



Annual **REPORT**  
Puget Sound Regional Council  
June 7, 2012



# Message

## from the President and Executive Director



Reflecting on the past year, what stands out are the continued strong partnerships that are helping to grow the economy and improve quality of life in the central Puget Sound region. These partnerships are the foundation for our confidence in the future of this place.

PSRC's growing membership of cities, towns, counties, ports, tribes and state agencies represent all parts of the region, and we come to the regional table to discuss, make decisions, and plan for the future.

We share a commitment to working together and the understanding that the actions we take now will shape the future livability of our region. We live in an outstanding natural setting that sustains and inspires us to grow with grace.

The roads and bridges, transit stations, parks, and the quality of schools are

among the many factors that determine how our region grows and prospers. Decisions about policies and investments affect whether communities are affordable, whether people can get around conveniently, and whether kids have access to schools that give them a solid foundation for life-long learning.

All of these elements influence how people feel about living in the central Puget Sound region, as well as the region's ability to attract and retain the talented people needed to keep our economy moving forward.

Together, we are taking steps to realize the region's long-range economic, transportation and growth strategy, VISION 2040. Through the Washington Aerospace Partnership, we



helped lead a statewide effort to secure 737 MAX assembly in Washington, a generational investment decision that will provide jobs and economic opportunity for decades.

Through the Growing Transit Communities partnership, we're engaging a wider range of interests from urban neighborhoods from Tacoma to Everett to maximize the return on the \$15 billion investment voters have made in regional transit. The goal is to grow great places around that new transit service, and ensure participation of people from all walks of life in planning for the future of their communities.

In the past year, PSRC began updates to the Regional Economic Strategy and Transportation 2040 to keep these plans current and relevant. PSRC directed millions of dollars to transportation projects around the region, and provided key demographic, economic and transportation data, forecasts, and planning resources to our members.

The region is emerging from a period of significant economic challenges. We can have confidence that Puget Sound will remain a magnet for future opportunity. Newly updated forecasts of population and employment show that the central Puget Sound region will grow to more than 5 million people by 2040. Planning for the future housing, economic, transportation and education needs of the people who live here is still as urgent as ever.

*Josh Brown*  
KITSAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
PRESIDENT, PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL



*Bob Drewel*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL



We have a deep appreciation for all our member jurisdictions, elected officials and staff who participate in our committees and decision making. The more people who engage at the regional level, the more successful we will be. We hope you will look through this annual report to review highlights from the past year, and we encourage your comments and insights as we move forward.



The new Mannette Bridge in Bremerton opened November 10, 2011.



# PSRC Funding for Transportation

PSRC is the place where the region decides together how to invest millions in federal transportation funds each year.

“Helping communities secure federal transportation funding is one of the key roles of the PSRC. These projects rose to the top on their merits and can not only deliver improvements for the future, but help grow jobs in the near term.”

— COMMISSIONER Josh Brown, PSRC PRESIDENT

New bridges in Tacoma and Bothell, better traffic signal timing in Redmond, and preparing for light rail to Northgate are just a few examples of the projects that received a total of \$41.9 million in PSRC funding in 2011. The projects are helping to advance Transportation 2040, the region’s long-range transportation plan.

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, PSRC has lead responsibility for coordinating transportation and growth planning for the central Puget Sound region.

PSRC maintains the regional Transportation Improvement Program — the “TIP” — which is a database of almost \$12 billion in transportation projects funded between 2010 and 2013. PSRC ensures that all the projects are consistent with Transportation 2040 and meet financial and clean air requirements.

## PSRC Funding At Work

**Burien** celebrated the opening of its new 500-stall park-and-ride garage at its downtown transit center in September. PSRC provided nearly \$7.3 million to this project.



The city of **Poulsbo** received \$450,000 in PSRC funding in 2011 to construct a roundabout to tie the intersections of Lincoln Road and Gala Way together with the intersection of Lincoln Road and Noll Road. The design stage is complete and construction is scheduled to begin in June. The photo to the left shows a previously completed phase of the Noll Road corridor improvements.





## PSRC Funding At Work

**Redmond's new 36th Street Bridge** opened in December, providing a key connection between the east and west sides of the growing Overlake neighborhood. The new bridge over Highway 520 includes wide sidewalks and bike lanes that connect with the 520 bike trail, and a roundabout at the east approach.



**Snohomish** broke ground on the **Centennial Trail Extension** project that will connect the existing trail to the riverfront and historic downtown. PSRC contributed \$1.78 million to the project.



A new **bypass route** helps preserve the **Granite Falls** town center by diverting truck traffic onto a new 1.9-mile road, allowing freight traffic to move faster and more efficiently from Highway 92 to the Mountain Loop Highway.



**Sound Transit's Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station** began service in 2011, connecting the freeway station to the third floor of the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center garage with a covered, concrete pedestrian bridge that crosses the northbound lanes of I-5. This project received a total \$8.9 million in PSRC funds. Pictured is one of Community Transit's new "double tall" buses at the station.



**Tacoma** is working on the replacement of the 81-year old Puyallup River Bridge, an important connection between downtown Tacoma and Fife. This project has received a total of \$6 million in PSRC funds.

## **Bainbridge Island's North Madison Nonmotorized Improvements**



Walking and biking is now easier along Bainbridge Island's North Madison Avenue from Manitou Beach Road to Valley Road. The city widened the northbound shoulder, creating safer access for cyclists and pedestrians.



The South Lake Union Streetcar and Commute Seattle converge during bike to work month.



# VISION 2040

VISION 2040 is the region's strategy for assuring a thriving region for the 5 million people expected to live in 2040.

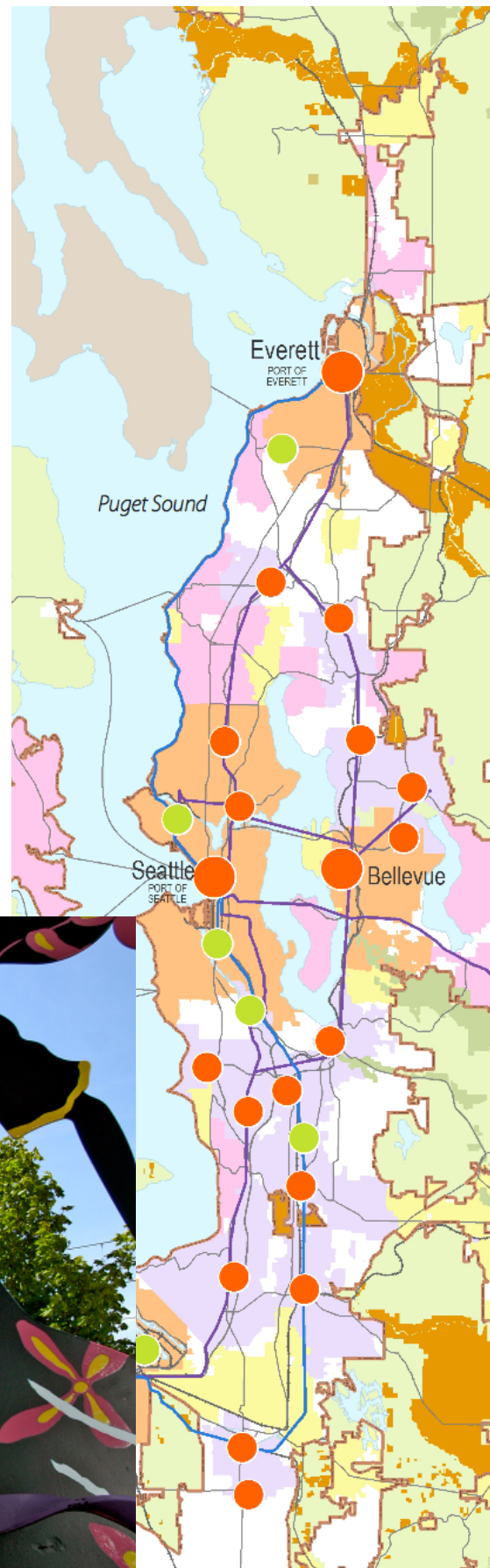


Dave Somers  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER  
- CHAIR GROWTH, MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD

VISION 2040 describes the housing, economic development, transportation and environmental actions and policies needed to ensure a high quality of life for people in the central Puget Sound region.

## Coordinating Planning

All the cities and counties in the central Puget Sound region have comprehensive plans that reflect each





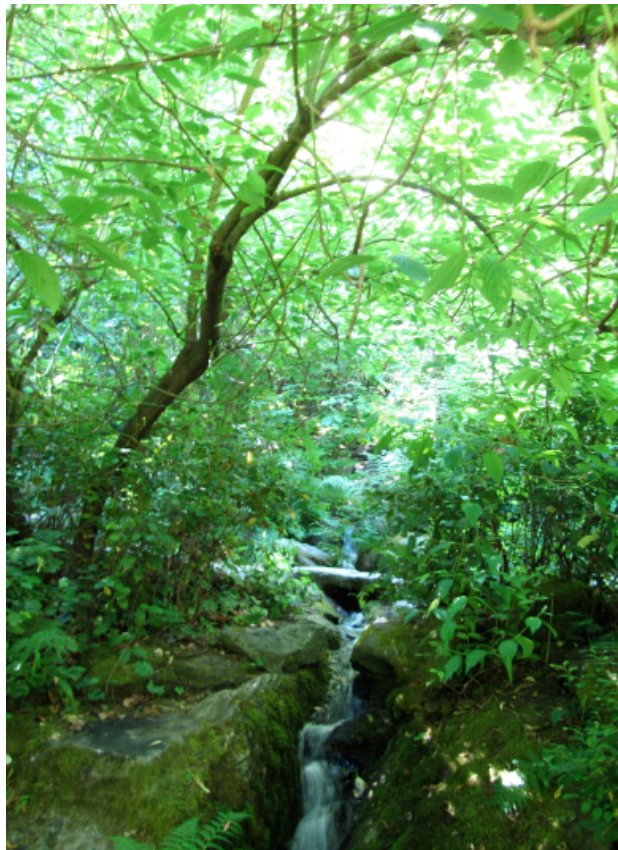


community’s unique character, history and vision. A key role of PSRC is to provide assistance to local jurisdictions to ensure that local plans are all coordinated with the regional strategy and meet state growth management requirements.

In 2011, PSRC staff worked with staff and county-wide groups on updating countywide planning policies and local growth targets to be consistent with VISION 2040’s multicounty policies. PSRC staff also assisted 17 jurisdictions in updating the certification status of their plans, including first–time certifications for some jurisdictions.

**Centers**

PSRC’s Growth Management Policy Board also worked on updating the procedures for designating new regional centers to ensure that centers are successful places for focusing housing, jobs, services, and transportation.



**Active Communities Toolkit**

PSRC developed a new toolkit to assist jurisdictions as they plan for increasing opportunities for bicycling and walking.

**Regional Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)**

PSRC is a participating member of the Regional TDR Alliance, which has focused on conservation of natural resource land. The Alliance has been successful in securing a number of grants, including a “pass–through” grant for cities to work on TDR programs and interlocal agreements with their respective counties. In 2011, PSRC passed through grant funding to 10 cities and one county to support their work on TDR efforts.



# Growing Transit Communities

Growing Transit Communities got off to a strong start, rolling out the resources and community engagement tools designed to help local communities make the most of new light rail, bus rapid transit and other transit investments.

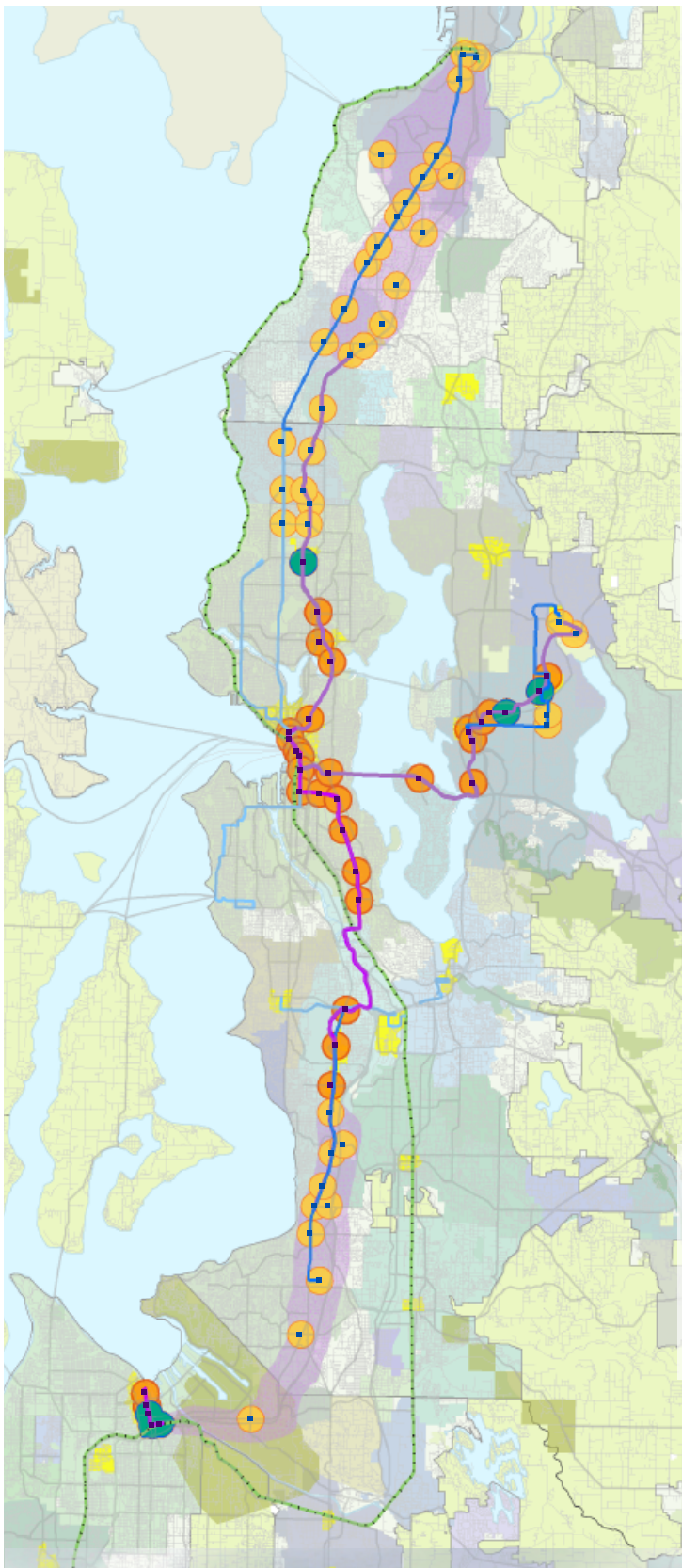


This effort is supported by a three-year, \$5 million federal grant, which allowed PSRC to provide grant funding to local agencies for their local transit station area planning. In 2011, PSRC hired project staff, established a website, produced information materials, started up committees addressing specific topics and corridors, and hosted a September kick-off event attended by more than 350 people.

## Community Equity Grants

Growing Transit Communities awarded 24 small grants to community-based organizations across the region. These grants will support efforts to increase participation and involvement in planning around transit station areas.

One funded group, The Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative, brought together 35 participants for a “Transit Communities Exchange Forum” in Bellevue to focus on equitable development for low-income and historically underrepresented populations in East Bellevue. The group plans a series of Neighborhood Cafes to further explore these themes.



### **Mapping of Opportunity**

Growing Transit Communities developed a draft report on the region's "Geography of Opportunity" through mapping exercises conducted by the Kirwan Institute of the Ohio State University.

The report looks at 20 indicators of opportunity, including education, economic health, housing and neighborhood quality, transportation, health, and environment. This research is intended to inform Corridor Action Strategies that will detail the specific actions and tools needed to make it easier to develop jobs and housing in areas associated with transit investments.



### **Housing Innovations Program**

PSRC launched a new set of online planning resources for use by local governments to promote housing affordability and smart growth in their communities.



In 2011, PSRC presented VISION 2040 Awards to six outstanding projects and plans that are helping to achieve the region's growth, economic, and transportation strategy.





# VISION 2040 Award Winners

## **Bothell Downtown Revitalization**

This revitalization effort includes a series of projects by the City of Bothell to implement its new Downtown Subarea Plan, starting with major infrastructure improvements to Highway 522. Bothell has broken ground on nearly \$80 million in projects as part of a total of \$150 million in planned improvements, which have the potential to leverage up to \$670 million in private sector investment, including a new McMenamins' historic redevelopment at the Anderson School.



## **Central Kitsap Community Campus**

This campus is Kitsap County's vision for a civic, recreational and mixed-use town center inside the Silverdale Regional Growth Center. Phase one broke ground in June 2010 with the development of the Haselwood Family YMCA facility, which includes infrastructure upgrades to improve storm water runoff, as well as multimodal road improvements.

## **Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy**

The strategy is a partnership of three northwest ports—Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver BC—to reduce greenhouse gas and diesel particulate emissions from maritime operations. This successful strategy is a voluntary effort to protect the environment. Emissions at all three ports are down while remaining competitive in the recession.

## **OneBusAway**

OneBusAway was developed by University of Washington students to help deliver real-time bus and rail information available through local transit agencies to tell you the location of your bus. The website includes several delivery options, including mobile applications, telephone help, or texts.

## **Snohomish Pilchuck District Plan and Development Standards**

The strategy describes a plan to redevelop and revitalize an underutilized district within the City of Snohomish using a Transfer of Development Rights grant from Forterra (formerly known as Cascade Land Conservancy).

## **Tacoma's Mobility Master Plan**

The plan includes policies, goals and action items to create a comprehensive and sustainable system for active transportation. The city has identified implementation of this plan as a top priority and provided \$1 million to fund the first round of projects.



# Transportation 2040

## Moving into the Future

**Transportation 2040** identifies the investments needed to support the region's expected growth and outlines a financing plan that suggests a long-term shift in how the region funds transportation improvements. The plan also proposes a strategy for reducing transportation's contribution to climate change and its impact on important regional concerns such as air pollution and the health of Puget Sound.

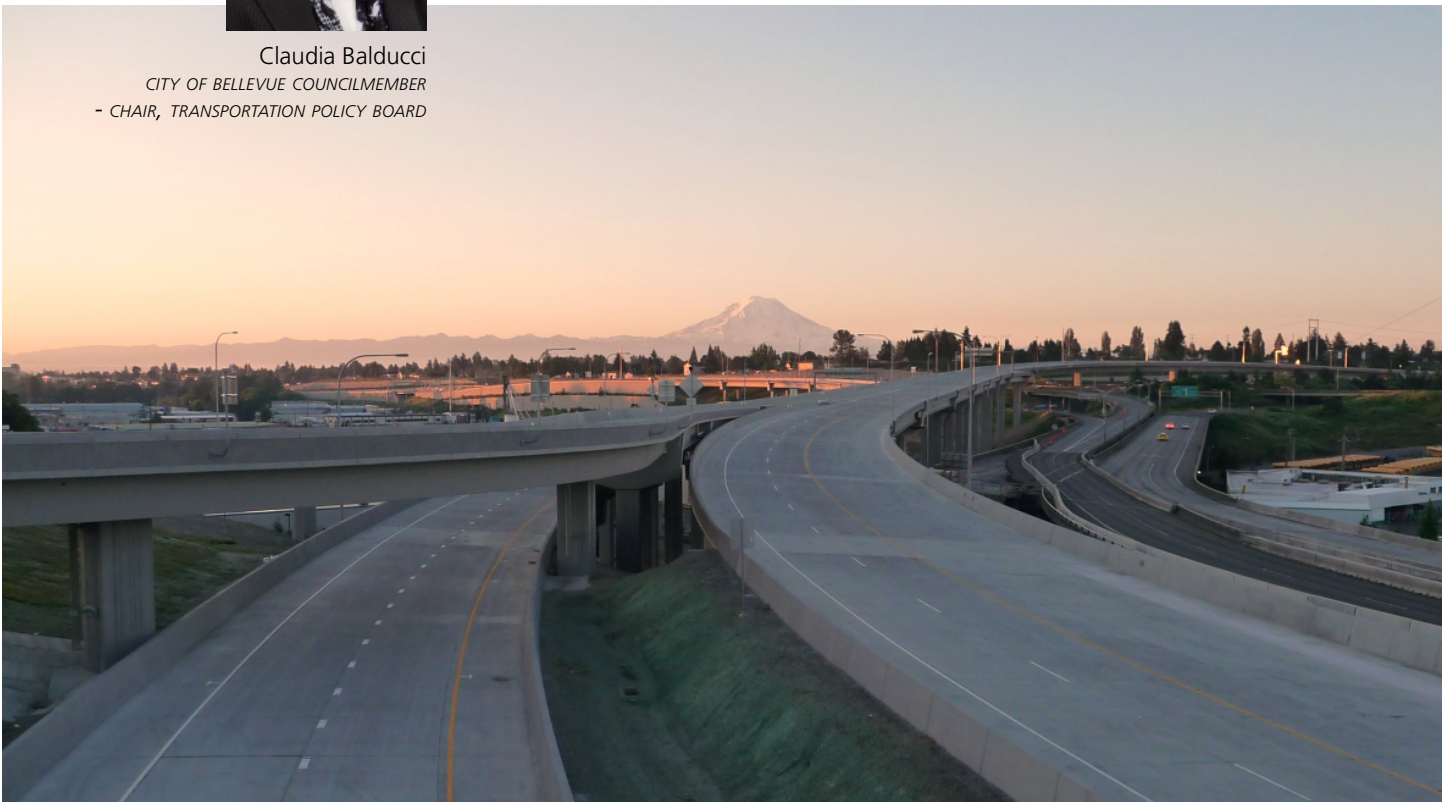
### Updating Transportation 2040

Transportation 2040 includes a commitment to better prioritize transportation projects. In 2011, regional leaders made progress in developing a prioritization method.



Claudia Balducci  
CITY OF BELLEVUE COUNCILMEMBER  
- CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

Work is underway on updating Transportation 2040 to reflect changes that have occurred in the region since 2010. Topics for the update include incorporating project prioritization, updating the financial plan, and addressing maintenance and preservation of the existing transportation system.



The new Nalley Valley Viaduct, ready to open on Sunday, June 26, 2011.



### **PSRC Prevails in Transportation 2040 Appeal**

King County Superior Court Judge Carol Schapira ruled in favor of the Puget Sound Regional Council in an appeal of Transportation 2040. In dismissing the case, the judge found, *“PSRC’s work was well informed, it moves the process of reducing emissions forward as PSRC has said it would, and PSRC has done its part to reduce emissions from transportation.”*

The plaintiffs filed a second appeal. The State Court of Appeals is expected to hear the case sometime in summer 2012.

### **Forward Washington**

PSRC joined with Washington’s other regional transportation planning organizations to develop a new pilot project that shows each region’s transportation investment priorities in easy-to-use maps and lists. Forward Washington is a website ([forwardwashington.net](http://forwardwashington.net)) where anyone can find out more about transportation priorities statewide — determined by people within every region of the state, planning together.

Forward Washington presents the combined efforts of the entire state via software developed by Paladin Data Systems of Poulsbo. It’s a new way for regional transportation planning organizations to coordinate and provide information on regional investments to the state Legislature and anyone with an interest in transportation planning.



Transportation 2040 is the region’s action plan for transportation over the next three decades.

# Promoting Economic Development



The Prosperity Partnership is working to promote a robust regional economy and high quality of life that will attract and retain businesses and talented workers from all over the world.

## Supporting the Aerospace Industry

This was a year of very good news for the Boeing Company and aerospace workers in the central Puget Sound region. In February 2011, the U.S. Air Force selected Boeing to produce 179 aerial refueling tankers. In November 2011, Boeing and the Machinists announced a landmark contract agreement, securing 737

MAX assembly in Washington.



The Washington Aerospace Partnership, co-chaired by PSRC executive director Bob Drewel, led statewide efforts to secure the tanker and the 737 MAX. Through the Partnership, business, labor and government leaders are working together to ensure Washington continues to be a leader in aerospace excellence.

The Washington Aerospace Partnership also worked with the Legislature and Governor to advance a package of legislative proposals to expand training and proficiency for workers and teachers and ensure the next generation is ready for careers as aerospace workers and engineers.



Dave Gossett  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER  
- PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Regional Economic Strategy Update

The Economic Development District Board guided efforts to update the Regional Economic Strategy. The new strategy will focus on supporting occupational clusters, in addition to industry clusters.

This approach will help the region better identify the best ways to grow the economy. The new strategy is expected to be adopted in 2012.

## BETI Network

PSRC led the effort to secure a \$1.15 million grant from the Economic Development Administration to help create the Building Efficiency Testing and Integration (BETI) network. The BETI network will be an important resource in helping companies commercialize clean energy products.





# Regional Data and Analysis

PSRC data includes population, housing and employment estimates, building permits, traffic counts, and custom 2010 Census products. Travel demand modeling, forecasts and geographic information systems provide information to support transportation, growth management and economic planning by cities and counties throughout the region.



PSRC serves as a resource for data on transportation, the economy and demographics for the region.



“The region can expect about 1.3 million more people and over a million more jobs in the next 30 years. Our job at PSRC is to get the region ready for growth.”

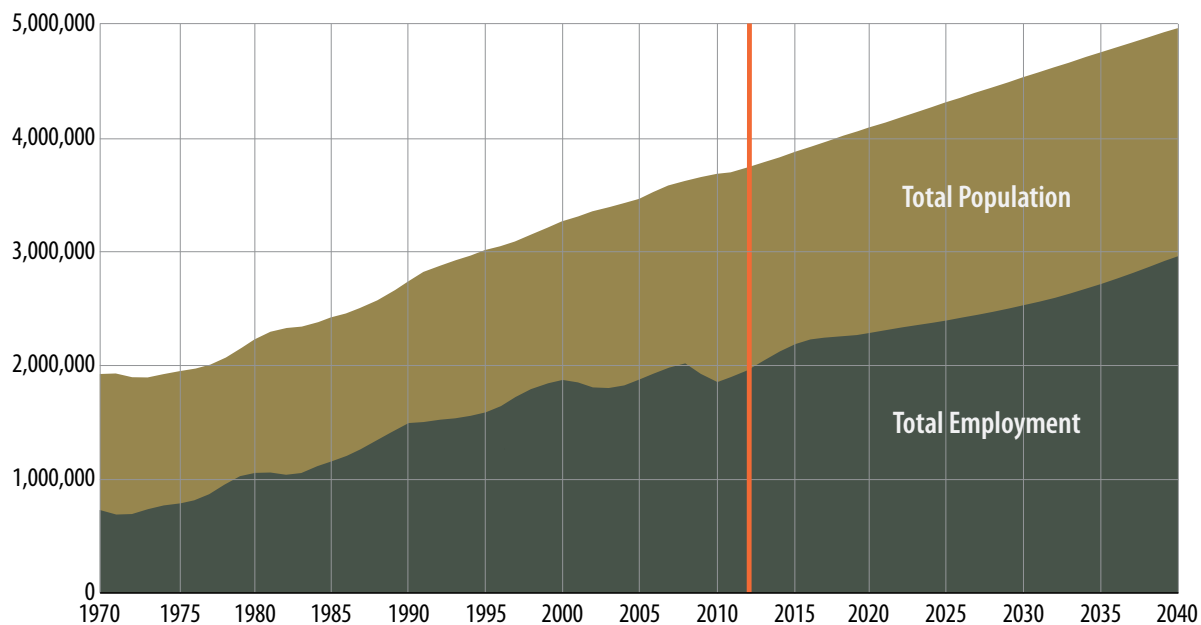
— Bob Drewel, PSRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### Updating Land Use Forecasts

Data staff worked on developing updated forecast products, drafts of which were released for public comment early in 2012. To ensure extensive review by local jurisdiction staff, the agency developed a web-based geographic information systems tool that gave local planners the ability to review inputs used in PSRC’s Land Use Forecasting Model.

**The region is expected to add 1.3 million people and 1.1 million jobs between now and 2040**



The Great Recession, shown as the dip starting in 2008 in the graphic above, created uncertainty about the economic future of the region and throughout the world. Newly updated draft long-term forecasts, developed in consultation with experts and data staff from around the region, anticipate that the region will continue to grow significantly in terms of employment and population over the next three decades.

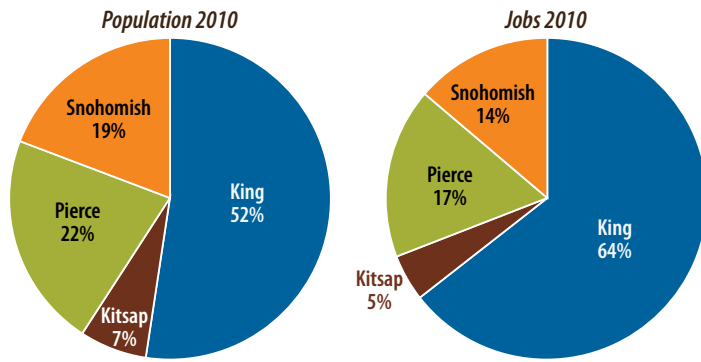


## Regional Trends

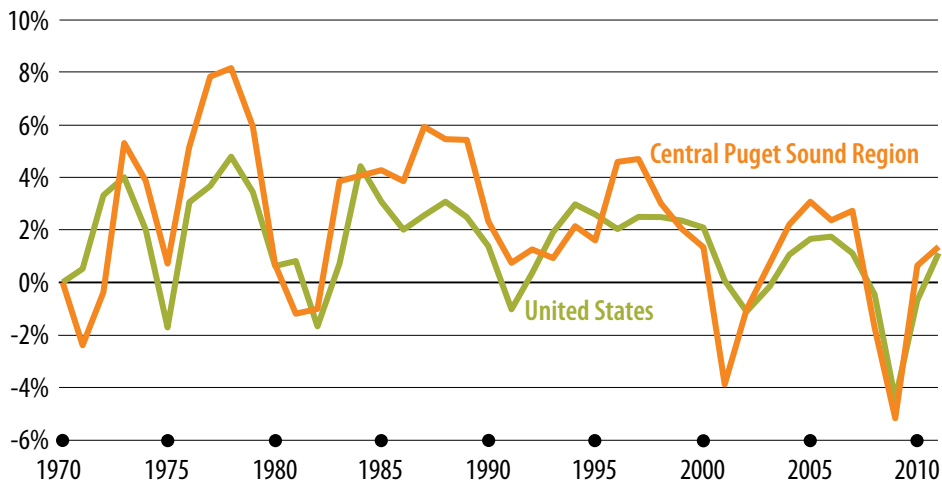
PSRC staff regularly crunch enormous amounts of data and translate that data into reports and presentations.

Below are a few examples of charts and graphs illustrating regional trends in population and employment.

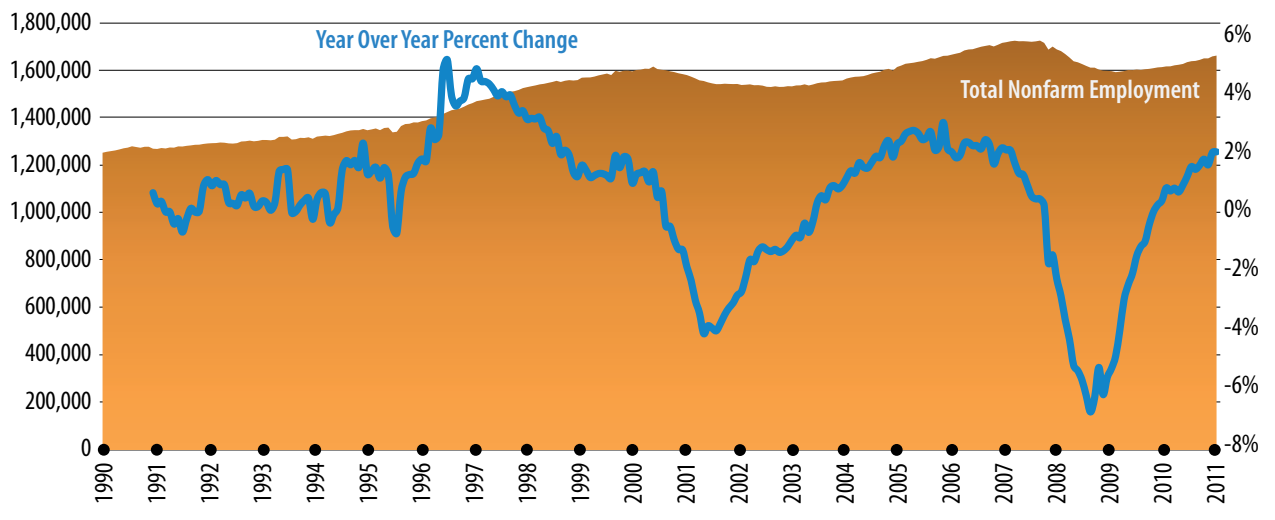
The central Puget Sound region is home to 3.7 million people and 1.85 million jobs



### Employment growth, 1970–2011



### The regional economy is beginning to recover from the Great Recession





The Puget Sound Regional Council is the regional planning organization for the four-county central Puget Sound region of Washington state. PSRC members include King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, 73 cities and towns, the region’s port districts, tribes, transit agencies, and state transportation agencies.

PSRC’s mission is to ensure a thriving central Puget Sound region now and into the future through planning for regional transportation, growth management and economic development. PSRC’s work includes:

- Long-range planning for transportation, economic development and land use
- Transportation funding—about \$180 million annually
- Regional data and research
- Regional coordination and outreach



## Leadership and Organization

PSRC is governed by a General Assembly and an Executive Board. Each member of PSRC is a voting member of the General Assembly, which meets at least annually to vote on major decisions, establish the budget, and elect new officers. The Executive Board is chaired by the PSRC President, meets monthly, and serves as the governing board. Both the General Assembly and Executive Board use weighted votes based on population to make decisions.

The Transportation Policy Board and Growth Management Policy Board include representatives of PSRC's member jurisdictions, tribes, regional business, labor, civic, and environmental groups, as well as voting members representing each caucus of the state Legislature. These boards make recommendations on key transportation and growth management issues to the Executive Board.

PSRC also supports the work of the region's Economic Development District, governed by a board composed of public and private members that meets bi-monthly to coordinate regional economic development planning.



Pat McCarthy  
*PIERCE COUNTY EXECUTIVE—PSRC VICE PRESIDENT*  
*- CHAIR, PSRC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE*

## Budget and Funding Sources

The Puget Sound Regional Council's proposed biennial budget for 2012-2013 (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013) is \$31.4 million. The agency's work program is funded by a combination of federal and state grants, as well as dues paid by PSRC members and from other local sources.

## PSRC Offices to Stay at 1011 Western Avenue

PSRC will remain at 1011 Western Avenue through 2024. Given current economic conditions, the time was right to look at options for entering into a new office lease in early 2012. Over the past year, staff worked closely with an outside commercial broker and the PSRC officers to identify a number of possible office locations in the Seattle central business district. After reviewing different options and costs, PSRC was able to negotiate a lease at the current location under favorable terms.



# Puget Sound Regional Council

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 <http://www.psrc.org/about/public/titlevi> or call 206-464-4819.

## **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/TDD at 206-464-5409.

## **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

206-464-7532 • FAX 206-587-4825 • [info@psrc.org](mailto:info@psrc.org) • [psrc.org](http://psrc.org)

**Learn more at [psrc.org](http://psrc.org)**



# PSRC Membership

## COUNTIES

King County  
Kitsap County  
Pierce County  
Snohomish County

## CITIES AND TRIBES

Algona  
Arlington  
Auburn  
Bainbridge Island  
Beaux Arts Village  
Bellevue  
Black Diamond  
Bonney Lake  
Bothell  
Bremerton  
Buckley  
Burien  
Clyde Hill  
Covington  
Darrington  
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 Tribal Council  
Mukilteo  
Newcastle  
Normandy Park  
North Bend  
Orting  
Pacific  
Port Orchard  
Poulsbo  
Puyallup

Redmond  
Renton  
Ruston  
Sammamish  
SeaTac  
Seattle  
Shoreline  
Skykomish  
Snohomish  
Snoqualmie  
Stanwood  
Steilacoom  
Sultan  
Sumner  
Tacoma  
The Suquamish Tribe  
Tukwila  
University Place  
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

Port of Edmonds  
Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington  
Island County  
Puget Sound Partnership  
Snoqualmie Tribe  
Thurston Regional Planning Council  
The Tulalip Tribes  
Washington Aerospace Office

## TRANSIT AGENCIES

Community Transit  
Everett Transportation Service  
King County Ferry District  
Kitsap Transit  
METRO (Metropolitan King County)  
Pierce Transit  
Sound Transit



