MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

October 10, 2019

[To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Mayor Becky Erickson, Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Tsimerman provided public comment.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Erickson announced that the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Transit Caucus met prior to the TPB. The Transit Integration Report will be released in November.

Councilmember Todd shared that the report will outline upcoming transit projects and how agencies are working together.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, shared that on Friday, October 4 there was a Regional Transit Oriented Development event on Bus Rapid Transit. The event was very successful with about 125 attendees. Presentations from that event will be available on PSRC’s website.

Ms. McGourty noted that there are four non-voting seats rotating off the board at the end of this year. Applications for the non-voting seats have been available since September and are due October 18. Applications received will be reviewed with the TPB Chair and Vice Chair. The seats are expected to be refilled in January.

On October 31 PSRC will be hosting the first regional electric vehicle coordination event. Local agency and utility staff will be brought together to start the conversation about how to advance electrification of the transportation system. This first meeting will determine
future convenings. The board will continue to be briefed as this topic evolves.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has released for public comment their draft rule for a regional clean fuel standard.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes of the Transportation Policy Board Meeting held September 12, 2019
b. Routine Amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
c. Recommend Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for the King County Foothills Trail (South) and White River Bridge Project

As a quorum had not been established, Chair Erickson pulled the minutes from the consent agenda. She asked for a motion for consensus to move consent agenda items b and c forward to the Executive Board.

Consensus: The motion was made by Councilmember Mike Todd and seconded by Councilmember Bek Ashby to recommend by consensus that consent agenda items b and c move forward to the Executive Board.

RECOMMEND AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN PROJECT STATUS FOR THE SOUND TRANSIT DOWNTOWN REDMOND LINK EXTENSION PROJECT

Ron Lewis, Sound Transit, provided a general update on Sound Transit’s portfolio of projects that are in various stages of delivery. Mr. Lewis briefed the board on the Red Line extension to Northgate, Orange Line to Tacoma Hilltop neighborhood, Blue Line East Link project, Federal Way Link Extension, Lynnwood Link Extension, and Stride Bus Rapid Transit.

Tony Raven, Sound Transit, briefed the board on the Downtown Redmond Link Extension. It is a 3.4-mile extension of East Link from the Redmond Technology Station to Downtown Redmond. The project includes two stations. Environmental work was completed, and the project is scheduled and planned to open for revenue service in 2024. In addition to light rail service, the project will deliver several trail improvements. Mr. Raven provided further details of the project’s design, construction, planning and opening.

During the presentation, a quorum was established.

ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Kate Kruller and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Robertson to recommend the Executive Board authorize a change in project status for the Sound Transit Downtown Redmond Link Extension project from “Candidate” to “Approved.” The motion passed.
Since a quorum was established, Mayor Erickson asked for approval of the minutes from the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes of the Transportation Policy Board Meeting held September 12, 2019

ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Bek Ashby and seconded by Councilmember Doug Richardson to adopt the minutes of the Transportation Policy Board meeting held September 12, 2019. The motion passed.

SR 99 TOLLING AND THE SEATTLE SQUEEZE

Meghan Shepard, SDOT, reviewed major public infrastructure projects planned in the region for 2019-2024.

Jennifer Charlebois, WSDOT, briefed the board on the SR 99 Tunnel tolling system. Ms. Charlebois reviewed tolling rates, what to expect when tolling begins and how WSDOT has been preparing for tolling to begin. Drivers with a Good To Go! Pass and account will pay the lowest rate on the SR 99 tunnel. Free passes were available in advance of tolling. SR 99 tolling will begin on November 9, 2019.

Alex Ko, Sound Transit, briefed the board on Connect 2020, the project connecting the Eastside to existing Link service. East Link, also known as the Blue Line, will open in 2023. In preparation for East Link, major construction will take place at the International District Chinatown Station. There will be single track train service in the Downtown Seattle train tunnel for ten weeks beginning January through March 2020. Mr. Ko reviewed train and rider movement during this time frame. Work to connect East Link to existing service will include weekend station closures, beginning in October. Mr. Ko reviewed Sound Transit’s Rider Communication Strategy to inform riders of travel options. Board members requested further communication efforts to inform riders of upcoming weekend closures in October and November, including information in the trip planner.

Chris Arkills, King County Metro, informed the board how Metro continues to adapt service since buses were removed from the transit tunnel. Mr. Arkills also discussed the recent service change in September 2019, adding over 65,000 annual service hours on Metro routes. Board members requested information on route 550 service as it had experienced rider decline potentially due to relocation of the bus stop in the International District.

Meghan Shepard, SDOT, briefed the board on SDOT strategies for traffic changes, investment in transit, improvements to access and other ongoing communication efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA
b. Routine Amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
c. Recommend Authorizing a Change in the Regional Transportation Plan Project Status for the King County Foothills Trail (South) and White River Bridge Project

With a quorum, the board went back to approve consent agenda items b and c.

**ACTION:** The motion was made by Councilmember Kate Kruller and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Robertson to adopt consent agenda items b and c. The motion passed.

**REPORT ON PSRC’S BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN WORK PROGRAM**

Sarah Gutchow, PSRC, provided the board with an overview of PSRC’s Bicycle and Pedestrian work program. Ms. Gutschow discussed PSRC’s role in bicycle and pedestrian planning which included producing and implementing the Active Transportation Plan, an appendix to the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan. The plan is a framework for how the region can enhance access to transit and other regional destinations for people walking and bicycling.

The Active Transportation Plan is implemented by supporting local active transportation planning with data and modeling. Ms. Gutschow reviewed PSRC’s work and challenges to obtain a regionally consistent bicycle and pedestrian facility data set.

Another major role of PSRC is to facilitate cross-collaboration for active transportation planning across jurisdictions. A main forum is through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Jean Kim, PSRC, briefed the board on current bicycle and pedestrian data projects, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Data Survey and the Pedestrian Access to Transit Pilot Project. She informed the board of an upcoming project to update the existing bicycle facilities map.

Ms. Gutchow shared PSRC is working on a regional inventory of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure policies, ordinances, and regulations. She explained the benefits and challenges of this piece of the work program.

**ADJOURN**
The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
October 10, 2019

TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT

Mayor Don Anderson, Local Transit – Pierce County
Councilmember Bek Ashby, Other Cities & Towns in Kitsap County
Rob Berman, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Russ Blount, Regional Project Evaluation Committee (Alt.)
Keiko Budech, Transportation Choices Coalition (Alt.)
Martha Burke, League of Women Voters of Washington
Sally Clark, University of Washington (Alt.)
Vicky Clarke, Cascade Bicycle Club
Councilmember John Clauson, Local Transit – Kitsap County (Alt.) (via remote)
Mayor Mike Courts, Other Cities & Towns in Pierce County
Doug DeForest, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Deputy Mayor Davina Duerr, Other Cities & Towns in King County
Mayor Becky Erickson, Local Transit – Kitsap County, Chair
Shawn Frederick, Snohomish Health District (Alt.) (via remote)
Dan Gatchet, Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board
Representative Mia Gregerson, House Transportation Committee (via remote)
Jesse Hamashima, Regional Staff Committee
Peter Heffernan, Transportation Operators Committee
Councilmember Cynthia Jacobsen, Other Cities & Towns in Pierce County (Alt.)
Councilmember Mark James, Other Cities & Towns in Snohomish County
Craig Kenworthy, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (Alt.)
Councilmember Kate Kruller, Other Cities & Towns in King County
Councilmember Kathy Lambert, King County
Councilmember Abel Pacheco, City of Seattle
Dave Ramsay, WA State Transportation Improvement Board
Councilmember Doug Richardson, Pierce County
Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, Metropolitan Center–Bellevue
Councilmember Mike Todd, Local Transit – Snohomish County (Alt.)
Mayor Greg Wheeler, Metropolitan Center–Bremerton (via remote)
Councilmember Stephanie Wright, Snohomish County (via remote)
John Wynands, WSDOT (Alt.)

TPB MEMBERS ABSENT (*alternate present)

Commissioner Shiv Batra, WA State Transportation Commission
Councilmember Chris Beale, Tacoma
*Don Cairns, Regional Project Evaluation Committee
Commissioner Ryan Calkins, Ports
Jennifer Cook, AAA
John Daniels, Jr., Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
*Anne Eskridge, University of Washington
TPB MEMBERS ABSENT (*alternate present) continued

Commissioner Robert Gelder, Kitsap County
Senator Steve Hobbs, Senate Transportation Committee
*Kelsey Mesher, Transportation Choices Coalition
Dan McKisson, ILWU Local 19
*Secretary Roger Millar, WSDOT
Councilmember Jay Mills, The Suquamish Tribe
Councilmember Mike O’Brien, City of Seattle
Commissioner Helen Price Johnson, Island County
Mayor Dana Ralph, Other Cities & Towns in King County, Vice Chair
*Councilmember Paul Roberts, Metropolitan Center–Everett/Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
*Darrell Rodgers, Public Health Seattle & King County
*Councilmember Terry Ryan, Local Transit – Snohomish County
Andrew Strobel, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

GUESTS and PSRC STAFF PRESENT -
(As determined by signatures on the Attendance Sheet and documentation by staff)

Jason Anderson, Renton
Chris Arkills, King County Metro
Harry Barrett, Renton
Lyndall Bervar, Office of Congressman Adam Smith
Gil Cerise, PSRC
Carolyn Downs, PSRC
Richard Gelb, Public Health Seattle & King County
Sarah Gutschow, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Jean Kim, PSRC
JoAnn Schueler, WSDOT
Alex Ko, Sound Transit
Ron Lewis, Sound Transit
Robin Mayhew, PSRC
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Maggie Moore, PSRC
Casey Moreau, PSRC
Kim Pearson, PSRC
Tony Ravin, Sound Transit
Kalon Thomas, PSRC
Alex Tsimerman, SUP
Noah Tunick, Community Transit
Joanna Valencia, Seattle
Lacey Jane Wolfe, City of Bellevue