



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Staff Committee

Thursday, April 2, 2026 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attend

- Join the meeting at <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/85950014560?pwd=PsvS15o84rCllcBxaSJdjFaaHuhOhr.1>
 - Listen by phone 833-548-0276 US Toll-free, Meeting ID: 859 5001 4560, Passcode: 844442
-

1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30)

2. Reports (9:35)

- a. Meeting Summary for March 5, 2026*
- b. PSRC Announcements and Updates

3. Discussion Item (9:40)

- a. Federal and State Government Relations Updates* – Robin Koskey & Alyssa Quinn, PSRC

4. Discussion Item (9:55)

- a. Wildfire Hazard and Risk Mapping Initiative* – Angie Lane, WA State Department of Natural Resources

5. Discussion Item (10:15)

- a. Regional Transportation Plan Recommendation – Final Board Actions and Recommendation* – Ben Bakkenta, PSRC

6. Discussion Item (10:45)

- a. Transit Access Project* – Gil Cerise, PSRC

7. Information Items

- a. 2026 PSRC General Assembly Save the Date Flyer*
- b. Summer Planning Academy (SPA) Flyer*

8. Next Meeting: May 7, 2026, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn (11:00)

*Supporting materials attached

For more information, contact Mikayla Svob at msvob@psrc.org.

Sign language, and communication material in alternative formats, can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090, TTY Relay 711.

العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact/language-assistance>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Staff Committee
Thursday, March 5, 2026
Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the [Regional Staff Committee webpage](#).

Introductions and Announcements

Kelly Snyder, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Participants were asked to view the meeting attendance on the “chat” feature on Zoom, and phone-in participants were asked to identify themselves verbally.

Reports

Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, welcomed new members and alternates to the RSC and reminded the committee to confirm their 2026 membership with PSRC staff.

Ben shared that the [2026 PSRC General Assembly](#) (PDF) will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 10 am at the Seattle Convention Center – Summit building and asked staff working with elected officials to encourage attendance.

PSRC will once again be holding the [Summer Planning Academy](#) (PDF), or SPA, this summer. Ben asked members to encourage high school students in their communities to apply.

Registration for the next TOOLBOX webinar, “[Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks](#),” is open. The webinar will be held on Zoom at 10 am on March 20 and will explore how improving access to parks and green spaces can support equity and community well-being.

PSRC is asking for nominations for the [VISION 2050 Awards Program](#) (PDF). PSRC will only be accepting nominations directly from its membership. Others seeking to nominate projects can do so through the member jurisdiction in which the project is located.

Discussion Item: Federal and State Government Relations Updates

Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, and Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, briefed the committee through a [Federal and State Budget and Policy Update](#) presentation. PSRC continues to track federal developments and the work of the Washington State Legislature related to regional budget and policy priorities.

For more information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update

PSRC is initiating the update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan in advance of the update to VISION 2050. Erika Harris, Senior Planner, asked for feedback from the committee regarding the scope of the update and assembling an advisory committee.

View the [Regional Open Space Conservation Plan](#) presentation.

For additional information, please contact Erika Harris, Senior Planner, at eharris@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Regional Transportation Plan Public Comments

The public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan concluded on February 2, 2026. At the March Regional Staff Committee meeting, Ben Bakkenta provided an update on the comments received, including overall comment themes and areas identified for Transportation Policy Board direction.

Visit the [Regional Transportation Plan Engagement Hub](#).

For additional information, please contact Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at bbakkenta@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Regional Transportation Plan Dashboard Update

Since the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan in 2022, the Regional Staff Committee has received an annual presentation on the RTP Performance Dashboard, an implementation action item of that plan. To conclude the March meeting, Craig Helmann, Director of Data, shared a presentation highlighting prior year trends in the updated performance dashboard.

For additional information, please contact Craig Helmann, Director of Data, at chelmann@psrc.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.

Members and Alternates Present

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff, Alternates and Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Erika Harris, PSRC
Alyssa Quinn, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Craig Helmann, PSRC
Nancy Ferber, PSRC
Brian Lee, PSRC
Pauline Mogilevsky, KRCC Staff
Grant Gibson, PSRC
Katie Enders, PSRC
Sarah Warsame, PSRC
Jeff Aken, Commerce
Josh Brown, PSRC
Paul
Sara Pizzo
Schroec
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Marc Daily, PSRC
Liz Underwood-Bultmann

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. RSC Member Attendance for the March 5, 2026 Meeting

PSRC Regional Staff Committee - Attendance Roster

2.a - Att. A

Jurisdiction	Member	Jurisdiction	Member
King County	2 Ivan Miller, Local Services	Federal, Regional, State,	Tribal & Other Agencies
	McCaela Daffern, DHCS	FHWA	1 Matthew Pahs, Program Manager R
	Rebecca Maskin, Local Services, Alt		Vacant Alt
	Vacant Alt	FTA	1 Danielle Casey
At-Large	2 Vacant		Vacant Alt
	Kwame Simmons, Policy Advisor Alt	Health Departments	1 Cristina Ciupitu-Plath, Snohomish County R
	Dan Cardwell, Local Services		Richard Gelb, King County Alt R
	Susan McLain, Planning Alt	Ports	1 Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs
Transit	1 Peter Heffernan, King Co Metro R		Deirdre Wilson, NW Seaport Alliance Alt R
	Hester Serebrin, King County Metro Alt	PSCAA	1 Jennifer Keene, Program Director R
Economic Dev.	1 Vacant		Kathy Strange, Air Quality Programs Alt
	Jesse Reynolds, Local Services/Econ Dev Alt R	Puget Sound	1 Larry Epstein, Deputy Director
Seattle	2 Michael Hubner, OPCD	Partnership	Vacant Alt
	Jonathan Lewis, SDOT R	Sound Transit	1 Alex Krieg, Planning & Innovation
	Jim Holmes, OPCD Alt		Vacant Alt
	Joanna Valencia, SDOT Alt	Tribal Representative	1 Vacant
Bellevue	1 Thara Johnson, Planning Manager	Representatives	Vacant Alt
	Lacey Jane Wolfe, Alt	US EPA	1 Susan Sturges R
	Laura Benjamin-LaPitz, Alt R		Erik Peterson Alt
Cities/Towns	3 Minnie Dhaliwal, City of Issaquah	US HUD	1 Vacant
	Eric Perry, City of Renton R		Vacant Alt
	Rhonda Ender, City of Carnation R	WA Dept. of	1 Andrea Chartock R
	Peter Mayer, City of Tukwila, Alt	Commerce	Keith Swenson
	Becky Frey, City of Redmond, Alt	WSDOT	1 April Delchamps, WSDOT R
	Vacant Alt		Matthew Kenna, WSDOT Alt
Kitsap County	1 Rafe Wysham, Kitsap County R	PSRC Committees	
	Scott Diener, Alt	PSRC Co-Chair	1 Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning R
	Cecilia Olsen, Alt	RPEC	1 Doug McCormick, RPEC Chair
At-Large	1 Heather Wright, Planning Director R		Shane Weber, RPEC Vice Chair R
	Vacant	R = Remote attendance	
Transit	1 Edward Coviello, Kitsap Transit		
	Vacant Alt		
Economic Dev.	1 Elizabeth Court, KEDA R		
	Joe Morrison, KEDA		
Bremerton	1 Andrea Spencer, Community Dev, Co-Chair		
	Garrett Jackson, Planning Manager, Alt		
Cities/Towns	1 Nick Bond, Port Orchard R		
	Patty Charnas, Bainbridge Island Alt		
Pierce County	1 Alon Bassok, Long Range Planning Manager		
	Monica Ghosh, Alt		
At-Large	2 Tiffany Speir, Lakewood, Planning R		
	Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake, Director, Co-Chair R		
	Ryan Windish, Sumner, Alt		
	Angelie Stahlnecker, Milton, Alt R		
Transit	1 Andrew Arnes, Pierce Transit R		
	Tina Lee, Pierce Transit, Alt		
Economic Dev	1 Rob Allen, Economic Development R		
	Kevin Clegg Alt		
Tacoma	1 Brian Boudet, Interim Asst. Director		
	Steve Atkinson, Interim Asst. Manager Alt R		
Cities/Towns	1 Kendall Wals, Puyallup R		
	Chris Larson, Fife, Alt		
Snohomish County	1 Mike McCrary, PDS Director R		
	Darren Groth, Division Manager R		
At-Large	2 Kelly Snyder, Director, Co-Chair R		
	Vacant		
	Jay Larson, Public Works Supervisor, Alt		
	Joshua Dugan, Exec Operations Officer, Alt		
Transit	1 Noah Tunick, Community Transit R		
	Sabina Araya, Everett Transit Alt R		
Economic Dev	1 Mike Fong, Economic Dev		
	Vacant Alt		
Everett	1 Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director		
	Alice Ann Wetzel, Planning Manager Alt R		
Cities/Towns	1 Russ Wright, Lake Stevens, Director R		
	Karl Almgren, Lynnwood, Alt		
Total Members	45	Attended	34



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: Robin Koskey, Director Government Relations and Communications

Subject: Federal and State Government Relations Updates

IN BRIEF

PSRC continues to track federal developments and the work of the Washington State Legislature related to regional budget and policy priorities. PSRC's Director of Government Relations and Communications, Robin Koskey and Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, will brief the committee on recent federal and state activity and policy proposals.

BOARD CALENDAR

The Growth Management, Transportation, and Executive Boards will continue to be briefed on state and federal legislative developments as critical issues emerge.

DISCUSSION

Federal

PSRC continues to monitor the impact of proposed legislation, rule-making, and federal funding directives for our region, including progress on appropriations, Continuum of Care and surface transportation reauthorization. We are also keeping in close contact with members of our federal delegation to relay consequences of actions at the federal level to local governments and our region.

Updates on the [21st Century ROAD to Housing Act](#), legislation that is aimed at boosting housing supply through over 40 provisions, will be provided.

State

The Washington State Legislature began their 60-day, short legislative session on January 12, 2026, and adjourned on March 12, 2026. PSRC tracked legislative proposals and the Legislature's response to Governor Ferguson's proposed supplemental budget. We will be highlighting the outcome of the 2026 legislative session, including final budgets and legislation that passed.

[2026 Supplemental Transportation Budget Highlights](#) – drafted by PSRC staff with links to full budget documents.

Budget Documents:

[Operating Budget](#)

[Operating Budget Summary](#)

[Capital Budget](#)

[Capital Budget Summary](#)

Budget bills were delivered to the Governor but have not been signed as of March 25, 2026. Given the budget bills were delivered with less than five days before the Legislature adjourned, the governor has 20 days after sine die to act on the bills.

NEXT STEPS

For additional information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org or Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, at aquinn@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning

Subject: **WA Department of Natural Resources Wildfire Hazard and Risk Mapping**

IN BRIEF

Staff from the WA Department of Natural Resources will brief the committee on an ongoing project to develop updated Wildfire Hazard and Risk information and resources for local jurisdictions.

BOARD CALENDAR

This agenda item was included to share information with Regional Staff Committee members. It is not scheduled for a policy board presentation at this time.

DISCUSSION

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is leading the development of a [Wildfire Hazard and Risk Mapping initiative](#), as directed by [Senate Bill 6120](#). This effort aims to enhance wildfire preparedness by identifying areas at risk and providing general hazard assessments.

This project will support communities, emergency responders, and policymakers in reducing wildfire impacts across Washington by creating accessible and standardized wildfire hazard and risk information.

Here is a link to the draft [Fire Hazard and Risk Map](#) on which DNR is seeking input.

A Steering Committee consisting of county fire marshals, insurance commissioners, and representatives of counties and cities across Washington will provide guidance to DNR to best meet the needs of stakeholders across the state.

At the April Meeting, Angie Lane, Project Manager in DNR's Wildland Fire Management Division, will provide an overview of the project.

NEXT STEPS

No additional steps are anticipated.

For additional information, please contact Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at bbakkenta@psrc.org or 206-971-3286.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. DNR Wildfire Hazard and Risk Mapping FAQ

Washington Wildfire Hazard and Risk Map – Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q: What is the Washington Wildfire Hazard and Risk Map?

A: The wildfire hazard and risk map identifies areas across Washington that are more likely to experience wildfires and where those fires may have significant impacts on people, property, and resources. It is based on data such as vegetation, climate, topography, past fire activity, and human infrastructure.

Q: Why is this map being created?

A: The map is being developed in response to Senate Bill 6120 (2024) to help local governments, planners, homeowners, and emergency services better understand and respond to wildfire risks.

Q: Who is creating the map?

A: The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in coordination with local governments, fire agencies, researchers, and community stakeholders.

Map Content and Use

Q: What’s the difference between wildfire hazard and wildfire risk?

A: *Hazard* refers to the likelihood that wildfire could occur in a certain area based on environmental conditions. *Risk* refers to the chance a wildfire will ignite, spread, and cause negative impacts to assets such as homes or infrastructure.

Q: Does this map classify individual properties as “high risk” or “very high risk”?

A: No. The map provides general hazard zones and overlays that indicate where local evaluations may be needed. It does not determine the risk for a specific home or parcel without further on-the-ground (local) assessment.

Washington Wildfire Hazard and Risk Map – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How accurate is the map?

A: The map is built using the best available science and data sources. It is a planning-level tool and should be used alongside local knowledge and site-specific assessments.

Impacts on Property Owners

Q: Will this map affect my insurance rates or ability to get coverage?

A: Insurance companies use their own risk models developed independently from the DNR wildfire hazard and risk maps. The state's map is not directly tied to insurance rate-setting or coverage availability. For questions about coverage, contact your insurance provider.

Q: Will being in a high-hazard area affect my ability to build or renovate?

A: Local governments will adopt building codes or land-use regulations based on wildfire hazard. Being in a high-risk area might mean additional requirements for fire-resistant materials, for example.

Q: What can I do if my property is in a high-risk area?

A: There are many actions you can take to reduce wildfire risk, such as creating defensible space around your home, using fire-resistant construction, and joining community fire preparedness programs like Firewise USA®.

Public Process and Transparency

Q: How is the public being involved in map development?

A: DNR will conduct statewide listening sessions beginning in early 2026 to share draft maps, gather feedback, and host GIS-focused workshops to incorporate local data. Your feedback helps ensure the map reflects on-the-ground realities and community values.

Q: Will I be notified if my area is added to a high hazard zone?

A: Public notification efforts will accompany map updates, and local jurisdictions may provide direct outreach if changes impact planning, permitting, or other processes.

Updated as of November 2025

Washington Wildfire Hazard and Risk Map – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How often will the map be updated?

A: The map will be reviewed and updated regularly (frequency to be determined) to incorporate new data, local assessments, and changes in fire patterns due to climate or development.

Access and Resources

Q: Where can I view the map?

A: The map will be available through the [Washington DNR website](#) with interactive tools to explore your community's wildfire hazard and risk levels.

Q: How can I give feedback or ask questions about the map?

A: You can provide comments online during official public comment periods, attend local public meetings, or contact the project manager. Visit the project webpage for more information at <https://dnr.wa.gov/wildfire-resources/wildfire-prevention/wildfire-hazard-and-risk-mapping>.

Q: Are there resources to help me prepare for wildfire?

A: Yes. Visit wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov or contact your local fire district for home hardening tips, evacuation plans, and preparedness programs.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee

From: Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning

Subject: **Regional Transportation Plan Recommendation – Final Board Actions and Recommendation**

IN BRIEF

In April, the RSC will be briefed on the steps to finalize and adopt the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

BOARD CALENDAR

At their meeting on April 9, the Transportation Policy Board will be asked to recommend approval of the final draft of the Regional Transportation Plan to the Executive Board. On April 23, the Executive Board is scheduled to recommend that the General Assembly adopt the RTP at PSRC's annual meeting on May 28, 2026.

DISCUSSION

The public comment period for the draft Regional Transportation Plan was conducted between December 15, 2025, and February 2, 2026. PSRC received comments through its online engagement hub and direct email, including: 18 official letters from member governments, public agencies, and other non-profit or community organizations; 36 web form submissions; and 7 direct emails from members of the public.

At the TPB meeting on March 12, staff provided a detailed briefing on the public comments. This included a categorization of 332 individual comments across common themes and by three comment types: Board Input (16 comments), Technical Corrections (86 comments), and No Action Taken (230 comments).

Common comment themes included: Active Transportation (11); Climate and Environment (26); Funding (26); General/Other (130); Roads and Maintenance (33); Safety (29); Technology (5); and Transit (72).

A spreadsheet delineating the comments by origin and category with PSRC responses, along with the comments in their original form, is available on the PSRC webpage [What We Heard](#).

In addition to those submitted during the public comment period, board members were asked to provide any additional proposed amendments by March 4. None were submitted.

In response to the comments that were elevated for Board Input, PSRC staff introduced three themes for discussion, all relating to establishing future PSRC work program areas: rural transportation issues; emerging transportation technologies; and continued improvements to performance monitoring and measurement. Board members responded positively to inclusion of these topics in the RTP as future work program items for plan implementation.

At the March 12 meeting, the board directed staff to make the proposed technical corrections identified in the comment summary spreadsheet, and to include rural transportation, emerging transportation technologies, and performance monitoring and performance as new work program areas. Mark up versions of all the draft RTP documents will be posted by early April, prior to the TPB meeting. At the April 9 meeting, the Transportation Policy Board will be asked to make a final recommendation to approve the revised Regional Transportation Plan.

NEXT STEPS

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at 206-971-3601 or kmcgourty@psrc.org, or Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at 206-971-3286 or bbakkenta@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Regional Staff Committee
From: Gil Cerise, Program Manager
Subject: **Transit Access Project**

IN BRIEF

PSRC staff will share an update on developing an online interactive tool to help stakeholders assess transit access needs and potential solutions across the region.

BOARD CALENDAR

This is a draft RTP implementation product being brought to the RSC for review and comment. When complete later this year, the Transportation Policy Board will be briefed on the transit access analysis and tools.

DISCUSSION

PSRC introduced a set of transit access tools and resources in 2016, with a goal of assisting PSRC members and other stakeholders with assessing transit access needs and identifying solutions to help maximize transit ridership. The main components of these tools are:

- A [transit access checklist](#) that helps assess transit access conditions and needs, with a focus on local context.
- A [transit access toolkit](#) that identifies strategies to address the needs identified in the checklist and provides further information on roles and responsibilities among those with shared interest in improving transit access.

The Regional Transportation Plan 2022-2050 included an action for PSRC to update these tools. Based upon the results of an assessment completed in 2024, PSRC staff are working with a consultant to develop an interactive online tool, similar in format to the [Housing Opportunities by Place \(HOP\)](#) tool, but covering the topic of identifying transit access needs and opportunities. This tool will likely update/replace PSRC's

existing transit access tools, highlighted above.

Staff will provide an update on work-to-date in developing the interactive online transit access tool, including opportunities for PSRC members to learn more and provide feedback in coming weeks.

For additional information, please contact Gil Cerise, Program Manager, at gcerise@psrc.org or 206-971-3053.

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Save the Date



Thursday, May 28, 2026

10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

**Seattle Convention
Center – Summit
900 Pine St,
Seattle, WA 98101**

This annual meeting is a key opportunity for members to vote on major decisions, including the adoption of PSRC’s budget and the election of officers. **All mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers from PSRC member jurisdictions and tribes are eligible to vote** and are strongly encouraged to attend. We ask that at least one elected official from your jurisdiction participate to help establish a quorum.

We look forward to gathering with you—please save the date!

**Registration will open in
early April.**



Puget Sound Regional Council

Summer Planning Academy (SPA) for High School Students

Are you curious about how cities grow, change, and develop? Have you ever wondered how governments decide where train lines should go? Do you have ideas about how to make our communities better places for everyone? If so, you should apply for the Summer Planning Academy (SPA)!



Puget Sound Regional Council



The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is looking for high school students from King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties who want to learn about urban planning in our region and share ideas about how to make the central Puget Sound region a better place to live, work, and play.

SPA is a leadership development opportunity offered free of charge to students interested in planning a better future for our region. The program encourages students to think creatively about how better planning can help people lead better lives.

Upon successful completion of SPA, students are eligible to receive a **\$500** scholarship. SPA sessions will take place in Downtown Seattle on July 29, 31, August 5, and 7.

To learn more about PSRC, SPA, and to apply, go to www.psrc.org/our-work/summer-planning-academy or scan the QR code.



Questions? Email us at spa@psrc.org.