

**JANUARY 2014 COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL (PSRC)**

Summary from Transportation Policy Board meeting on January 9, 2014:

The Transportation Policy Board recommended release the Transportation 2040 Update - Draft Report for public comment later this month.

Transportation 2040 is being updated to address current issues and meet statutory requirements. The update includes new forecasts, new analysis tools, and a revised financial strategy. It also updates the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan and Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan and adds a new Active Transportation Plan. The Executive Board is expected to act on the recommendation and release the Transportation 2040 Update - Draft Report for a 45-day public comment period on January 23, 2014.

The Transportation Policy Board recommended approval of the 2014 Policy Framework for PSRC Funds.

The framework includes the policies and procedures for how PSRC will approve, manage, and administer the \$714 million in federal funds the agency expects to distribute to priority transportation projects beginning in 2015. The recommended framework continues: the policy direction to support centers and connecting corridors; set-asides for bicycle and pedestrian projects, rural town centers and corridors, preservation, and PSRC's work program; and existing contingency list procedures.

About \$229 million is expected to be available from the Federal Highways Administration. However, about \$29 million is already spoken for due to board actions in 2013 and about \$62 million will be set-aside for the previously mentioned programs, which leaves just over \$138 million to be split between the regional and countywide funding competitions.

Just over \$485 million is expected to be available from the Federal Transit Administration. The bulk of this funding goes directly to the region's transit agencies for earned share funding and the remaining \$28.7 million will be distributed through a regional competition.

The board discussed options for pursuing a Regional Transit-Oriented Development Fund with public funds as seed capital; while no recommendation is yet made, the board asked for additional information to continue this conversation in the near-term.

The call for projects for PSRC Funds is expected by early March, the funding recommendation will occur this summer, and the public comment period on the projects as part of the new Transportation Improvement Program will occur this fall.

The Transportation Policy Board recommended approval of Transportation Recommendations to the 2014 Legislature.

The draft 2014 recommendations are largely unchanged from 2013 and include support for a statewide transportation funding package, efforts to sustain and grow transit service in the

region, the Washington State Ferries, preservation and improvements to local roadways, improvement to roadway storm water control, and funding for priority transportation investments that help the economy. The final recommendations will be used by PSRC members and staff to communicate important and consistent messages on transportation issues during the upcoming session.

In other business, the board:

- Recommended approval of a routine amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program for 29 projects, including three projects related to replacement of the 520 bridge and one related to the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement.
- Deferred a discussion of regional asset management as part of future State of Good Repair planning under Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century. View the presentation.

Note: *The January 2 meeting of the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) was cancelled. The next meeting of GMPB is on February 6.*