macroeconomic forecast in January. The Regional Macroeconomic Forecast is a long-range forecast of jobs,
population, households and other economic and demographic variables at the regional scale going out to the
year 2050. It provides the regional control totals that feed the rest of PSRC’s downstream suite of models and
analytical tools and establishes the growth assumptions that will be used for the VISION 2050 plan update.

Ms. Naito provided an overview of the new forecast assumptions for 2050 population, employment, age
demographics, households and household sizes. Ms. Naito provided information as to how PSRC forecasts
compare to that of the Office of Financial Management’s (OFM). PSRC’s forecast fall quite close to OFM’s
medium projection and well within the range of the high and low series. She also reviewed PSRC’s historical
forecast accuracy. At the regional level, PSRC has done quite well for both population and employment
forecasts.

The Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) will receive an update on the macroeconomic forecast at their
March meeting. The forecast will be finalized in late spring. The forecast assumptions will then inform the
VISION 2050 planning work.

Members asked for the information to be broken down by county. Ms. Naito responded that the information
would be available after the updated Regional Growth Strategy is adopted. Members asked about climate
change-related displacement from other parts of the country and how that could impact our housing and equity
issues. Ms. Naito shared that there is a shortage of that trend data that allows this to be modeled, but there
are ways to work this into our planning. Members asked if PSRC would be creating a forecast that is based
upon trends that is a separate data set than the planned targets. Ms. Naito responded that PSRC would be
willing to be responsive to members requests for such information.

For more information, contact Carol Naito, PSRC (206) 464-7535, cnaito@psrc.org or Michael Jensen, (206) 464-7538,
mjensen@psrc.org.

Trends Shaping the Region

Michael Hubner and Maggie Moore presented selected data trends that covered people/population, economy,
housing, transportation and environment. He asked the committee for feedback on these trends.

Members asked if it was possible to produce housing and transportation costs together. Mr. Hubner stated that it is
a planning concept that we anticipate working with in the VISION update. As a trend, PSRC would want to look at
the actual cost to households, income and amount paid for housing and transportation costs. Members
commented that health indicators were absent and asked if they could inform the update. Mr. Hubner stated that
PSRC will be working closely with the health districts on healthy communities as a planning concept and it was a
good idea to capture one or two data points regarding health. Members commented that the forecasts should
indicate that there will be a tipping point where the situation with housing, transit and traffic will not work. Members
asked if there would be a projection of household incomes to help determine the type of housing that will be
needed. Ms. Naito responded that in the past, PSRC has broken that down to a more granular level distribution by
using a rough measure of what that distribution presently looks like and projecting that forward. Our models are not structured to provide this but PSRC is interested in tackling this as it helps anticipate the economic and income needs of future households.

Members asked if the trends on transportation, population and job growth could be merged to show peak commute trips and what would that do to the system. Mr. Hubner stated that we have the capability to do that. Mr. Bakkenta noted that the RTP plan modeled future land use assumptions for distribution of jobs, housing and the future transportation system. We do see improvements in travel times in some corridors, particularly when there are options for people to choose. With VISION 2050, PSRC will look at the distributions of future growth relative to those planned transportation networks and what that means for travel experience or times for people in different corridors. Members commented that to monitor how we have been doing, look at specific areas and corridors, not just the aggregate data.

Members asked what other environmental indicators would be presented to the board. Mr. Hubner stated that work from the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan will help with the VISION 2050 plan. Ben Bakkenta noted that PSRC will be doing a SEPA process and will be presenting to the boards additional environmental indicators. Members asked if showing travel distances could be included. Members commented another data point could be impervious surfaces as it relates to stream health.

These trends will be made available to boards, committees, the public. The GMPB will be presented with trends at the March meeting.

For more information, contact Michael Hubner, PSRC (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org or Maggie Moore, (206) 464-6171, mmoore@psrc.org.

Regional Growth Strategy Update Process

Mr. Hubner provided an overview of what the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is and walked through the proposed workplan for updating the RGS.

Mr. Hubner shared the principals for VISION 2050 “no action”. Members commented that in the years between 2000-2008, there was so much growth that occurred that it makes the RGS shares for some jurisdictions unrealistic and recommended the RGS should use the current year as a baseline. Some commented that no action should be looking at what has happened between 2000-2017 and assume those trends may continue if no action is taken to affect them. There was also a comment to use the trends of development as a baseline; that will help local jurisdiction plan, they’d be able to see what’s happening under current trends and what’s expected to happen in what’s adopted in VISION 2050. Paul Inghram and Mr. Bakkenta noted that if we move up the baseline, then that significantly changes the shares of growth per jurisdiction, which is really a new alternative different from the current process. That new alternative could be analyzed, but based under SEPA law, “no action” needs to represent a continuation of adopted policy.

Mr. Hubner showed a tableau graph to assist with visualizing shares, illustrating how PSRC would generate the numbers for modeling. He also shared data that PSRC can start using to get to alternatives such as development trends, land use capacity, centers, stations areas and accessibility as well as other potential data.

Mr. Hubner asked how PSRC could work with the committee through the process of updating the RGS. Members commented that a call to review for ground truthing locally would be a helpful opportunity. Members commented that including education at the table would be helpful.

For more information, contact Michael Hubner, PSRC (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org; Paul Inghram, PSRC (206) 464-7549, pinghram@psrc.org;

Amazing Place Economic Strategy Update

Jason Thibedeau provided an update on Amazing Place, the region’s economic strategy. Mr. Thibedeau noted the development of the strategy required an analysis of our regional economy and economic trends in the region and a broad stakeholder engagement outreach process. From this, the Economic Development Board (EDB) established a set of regional goals and objectives, focusing on regional competitiveness and job growth, and developed strategies to reach those goals.
Mr. Thibedeau provided a brief overview of the economic trends discussed during the strategy update and noted that they were reviewed through the lens of regional competitiveness. Mr. Thibedeau discussed key regional export industries, providing an overview of job growth and concentration of jobs within our region. The economic strategy includes this type of data for the region and county level economies.

Mr. Thibedeau reviewed the goals of the economic strategy, supporting strategies, action items and board topics. The Amazing Place economic strategy is available on the PSRC website. The next EDB meeting is Wednesday, May 2. The board will continue to discuss high-impact economic opportunities for the region. Mr. Thibedeau invited members of the committee to reach out to him regarding issues in local jurisdictions that could be brought to the board for regional conversations.

Committee members asked that staff engage the ports regarding autonomous electric fleet vehicles.

For more information, contact Jason Thibedeau, PSRC (206) 389-2879, jthibedeau@psrc.org.

**Information**

Co-Chair Mock noted there was an information items regarding the PSRC Work Program & Budget included in the agenda packet. The packet also included save the date flyers for the Peer Networking Series and VISION 2050 Listening Sessions.

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2018, 9:30 – 11:30 am**
TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: PSRC Staff

SUBJECT: PSRC Board Reports

The Executive Board met February 22, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The “At Work Summary” of the meeting is available on the EB meeting materials page.

For information on the Executive Board, contact Josh Brown, Executive Director, jbrown@psrc.org, 206-464-7515.

The Growth Management Policy Board met March 1, 2018, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The “At Work Summary” of the meeting is available on the GMPB meeting materials page.

For information on the GMPB, contact Paul Inghram, Program Manager, pinghram@psrc.org, 206-464-7549.

The Transportation Policy Board met March 8, 9:30 – 11:30 am. The “At Work Summary” of the meeting will be available on the TPB meeting materials page.

For information on the TPB, contact Kelly McGourty, Senior Program Manager, kmcgourty@psrc.org, 206-971-3601.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Kelly McGourty, Senior Program Manager – Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Regional Transportation Plan: Public Comment & Approval Schedule

The Regional Transportation Plan was released for public comment on December 14, with the comment period concluding on January 31, 2018. A high-level briefing was provided in February of preliminary themes from the public comments received. At the March meeting, a more comprehensive briefing will be provided, including proposed staff responses to comments and issues for board review and further discussion.

Discussion
The formal public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan was conducted between December 14, 2017 to January 31, 2018. As of February 14, a total of 152 respondents submitted comments, including PSRC member jurisdictions, members of the public and other organizations. Per standard practice, each of these communications was parsed into individual topic area comments. From the 152 communications, approximately 850 individual comments are noted. The topic areas under which the comments are categorized are as follows:

- Analysis results and tools
- Aviation
- Bicycle / pedestrian
- Climate change / air quality
- Congestion / roadway capacity
- Equity
- Ferries
- Financial strategy
- Freight
- General plan support
- Health
- Maintenance and preservation
- Miscellaneous / other
- Multimodal system
- Parking
- Performance measures
- Project specific
- Public engagement
- Safety
- Special needs transportation
- TDM and CTR
- Transit
- Water quality

PSRC staff provided an overview of comments and draft responses to the Transportation Policy Board at its March 8 meeting. At the March Regional Staff Committee meeting, staff will review the comments in greater detail and provide information on three categories of comment type – those that are considered technical corrections; those that are general comments; and those that are presented for further board review and discussion.
All of the comments received have been posted on PSRC’s website at https://www.psrc.org/our-work/rtp. Communications from organizations are posted separately, and one combined report of all individual citizen comments has also been provided. The full report, including a detailed accounting by topic area, and the proposed staff responses has also been provided on this web page.

**Next Steps**
This information was provided as a discussion item to the Transportation Policy Board in March, with time for further review and discussion prior to the scheduled recommendation of the plan at their April 12 meeting. The Executive Board is expected to take action at their meeting on April 26. As a reminder, final approval by the General Assembly is scheduled for May 31, 2018.

**Lead Staff**
Kelly McGourty, Senior Program Manager – Transportation Planning, (206)971-3601, kmcgourty@psrc.org.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Ben Bakkenta, Senior Program Manager, PSRC
       Jeff Storrar, Principal Planner, PSRC

SUBJECT: Regional Aviation Baseline Study

In Brief
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has requested that PSRC lead a new regional aviation baseline study that would build on the master planning work underway at many of the region’s airports and set a regional stage for future planning. At its March 15th meeting, PSRC staff will provide an overview of the proposed study and next steps.

Discussion
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. Sea-Tac has also seen significant growth in the number of passengers served and aircraft operations over the past several years. New commercial service is expected to begin at Paine Field in Everett in late 2018.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has requested that the PSRC lead a new regional aviation baseline study that would build on the emerging master plans and set the stage for future planning. PSRC staff has worked with the FAA and develop a draft scope of work for the study, which is included in Attachment A. 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. PSRC anticipates the study will begin in June 2018 and be completed by the end of 2019.

Next Steps
PSRC released a Request for Qualifications for the study on February 28th. Submittals for qualifications are due March 30th, after which PSRC anticipates selecting a consultant and working to finalize the grant through FAA by June. PSRC’s Executive Board will oversee the study and PSRC policy boards and committees will be provided updates as the work proceeds.

Lead Staff
For more information, please contact Jeff Storrar at jstorrar@psrc.org or (206)587-4817 or Ben Bakkenta at bbakkenta@psrc.org or (206) 971-3286.

Attachment:
A - DRAFT Regional Aviation Baseline Study
DRAFT - Regional Aviation Baseline Study

OVERVIEW

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.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Paul Inghram and Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC

SUBJECT: VISION 2050

In Brief
Staff will brief the Regional Staff Committee on recent outreach activities for the VISION 2050 scoping process, highlight themes of recent listening sessions and comments received, and the upcoming board review process.

Discussion
PSRC is continuing work towards the start of the two-year planning process for VISION 2050. The formal scoping comment period is running from February 2 to March 19, 2018. Following the comment period, the Growth Management Policy Board is scheduled to review the public input at its April 5 meeting and adopt a final project scope on May 3, launching the actual update.

Hearing from members, stakeholders and the public is important to inform the project scope and environmental review process. PSRC will update the Regional Staff Committee on the range of engagement activities that have been occurring, including listening sessions and various committee briefings.

Additional information regarding VISION 2050 and the environmental review process is regularly being updated on the PSRC website at: https://www.psrc.org/vision.

The scoping listening sessions, briefings and other outreach activities have provided an opportunity for city and county staff, elected officials, stakeholders, and members of the public to obtain information on the VISION 2050 project, the integrated planning and SEPA process, to ask questions of staff, and to provide input on the scope of the environmental review. At the March RSC meeting, staff will provide a summary of themes from the five listening sessions and other comments received to date.

Following the comment period, staff plan to record and tabulate comments and assist the Growth Management Policy Board in developing a project scope. The preliminary schedule includes:

- March 19: Comment period closes
- March 29: Assemble and organize comments
- April 5: GMPB meeting to review comments and discuss desired project outcomes
--- Staff draft outline of project scope based on GMPB outcomes
April 19 RSC meeting to review outline of draft project scope
April 26 Provide GMPB with draft final project scope and work plan
May 3 GMPB meeting to adopt final project scope and reviews work plan
June 7 GMPB meeting with focus on Regional Growth Strategy; opportunity to complete scope or work plan, as needed

The project scope cannot be defined prior to the end of the comment period. However, we can look ahead to the board’s schedule and map out how the board may review policy issues and prepare a new draft plan. Staff proposes that the board hold several extended meetings in 2018 with detailed work sessions on the growth strategy and priority policy areas. In addition to the growth strategy, staff are assuming that some form of housing discussion will be a priority area for the project, recognizing that could change as the board adopts a project scope. Several board members stated that housing affordability should be emphasized in the update, along with identification of other policy topics. Using this preliminary information, staff proposed a board work process as follows for 2018.

June
- Extended GMPB meeting on approach to Regional Growth Strategy – review and development of one or more alternatives will occur in many steps through early 2019. This extended meeting is intended to provide initial direction about the approach to reviewing and extended the growth strategy.

July
- Extended GMPB meeting on housing affordability

August – no meeting

September
- Extended meeting on one or two priority topic areas

October
- Regular board meeting

November 1
- Extended meeting on one or two priority topic areas

November 29
- Added meeting

The board’s work would continue in 2019 with review of changes to VISION, including new policies and actions, definition of growth strategy alternatives, and development of a draft plan in the winter and spring.

Release of a draft plan and draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement would occur in mid-2019, followed by a comment period. Growth Management Policy Board action is anticipated to occur in late 2019, with Executive Board action and General Assembly adopting in spring of 2020.
Next Steps
If your jurisdiction or agency is planning to submit comments on the VISION 2050 scope of work, please do so before the March 19, 2018, deadline.

Following the close of the scoping comment period, PSRC will tabulate comments for the Growth Management Policy Board’s review at their April meeting. Staff will also ask the board to provide initial direction about the VISION 2050 project scope that staff will use to develop a project scope for review and adoption in May.

A draft project scope outline for VISION 2050 will be presented to the Regional Staff Committee in April.

The May Regional Staff Committee meeting may include preparation for the Growth Management Policy Board’s review of housing policy at its July meeting.

Lead Staff
Paul Inghram, AICP, Senior Program Manager, (206) 464-7549, pinghram@psrc.org.
The TOOLBOX Peer Networking Series, a series focused on best practices and resources for local planning and implementation, will look different in 2018. This spring the monthly sessions will transition to quarterly three-hour work sessions to provide an opportunity to explore topics in more depth. Each work session will provide information, resources, and tools and include a panel presentation and breakout discussions. Three CM credits will be offered for each work session for in-person attendees.

Topics will be announced in Spring

Thursday, May 17 / Thursday, September 20 / Thursday, November 15

Each session will be held from 12-3PM in the PSRC Boardroom
@ 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

bring your lunch / coffee and water provided / for more information, please visit https://www.psrc.org/whats-happening/events/toolbox-peer-networking-series
The Regional Staff Committee meets the third Thursday of each month, 9:30 am, PSRC Board Room, 1011 Western Avenue, 5th Floor. Agendas and supporting materials are available the Thursday prior to the meeting on our website: www.psrc.org. Meetings are subject to change or cancellation based on the agenda. The August meeting is not regularly scheduled.