

**30<sup>th</sup>**  
**YEAR**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



Puget Sound Regional Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2021

# Message from the President and Executive Director

More than a year has gone by since the start of the pandemic and we mourn those we have lost. Many people are still out of work. Others worry about older relatives who are suffering from isolation or about their kids struggling with virtual school. Mental health challenges are widespread. It's a very tough time.

Events this year have also highlighted the urgent need to address racism and inequity in our society. The pandemic has made health and income differences even more stark as it showed that some folks could easily work from home, while others became unemployed or worked jobs that put them at greater risk. With vaccines now becoming more available, there is real hope that our region and country will get the virus under control and begin to recover. Ensuring that this recovery is more equitable for all people in the Puget Sound region is a top priority.

Since the early days of the pandemic, PSRC has adapted our operations to protect public health and worked to support our members. Our board meetings moved to online formats and our agency has organized outreach activities such as virtual open houses and webinars to safely reach out to community members and get their input on key projects.

In the midst of a chaotic and intense period, we're proud of all that PSRC and our members have accomplished. Some of the highlights from our work this year:

- Directing **federal pandemic relief to transit agencies** and selecting projects to receive **\$549 million in PSRC funding**.
- Adopting the **VISION 2050** plan, which will guide growth and foster a prosperous, healthy and equitable region over the next three decades.
- Moving ahead on key VISION 2050 actions for **housing and equity**.
- Analyzing and collecting **data needed to plan for the future**, including tracking impacts from COVID-19.
- Conducting a **study of passenger-only ferry service** across 12 counties connected to Puget Sound and Lake Washington.
- Leading the **Regional Aviation Baseline Study** to understand current conditions and future demand for aviation.
- Diving into data and research that will inform the next **Regional Transportation Plan**.

The year ahead may be as unpredictable as the last one. But you can count on PSRC to continue to bring leaders and partners together to work together on the challenges ahead of us. In 2021 we will celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the Puget Sound Regional Council. The work we've accomplished with the support of our members over the past three decades is truly outstanding. We're glad to be a part of the spirit of regionalism that is helping to create a healthy future for the central Puget Sound.

**Executive Bruce Dammeier**, PSRC President  
**Josh Brown**, Executive Director



**Executive  
Bruce Dammeier**  
PSRC President



**Josh Brown**  
Executive Director

# Transportation Funding for a Growing Region

Improving the region's transportation systems

## Securing federal funding for the region's communities

PSRC awards federal funding to support transportation projects across central Puget Sound. We work on making the most of the region's transportation dollars by coordinating closely with cities, counties, transit agencies, and other partners.

In July, **\$549 million in PSRC funding** was directed to 128 transportation projects that support the region's growth strategy and make it easier for people to get where they need to go.



Pierce County received \$4 million for the Canyon Road Freight Corridor Improvements project, which will include building a new bridge over the Puyallup River.



**Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson** chairs the Transportation Policy Board.

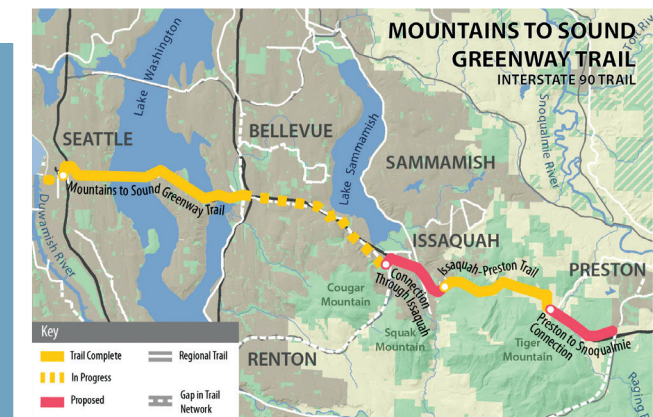
One of the projects in the newly adopted Regional Transportation Improvement Program will enhance the Southworth Ferry Terminal. The improvements will support Washington State ferry service and Kitsap Transit's new fast ferry route between Southworth and downtown Seattle.

## Regional Transportation Improvement Program approved

PSRC maintains a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which ensures the region coordinates transportation improvements and meets federal requirements. In October 2020, PSRC adopted the latest TIP for 2021-2024, which represents a total investment of **\$15.6 billion** to maintain and improve the region's transportation system.

### Ensuring the region's transportation dollars are put to work

PSRC works to maximize federal transportation funding available to the region. As part of this process, PSRC's Executive Board adopts a list of pre-approved (contingency) projects that need funding. If additional money becomes available, these ready-to-go projects can receive funding without delay. In May, PSRC awarded \$26.5 million from the Federal Highway Administration for 22 contingency projects, ensuring that the region didn't have to return any unspent federal dollars in 2020.



A segment of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail in Bellevue (132nd Avenue SE to 142nd Avenue SE) received \$2 million in PSRC funding. (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust photo)



Photo credit: Pierce Transit

CARES Act funding helped transit agencies pay for additional cleaning of buses and trains due to COVID-19.

### Pandemic relief for transit agencies

In April 2020, PSRC acted swiftly to distribute \$538 million in CARES Act funding to the region's transit agencies to address impacts from the COVID-19 crisis. An additional \$580 million is expected to flow to transit agencies from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA). PSRC is working with our transit partners to distribute this funding in spring 2021.

### New Mukilteo Ferry Terminal opens



Photo credit: WSDOT

The new Mukilteo Ferry Terminal opened in December 2020. The terminal received a total of \$38 million in PSRC funding during previous project competitions. The facility's design is inspired by the form of a Coast Salish longhouse and honors the Tribal history of the land.

### PSRC funding to repair the West Seattle Bridge



Photo credit: SounderBruce

PSRC approved \$14.4 million in February 2021 for the West Seattle Bridge repair project. The bridge has been closed for safety reasons for more than a year. It provides a critical connection to international cargo terminals and maritime businesses.

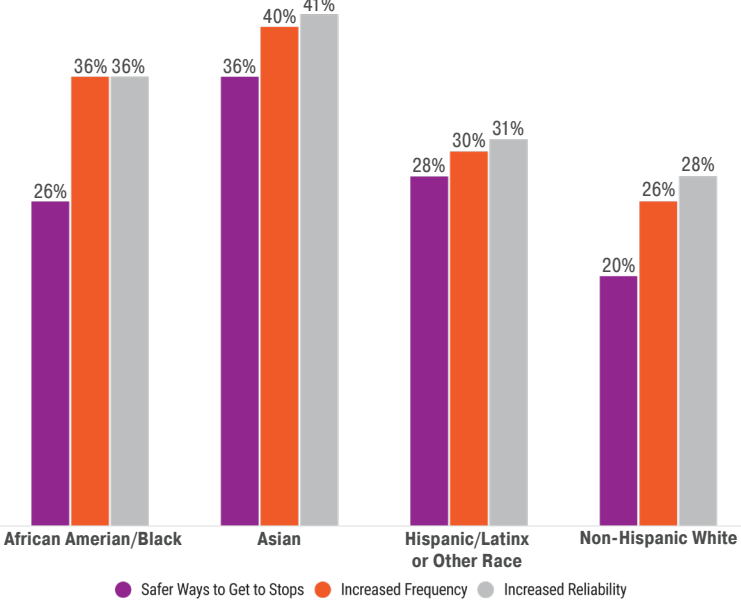
# Regional Data and Forecasting

Understanding how people live, work and travel

## Puget Sound Household Travel Survey

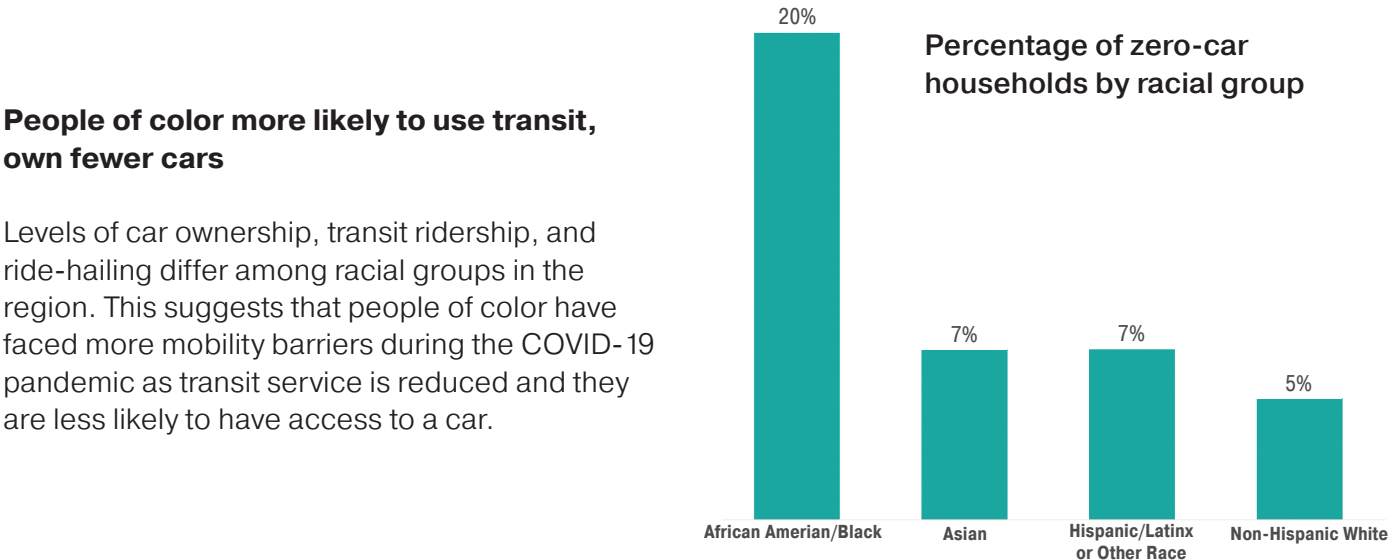
PSRC’s household travel survey is conducted every two years to collect data on the travel patterns of people living in the region. More than 3,000 households took part in PSRC’s most recent survey in 2019, filling out travel diaries and answering questions on transportation-related topics. Having a more complete picture of travel behavior makes PSRC’s forecasts more accurate and helps produce better plans for the future.

This section shows a few highlights from the 2019 survey findings. The 2021 survey kicked off in April and will capture changes from COVID-19.



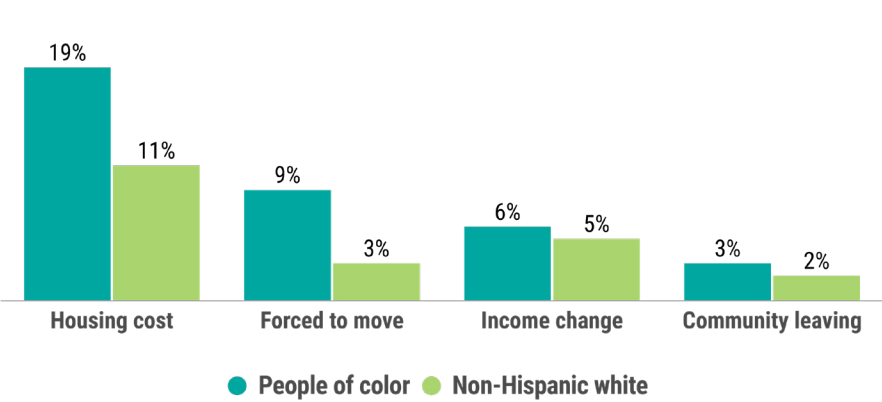
### People of color more likely to take transit after improvements

This chart shows the share of travel survey participants who said they would ride transit more regularly with improvements such as increased frequency or reliability.



### People of color more likely to use transit, own fewer cars

Levels of car ownership, transit ridership, and ride-hailing differ among racial groups in the region. This suggests that people of color have faced more mobility barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic as transit service is reduced and they are less likely to have access to a car.

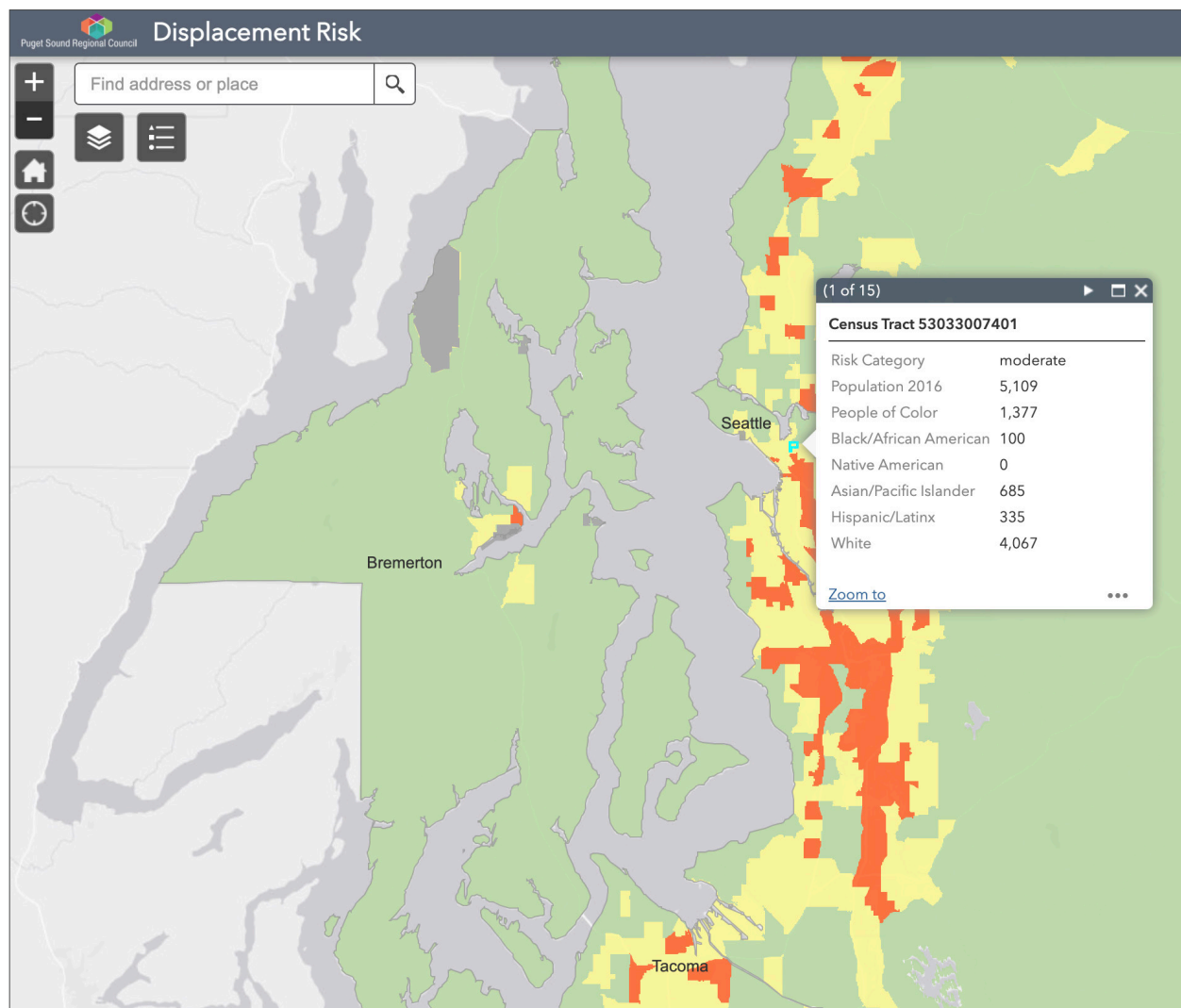


### People of color and renters more likely to be displaced by rising costs

About a quarter of households that moved in the past five years within the region reported that they relocated (were displaced) for one or more negative reasons. The cost of housing was by far the top reason. Renters and people of color were much more likely to say they moved because of displacement factors.

## Understanding displacement in the region

PSRC has developed an interactive map showing residential displacement risk by census tract. Skyrocketing housing costs and a growing population have contributed to displacement in the central Puget Sound region over the last decade.

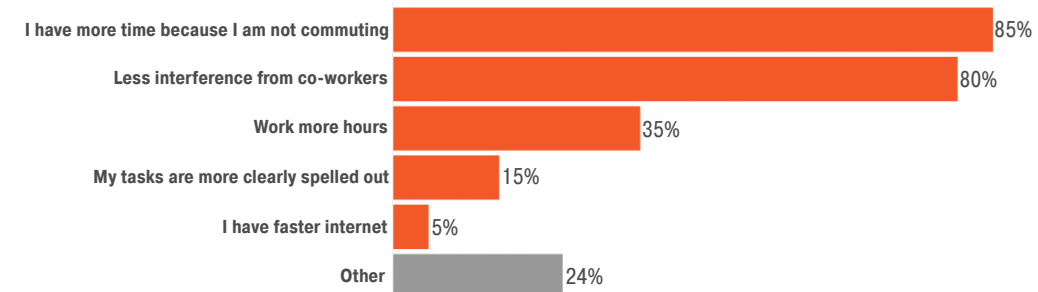


## COVID-19 Mobility Surveys

The University of Washington and the Puget Sound Regional Council have been working together to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is changing daily schedules, lifestyle choices, and mental well-being of people in the region.

Surveys were fielded in spring and fall 2020, asking about trip-making habits, shopping habits, exercise, sleep quality, and more. The results from these surveys reflect an unprecedented time. The shifts in mobility patterns and behavior reflected in these survey findings may have important implications for future planning efforts. During the pandemic, many people started teleworking to protect public health. Teleworking can also help reduce commute trips, manage transportation demand, and improve air quality.

### Reasons for being more productive



Pike Place Market

# Regional Planning

Looking ahead to meet the region's needs

## VISION 2050 sets course for region's future

By the year 2050, the region's population will grow to nearly 6 million people, about 1.5 million more than today. VISION 2050 is the region's plan for accommodating growth and creating opportunity for all. The plan provides a path to achieve well-connected communities, a healthy environment, and a prosperous economy.

PSRC's General Assembly formally adopted VISION 2050 in October 2020. Early implementation actions will focus on equity and housing. PSRC is also providing ongoing support and technical assistance to the region's jurisdictions as they work on the next round of comprehensive plan updates.

## Creating an equitable region

As central Puget Sound's regional planning organization, PSRC works to foster a region where everyone has access to exceptional quality of life and opportunity. But today it is clear that the lives of many Black, Indigenous and other people of color are not on the same trajectory as those who are white. These differences are seen in data on health, income, levels of home ownership, and many other facets of life.

Recognizing these challenges, PSRC is placing an emphasis on racial equity throughout all aspects of the work that we do. Our goal is to ensure that the region's vision for a prosperous and healthy future can be achieved by all who call the region home.



## Taking steps on racial equity at PSRC

PSRC has adopted five goals that will guide ongoing work to advance racial equity in internal operations and in our regional planning, funding and data efforts:

- PSRC staff and boards will develop a deeper understanding of racial equity and its relevance to their work.
- PSRC staff will reflect the diversity of the region we serve.
- PSRC will ensure that communities of color inform decision-making processes.
- PSRC will center race in its work and use its various roles to advance racial equity.
- PSRC will spend its resources to improve racial equity outcomes.

Over the summer and fall of 2020, staff participated in discussions centered around these five goals to identify concrete ways PSRC can make progress. Staff members are taking on specific tasks as part of an agency-wide equity action plan.

PSRC is also developing a **Regional Equity Strategy** that aims to make equity central to PSRC's work. It will include data, strategies and best practices that PSRC and our member jurisdictions can use to create a more equitable region.

## Regional Housing Strategy

PSRC has started work on a **Regional Housing Strategy** to help guide regional and local actions to make progress on improving housing affordability and increasing choices.

A first step was to conduct a **Regional Housing Needs Assessment** to capture data on housing conditions and trends. As part of this work, PSRC held focus groups with renters with lower incomes, people of color, and others experiencing housing instability. Their personal stories and insights helped connect the data to real world experiences and shed more light on housing challenges.



Everett Councilmember **Scott Bader** chairs the Growth Management Policy Board.

*"I can't move. If I tried to move I can't afford to because everything is so high."*

*"I was able to get into the home but not able to afford the deposit to get heating."*

## WHAT'S NEEDED NOW?

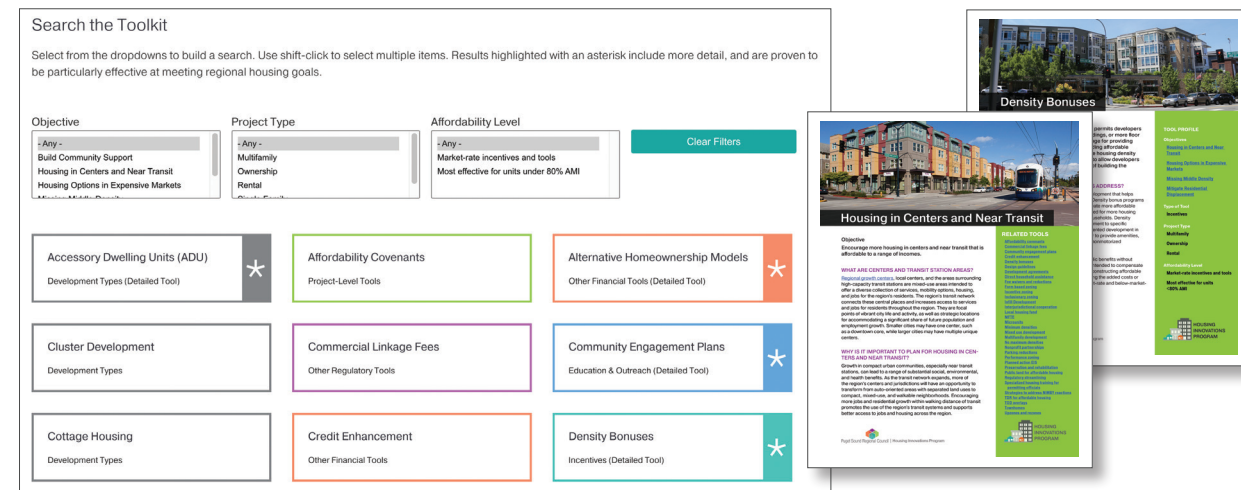
46,000 housing units needed to address the current supply backlog.

## WHAT'S NEEDED BY 2050?

810,000 total new housing units needed to accommodate the population in 2050.

## Housing Innovations Program online toolkit

The Housing Innovations Program is a web-based toolkit offering resources that local communities can use to promote more housing options and affordability.



## Regional Transportation Plan keeps the region moving

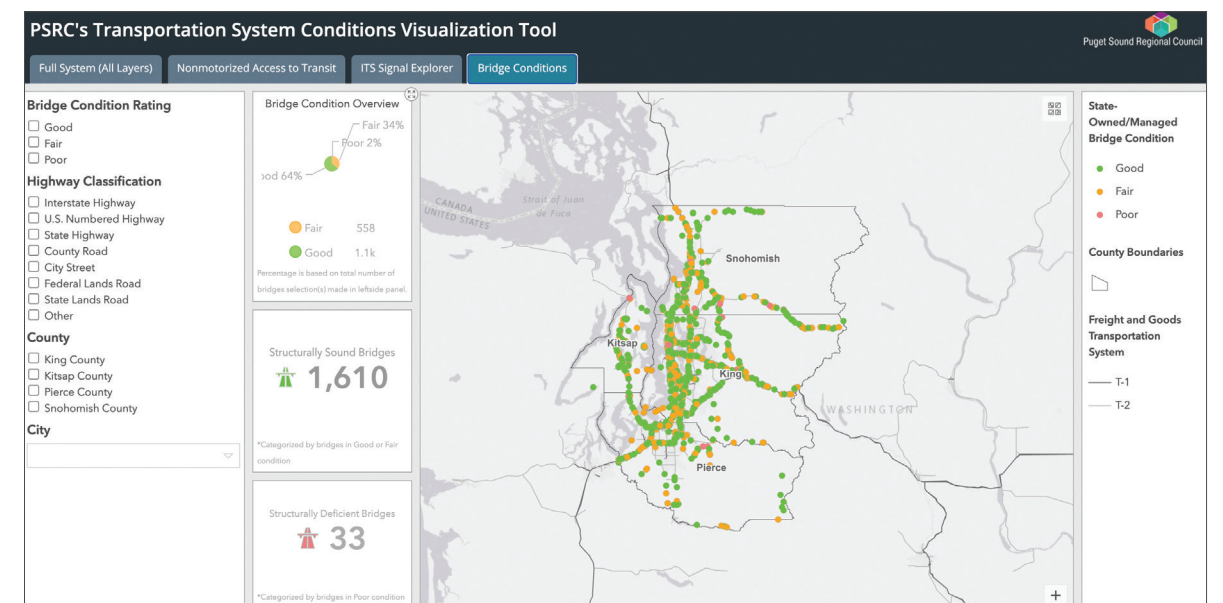
PSRC maintains the Regional Transportation Plan, a long-range blueprint for how the region will meet growing transportation needs decades into the future. Building on the newly adopted VISION 2050, PSRC is now working to extend the transportation plan to 2050.

Key focus areas will include safety, access to transit, equity, and climate. The plan will incorporate data and analysis of impacts and trends related to COVID-19.



## Visualizing the region's transportation system

PSRC has developed a new interactive map showing the region's transportation system in the context of demographics such as income and race, land use, and more. This new tool will help inform PSRC's work on the new Regional Transportation Plan.







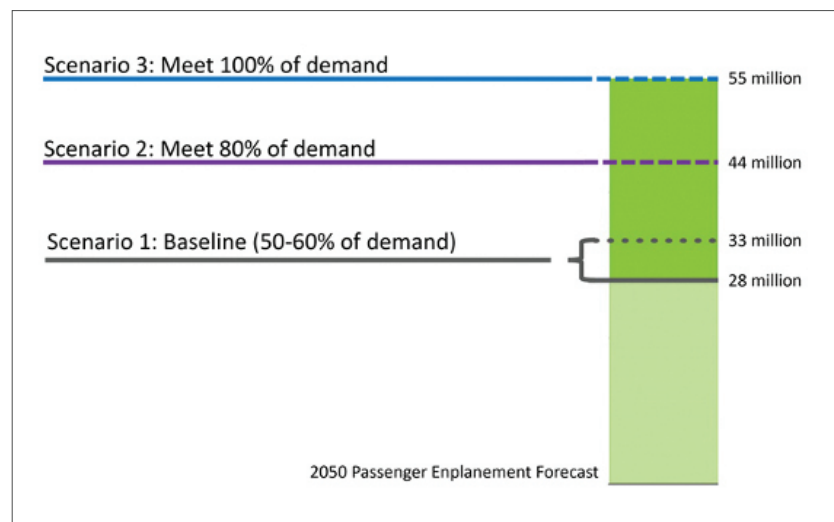
Paine Field

### Aviation study offers foundation for future planning

PSRC is leading the Regional Aviation Baseline Study, supported by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. The study seeks to understand current conditions, future demand for aviation, and potential ways to accommodate growing demand. A final report will be released in spring 2021.

While the pandemic has sharply curtailed air travel in the near term, forecasts for the next 30 years anticipate a doubling of demand by 2050.

The goal of this study is to provide a common understanding of the current status and projected demand for aviation in the region. This technical information will be used by airports that are creating new master plans, the State Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission, and other policy makers and sectors of the air travel industry as they plan for the future.



### Supporting economic recovery and resiliency

The Economic Development District has received a \$400,000 CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to help the region respond to economic impacts from the pandemic. These efforts include technical assistance programs, worker training and infrastructure investments such as broadband. The grant is also supporting planning and coordination to help industry areas that have experienced significant economic shocks, including aerospace, manufacturing, and tourism.



Tom Florino serves as President of the Economic Development District Board.



Amazon Campus outdoor dining

# About the Puget Sound Regional Council



The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is the regional transportation, growth management and economic development planning agency serving the four-county central Puget Sound region. PSRC brings together elected leadership and regional partners to help the region thrive today and for the long term.

Our work includes:

- Long-range planning for transportation, economic development and growth management
- Selecting projects to receive PSRC's federal transportation funding and maintaining a four-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- Regional data analysis and forecasting

## Organization and Decision Making

The **General Assembly** is composed of all member jurisdictions and agencies. The General Assembly meets annually to vote on major decisions, approve the budget, and elect new leadership.

Members of the **Executive Board** are appointed by their General Assembly constituents to represent the member governments. The Executive Board is chaired by the PSRC president, meets monthly, and carries out delegated powers and responsibilities between meetings of the General Assembly.

The **Growth Management Policy Board**, **Transportation Policy Board**, and **Operations Committee** make recommendations to the Executive Board.

PSRC also supports the work of the Central Puget Sound **Economic Development District**.

## Budget and funding sources

The Puget Sound Regional Council's proposed supplemental biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2022–2023 (July 2021–June 30, 2023) is \$30.2 million. The agency's work program is funded by a combination of federal and state grants, dues paid by PSRC members, and by other local sources.



**Councilmember Claudia Balducci**, PSRC Vice President, chairs the Operations Committee, which reviews and makes recommendations to the Executive Board on the budget and work program, and on contracts and other financial and personnel issues.

## Puget Sound Regional Council Membership

**COUNTIES** — King County, Kitsap County, Pierce County, Snohomish County

**CITIES & TRIBES** — Algona, Arlington, Auburn, Bainbridge Island, Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bonney Lake, Bothell, Bremerton, Buckley, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Darrington, Des Moines, DuPont, Duvall, Eatonville, Edgewood, Edmonds, Enumclaw, Everett, Federal Way, Fife, Fircrest, Gig Harbor, Granite Falls, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Lake Stevens, Lakewood, Lynnwood, Maple Valley, Marysville, Medina, Mercer Island, Mill Creek, Milton, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Mukilteo, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Orting, Pacific, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Puyallup, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Redmond, Renton, Roy, Ruston, Sammamish, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Stanwood, Steilacoom, Sultan, Sumner, Tacoma, The Suquamish Tribe, Tukwila, Tulalip Tribes, University Place, Wilkeson, Woodinville, Woodway, Yarrow Point

**STATUTORY MEMBERS** — Port of Bremerton, Port of Everett, Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington Transportation Commission

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** — Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, Cascade Water Alliance, Port of Edmonds, Island County, Puget Sound Partnership, Snoqualmie Tribe, Thurston Regional Planning Council, University of Washington, Washington State University

**TRANSIT AGENCIES** — Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, Metro (King County), Pierce Transit, Sound Transit

Funding for this document provided in part by member jurisdictions, grants from U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation. PSRC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <https://www.psrc.org/title-vi> or call **206.587.4819**.

## American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, at **206.464.6175**, with two weeks' advance notice. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, through TTY Relay 711.

Additional copies of this document may be obtained by contacting:

**Puget Sound Regional Council  
Information Center  
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, Washington 98104-1035**



Public mural in Pioneer Square, Seattle, @wakudastudio