

Summary of Transportation Policy Board Engagement Session September 8, 2016

The following information was recorded during this Engagement Session with the Transportation Policy Board. Formatting varies with these detailed summaries. The topics included:

- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Technology

Climate Change – September 8, 2016 Engagement Session

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Key Themes

- Continue – and increase – efforts to reduce GHG emissions in Transportation 2040
- Consider setting regional targets, and being more aggressive than the state goals to reflect current science
- Provide assistance to smaller jurisdictions regarding what they can do, given their limited resources

Climate Change Adaptation / Resiliency – Key Themes

- Jurisdictions recognize the impacts they're facing, such as increased flooding, landslides, etc.
- Working together across the region is the right path forward, and the region should be a leader
- Include an equity lens in this work and engage stakeholders potentially most impacted

Specific Comments on Reducing Emissions

- We've started to build a foundation with our current work, but we need to do more
- The time is right to take a serious look at the baseline and the current science
- PSRC should continue to work with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA)
- Provide information to the public and local governments on what they can do
- Question on the relationship between mitigation and adaptation; how they do or do not relate to one another and what opportunities may exist to maximize both
- We need to act as a region, state, country and global community
- Question if there are figures reflective of the region's "share" of the problem
- Encourage PSRC to be a leader in the state and set goals for ourselves
- Need a regional GHG emissions inventory – PSRC and PSCAA are working on this currently

- Perhaps create a regional working group on this issue, rather than via individual jurisdictions
- Should there be a climate board at PSRC
- State goals are inadequate based on the current science
- Consider economic activity in the conversation
- FAA should be part of the conversation
- Education community should be included in the conversation
- This region is ideally suited to develop a Green Economy
- Failure to act may open up liability issues in the future
- What can the region do to make sure the technology assumptions in the Transportation 2040 Four-part Greenhouse Gas Strategy come to fruition (e.g., electrification of the fleet)?
- We need to get serious about prioritization – there's more work to do to make it robust, and we need to commit to prioritization and investing our limited resources in the right way
- PSRC needs to demonstrate best practices and help jurisdictions in preparing their own sustainability plans – organizations need to be brought along to embrace this work, rather than having it put on them

Specific Comments on Climate Adaptation / Resiliency

- Consider not only infrastructure such as roads and bridges, but people – have information on the demographic data of who's impacted by climate change (e.g., rural, communities of color, low-income, etc.)
- It would be interesting to take a look at the upcoming transportation construction work, such as through Connecting Washington and Sound Transit, via the lens of climate – e.g., building practices, materials, etc.
- Include stakeholders that will be impacted by climate change in the conversation
- Puget Sound Sage and Got Green climate justice report referenced
- Can resiliency be incorporated into SEPA?
- Recognition of more frequent and more intense rain events, leading to floods, landslides, etc. – what do you put in place to make people safe?
- Recognition of sea level rise at ports – concerning to the economy and risking millions of dollars of public infrastructure
- Need to understand the changes in high peak flows
- Concerns in floodplains, intersection with interstate and land uses
- Climate change is the most urgent issue of our time, but it doesn't feel urgent – there's a lack of local manpower and perhaps acceptance or understanding. A lot of work is being

done, but not a lot of coordination. PSRC should be the leader and provide education, bring to the forefront and continue regional collaboration

- Food security is also a concern
- The kind and extent of impacts varies by population; make sure we talk to people who will be hit “first and worst”
- Stormwater retention an important consideration
- We need to improve evacuation planning
- Would like to learn what everyone is doing around the region on this topic
- How aggressive are local jurisdictions going to be in preparing for impacts, e.g. earthquakes? PSRC can help move this forward
- Water quality impacts also a concern – water recycling/reuse strategy should be considered; Issaquah pilot project referenced
- Last winter’s heavy rains led to soil saturation and impacts on sewer system
- Be careful about unintended consequences – e.g., bulkheads at shorelines to address sea level rise impact salmon habitat
- Catastrophic events like Oso encouraged jurisdictions to begin a conversation about preparedness
- There needs to be a balance between potentially competing interests – e.g. flood protection and environmental protection; there are ways to accomplish this