



— Puget Sound Regional Council —  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2017**





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Growth is the continuing story of our region this year.

Every time we see a new crane dotting the skyline or marvel at another building under construction in our neighborhood, we are reminded that the region is experiencing some of the highest rates of population and job growth in decades.

It's cause for excitement. The central Puget Sound region continues to be a place of vitality and innovation, a place where people want to live and businesses want to operate. We're incredibly fortunate to have an economy that is growing much faster than the national average. Voters and elected leaders have stepped up with unprecedented commitments to improve our transportation infrastructure.

Rapid growth is also presenting us with challenges. People have increasing concerns that prosperity and opportunity are not equally available to all who live here, and that new jobs are not being produced in enough parts of the region. We wonder if the region's amazing natural environment and quality of life can continue to thrive as the region grows.

People want growth and development to be done well and are more interested than ever in having an effective plan to prepare for future growth. Since the first VISION 2040 growth strategy was adopted more than 20 years ago, we've grown by a million people and the region has been largely successful in achieving our vision for focusing new growth in urban areas and keeping rural and resource lands intact.

Looking ahead, change will be inevitable as we gain nearly a million more people by 2040. But if we do it right, change can be a positive. We can welcome new people while enhancing and protecting all that we cherish about our region. Together at PSRC, we can collectively guide development and infrastructure investments so that in the decades to come, our region will still be known as an amazing place of beauty, opportunity and vitality.

Over the last year, PSRC has continued to focus on getting the region ready for the future. We invite you to take a tour through this annual report to learn more about the major planning, funding and data efforts we've been working on.

A big thank you goes out to our members and everyone who engages in what we do at PSRC. Our work has never been more important. Diverse participation from all corners of the region is critical to our success. We look forward to continuing to work with you on helping to achieve a bright future for our region.

Mayor John Marchione, PSRC President, City of Redmond & Josh Brown, PSRC Executive Director



*Mayor John Marchione,  
City of Redmond, PSRC President*



*Josh Brown,  
PSRC Executive Director*



# Taking on Transportation Challenges

*It's clear that the region is behind on transportation as growth is surging. But there is hope on the horizon. In coming years, we will see major progress to improve transportation throughout the region.*

## Unprecedented transportation investment on the way

New state and local transportation investments worth more than \$11 billion are now secured to improve the region's freeway system and roads, including new bicycle and pedestrian connections. Voters have approved expansion of the region's high capacity transit system. There will be new, fast passenger-only ferry service between downtown Seattle and Kitsap County starting this year.

## Updating the region's Transportation 2040 plan

Showcasing these transportation investments and their benefits to communities is part of PSRC's effort to update the region's Transportation 2040 plan. This update will also identify near-term actions to improve performance of the transportation system and close additional funding gaps.

The plan also will get ahead on key issues, including examining existing and emerging new technologies, efforts to address climate change, and recommending sustainable long-term funding for the region. A robust public engagement process will guide this effort. The new plan is expected to be adopted in spring 2018.

## PSRC funding for transportation

PSRC conducted competitive project selection processes to decide what projects would receive nearly \$700 million in federal funds in 2016. These include projects all over the region developed by local governments and transportation agencies to improve transit service, upgrade roads, create new bike and pedestrian connections, and more. All of the projects are part of the Transportation 2040 plan and support the region's growth strategy.

"The vast majority of these investments we're making are within the region's urban growth area and supporting the region's growth strategy - to sustain a healthy environment and a strong economy."

—Josh Brown, PSRC's Executive Director

## LOCAL ROADS

### Taylor Way Rehabilitation in Tacoma

Tacoma will improve the Taylor Way corridor near Fife by reconstructing the roadway surface, widening the SR 509/Taylor Way intersection, upgrading existing railroad crossings and traffic and pedestrian signals, adding sidewalks and other improvements

**PSRC FUNDING = \$1.4 MILLION**

### Tremont Street Widening in Port Orchard

Port Orchard is constructing major upgrades to Tremont Street, adding travel lanes, bike lanes, two new roundabouts, new sidewalks, traffic signals and other improvements.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$1.7 MILLION**

### 36<sup>th</sup> Ave W Improvements in Lynnwood

The city is making roadway improvements along 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue W from Maple Road to south of 164<sup>th</sup> St SW. The project will add lanes, traffic signal, roundabout, bicycle facilities, curb, and sidewalks.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$3 MILLION**

### Mountlake Terrace Main Street Reconstruction

The city is making major upgrades to 56<sup>th</sup> Ave W (236<sup>th</sup> to 230<sup>th</sup>) and 236<sup>th</sup> St SW (Transit Center to 56<sup>th</sup>). This first phase will reconstruct 236<sup>th</sup> St SW from the Transit Center through the intersection at 56<sup>th</sup> Ave W, allowing two travel lanes, a center turn lane, and bike lanes.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$4.1 MILLION**

**These projects are among those selected to receive nearly \$700 million in PSRC funding in 2016.**

**See the full list at [psrc.org](http://psrc.org).**

## REGIONAL TRANSIT

### Light rail from Angle Lake Station to Kent/Des Moines

Sound Transit will extend light rail in south King County to Kent — Des Moines.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$13 MILLION**

### Swift II Bus Rapid Transit

Community Transit will operate bus rapid service from Canyon Park P&R in Bothell to Seaway Transit Center in Everett.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$5 MILLION**

## RURAL TOWNS

### North Bend Downtown Plaza

The work includes big improvements to enhance North Bend Way and Main Street in downtown North Bend, including adding new sidewalks, street trees, design features, replacing a water main and services, and adding stormwater infrastructure.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$1.4 MILLION**

## HIGHWAY CONNECTIONS

### HOV lane on SR 167 in Pierce County

WSDOT is building an 8.57-mile segment of HOV lane on the congestion SR 167 corridor. The work will improve travel time and reliability.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$5 MILLION**

## CLEANER AIR

### Diesel Emissions Reduction Project at Port of Everett

The port is working on two elements to allow diesel mobile harbor cranes to connect to electric power and provide infrastructure for ships to use electric shore power rather than diesel generators while at berth.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$3 MILLION**

## BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN

### Lake Washington Loop Trail — Phase 3

Renton is constructing the third phase of a 1.3-mile separated pedestrian/bicycle path. This portion will run along Airport Way from the Logan Ave N/Cedar River Trail junction to the Rainier Ave — Airport Way intersection.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$1.7 MILLION**

### Pipeline Road/Cross County Commuter Connector Trail

Tacoma is building a 2.4-mile bicycle and pedestrian path from Pipeline Road at E. 48<sup>th</sup> Street to the Tacoma Dome Station.

**PSRC FUNDING = \$2 MILLION**

## SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORTATION

A share of PSRC's transportation funding helps support transportation services for seniors, youth, and people with disabilities. In January 2017, PSRC recommended 14 projects to receive **\$4.2 million** in funding. This process is closely coordinated with the state's grant competition. Among the projects recommended for funding:

- Mobility Management King County, Hopelink, \$513,056
- Beyond the Borders, Pierce County Community Connections, \$989,262
- Sustain Community Shuttles for Seniors and People with Disabilities in King County, City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services Division, \$490,911

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In October 2016, PSRC adopted a new four-year, **\$5.6 billion** Transportation Improvement Program that included projects recently awarded PSRC funding. Investments underway include many large state highway projects funded with last year's Connecting Washington package, new light rail connections, expanded bus service, improvements to city streets and county roads, and new bicycle and pedestrian connections.

# CREATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES AND A HEALTHY REGION

**VISION 2040 is the region's guide for growing smart over the coming decades. By focusing new growth within the urban growth area, VISION 2040 aims to keep rural areas, farms and forests intact and thriving. Within cities, a majority of the new housing and jobs for a growing population will locate in centers, creating vibrant urban neighborhoods.**

## Local plans match up with regional plans

An essential part of achieving VISION 2040 is the planning that happens at the neighborhood, city and county level. State law requires that cities and counties in the region periodically update their comprehensive plans. PSRC reviews the plans to ensure they meet state requirements and are consistent with VISION 2040. The current round of plan updates and reviews started in 2015 and is nearly complete. Every city that has submitted a comprehensive plan to PSRC is on track for full certification. A handful of cities are still working on their plans, which will be reviewed by PSRC when they're ready.

### New Manufacturing Industrial Center approved in Sumner and Pacific

In April, PSRC approved a request to designate a 2,100-acre industrial area within the cities of Sumner and Pacific as a new regional manufacturing/industrial center. Development within the proposed center is expected to accommodate significant employment growth in an area that is well served by transportation and public facilities.

### Regional Centers Framework Update

Centers are a foundation of the region's VISION 2040 growth strategy as places where a substantial share of new housing and jobs will locate. Over the past year, PSRC has been working with members and other stakeholders to propose ways to help centers of all kinds thrive and attract development.

A Centers Stakeholder Working Group with 21 staff members representing jurisdictions throughout the region developed a report with options for consideration. PSRC reached out to regional and countywide committees to get feedback on the options. Over the spring and summer, the Growth Management Policy Board will have extended work sessions on the regional centers project. A final recommendation by the growth board is anticipated in the fall, with action by the Executive Board expected by the end of the year.

### Regional Open Space Conservation Plan

In times of rapid growth, accelerating efforts to preserve open space is more important than ever. Trails, parks, forests, farms and many other kinds of open space make the Puget Sound region a special place to live. PSRC is working on a Regional Open Space Conservation Plan that will bring together open space and related plans from counties, tribes, resource agencies, salmon recovery groups, and other organizations. The plan will prioritize and elevate these open space needs to attract funding and support.

# AMAZING PLACE

Growing jobs and opportunity in the central Puget Sound region

## Emerging economic strategy prepares region for the future

The region uses a shared economic strategy to understand the foundations of the regional economy and identify the actions required to sustain economic vitality and compete globally.

The region's economy is growing faster than it has in decades, but not all residents are sharing in the prosperity. *Amazing Place*, the region's economic strategy now being developed, aims to sustain and enhance what makes the central Puget Sound region an amazing place to live and work while engaging ALL residents in our robust regional economy. The draft strategy includes four broad goals:

### Sustain a high quality of life

High quality of life helps attract new residents, businesses, and investments that power the region's economy. Maintaining an outstanding natural environment and access to open space benefits both the health of people who live here and rural livelihoods. Developing affordable housing near job opportunities and transit connections supports population growth in urban centers. Promoting the region as a welcoming place for all generates a diverse and creative community that drives innovation across industries.

### Open economic opportunities to everyone

Strong education and training at all ages and levels helps create a pool of local talent to address future workforce gaps across occupations. Equitable access for women, minorities and other underrepresented populations to education, training, and business opportunities allows all residents to participate in regional prosperity.

“Our region is witnessing a surge of job growth, but we’ve also learned we can’t take our economy for granted. This new strategy is focused on what we need to do over the next few years to better prepare for the future, and to provide more equitable access to jobs and opportunity throughout the region.”

Catherine Stanford, President, Economic Development Board & Deputy Mayor, Lake Forest Park





## Compete globally

World renowned educational institutions and cutting edge research and development attracts talent from around the globe. Growing incentives for industry competitiveness creates a positive business climate and strengthens legacy industries – including Aerospace, Maritime, and Military & Defense – as well as new and emerging industries – such as Commercial Space Exploration and Cross Laminated Timber – to remain and thrive.

## Connect the region to the world

The region is a growing domestic and global gateway for goods and people. This accessibility is central to economic growth. Marketing the region as a destination for tourism and trade nurtures cultural exchange and foreign investment. Modernizing transportation infrastructure improves movement of local goods to international markets and allows the region to catch up to – and outpace – global competitors.

*Amazing Place* will be implemented under guidance from the region's Economic Development Board. The strategy is designed to be flexible and responsive to the changing needs and opportunities of the region. Ongoing assessment and development of targeted and strategic activities will help grow an equitable and healthy place that matches the values and aspirations of the region's people.



# 2016 VISION 2040 AWARD WINNERS

## Cross Kirkland Corridor Park

Kirkland redeveloped six miles of the former Eastside BNSF rail line into a bicycle and pedestrian trail and park. The project included a partnership with Google as the company developed its campus. The trail park connects over 1,700 businesses, seven neighborhoods and numerous facilities and amenities.

## SR 520 Floating Bridge and Landings Project

This massive regional project includes a new six-lane bridge with HOV lanes, bicycle path, and direct access ramps with improved stormwater treatment and ability to take on light rail. The project includes variable tolling and was the result of nearly two decades of work by WSDOT, cities and other partners along the corridor.

## JBLM Transportation Demand Management Project

This project took an integrated approach to reducing congestion around Joint Base Lewis McChord, involving numerous stakeholders, GPS tracking of vanpool, transit and a shared bicycle fleet, and ties to the base's growth coordination plan.

## Manchester Stormwater Park

Kitsap County retrofitted an existing stormwater basin to treat a larger drainage area, maximize water quality treatment and correct flooding issues in an attractive public park.

## North Stillaguamish River Valley Economic Redevelopment Plan

A plan to rebuild a community after a devastating natural disaster through improvements to recreational infrastructure to attract people to the area, foster an innovative ecosystem around entrepreneurialism, and advance resource-based industry clusters.



## REGIONAL DATA

PSRC is a leading source of the regional data and forecasts needed to plan for the future.

## SoundCast offers insights for transportation and land use planning

PSRC's new activity-based travel forecasting model is called SoundCast. The latest version of the model released in May 2016 can predict the entire string of trips made in a day by residents, and treats individual households separately. This means that the modeling more accurately shows how qualities such as household income, auto ownership, and proximity to transit can influence a person's predicted travel behavior. SoundCast also produces new performance metrics such as transit use by different age groups and incomes for all types of activities like work and shopping.

## Regional Travel Study

PSRC kicked off a new round of the Puget Sound Travel Study in the spring of 2017. This is a periodic travel survey of thousands of people around the region. Participants report all of the trips during a one-day period, with a smaller subset tracking trips for seven days. Once the data is analyzed, planners can discover how travel habits are evolving and answer questions like: How long is a typical commute? Are more people traveling by bike? Are travel choices different for people who live or work in centers?

The surveys are conducted on a rolling basis, allowing the agency to collect more current data and track quickly how travel habits evolve. The spring 2017 household travel survey is part of a six-year survey program for three, two-year survey cycles.



“The region has seen tremendous population and job growth in recent years, along with completion of new transportation infrastructure. This survey will provide an up-to-date view of how residents get around and help decision makers continue to plan improvements in the transportation system.”

— Josh Brown, PSRC's Executive Director





## Puget Sound Trends

*Puget Sound Trends offer data snapshots and analysis of trends affecting the region.*

### Population edges over 4 million people

Population in the central Puget Sound region reached 3,985,040 in April 2016, growing by 86,320 people over the previous year. This was the biggest gain this century and the highest growth rate in 20 years. Based on the current rate of population growth, the region likely grew past 4 million people by June 2016.

#### Population of the Central Puget Sound Region, 2014 to 2016

	2014 POPULATION	2015 POPULATION	2016 POPULATION	2014-2015 POP CHANGE	2015-2016 POP CHANGE
<b>Region</b>	<b>3,835,450</b>	<b>3,898,720</b>	<b>3,985,040</b>	<b>63,270/1.6%</b>	<b>86,320/2.2%</b>
King County	2,017,250	2,052,800	2,105,100	35,550/1.8%	52,810/2.5%
Pierce County	821,300	830,120	844,490	8,820/1.1%	14,370/1.7%
Snohomish County	741,000	757,600	772,860	16,600/2.2%	15,260/2.0%
Kitsap County	255,900	258,200	262,590	2,300/0.9%	4,390/1.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington State Office of Financial Management.

### Job gains highest since 2000

The region started the year building on six years of robust job growth, adding 269,600 jobs since January 2010. That's 150 jobs per day. The majority of the job gains occurred in King and Snohomish counties. Throughout the year, job growth continued to accelerate. By the end of 2016, the region had added a total of 59,400 jobs, marking the seventh consecutive year of job growth.

#### Job Growth in the Central Puget Sound Region, 1991 to 2016

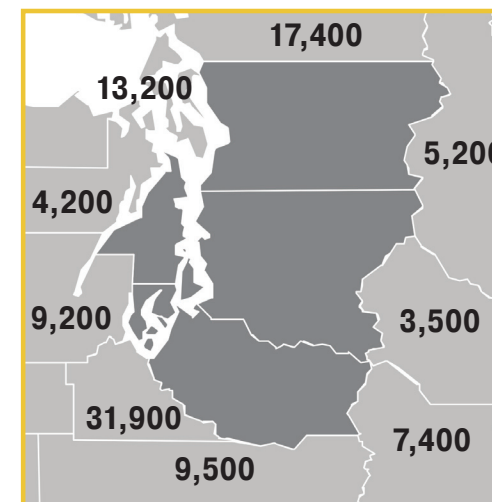
	1991-1996	1996-2001	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016
<b>Region</b>	<b>162,700</b>	<b>146,000</b>	<b>118,500</b>	<b>-21,700</b>	<b>270,900</b>
Seattle MSA (King and Snohomish Counties)	128,100	123,800	72,800	-8,900	229,600
Tacoma MSA (Pierce County)	30,100	18,500	34,300	-8,900	35,600
Bremerton MSA (Kitsap County)	4,500	3,700	11,400	-3,900	5,700

Source: Washington Employment Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted), WA Employment Security Department (ESD), January 24, 2017.  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (Seasonally Adjusted), WA Employment Security Department (ESD), February 1, 2017.



### Transit ridership keeps growing

Monthly boardings on the region's transit system were up approximately 3.6% in the first seven months of 2016 and continue to outpace employment and population growth. The region's transit boardings have grown faster than any other large metropolitan area in the United States since 2005.

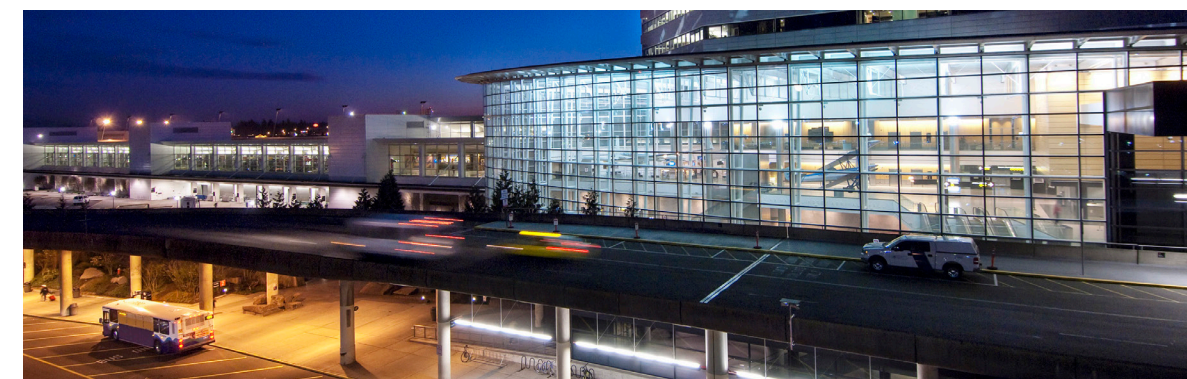


### More Puget Sound workers living outside the region

More than 100,000 people who live outside the region commute into the region for work – about 5% of the entire workforce of central Puget Sound (King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap counties).

### On pace for another record year at Sea-Tac Airport

Over 45 million passengers passed through Sea-Tac in 2016 — an 8% increase since 2015.



# ABOUT THE PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is a regional planning organization that develops policies and makes decisions about transportation, economic development and growth management. PSRC's work includes:

- Long-range planning for transportation, economic development and growth management
- Transportation funding – about \$260 million annually
- Regional data and research
- Regional coordination and outreach

## Leadership and organization

The work of the Puget Sound Regional Council is guided by its members, which include King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, 73 cities and towns, four port districts, the region's transit agencies, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Transportation Commission, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Suquamish Tribe.

Elected officials representing PSRC members meet annually as a General Assembly to vote on major decisions, approve the budget, and elect new leadership. The Executive Board makes decisions on behalf of the General Assembly on a monthly basis with the input of several advisory boards made up of local elected officials and representatives of business, labor, environmental and community interests, and members of the public.

## Budget and funding sources

The Puget Sound Regional Council's proposed biennial budget for 2018-2019 (July 2017 – June 30, 2019) is \$25.9 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.

## New Public Participation Plan

PSRC finalized its updated Public Participation Plan in 2017. The plan reflects current practices for public involvement, interagency consultation, and more, all in one document for public reference. The plan includes expanded social media on Facebook and Twitter, increased use of the blog, updated State Environmental Policy Act procedures, and additional translation services.



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Marchione • Mayor, City of Redmond/Other Cities & Towns in King County — PRESIDENT  
Dave Somers • Executive, Snohomish County — VICE PRESIDENT

Glen Bachman • Commissioner, Port of Everett  
Nancy Backus • Mayor, City of Auburn/Other Cities & Towns in King County  
Claudia Balducci • Councilmember, King County  
Shiv Batra • Commissioner, Washington State Transportation Commission  
Cary Bozeman • Commissioner, Port of Bremerton  
Tim Burgess • Councilmember, City of Seattle  
Dow Constantine • Executive, King County  
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John Creighton • Commissioner, Port of Seattle  
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Dave Hill • Mayor, City of Algona/Other Cities & Towns in King County  
Rob Johnson • Councilmember, City of Seattle  
Denis Law • Mayor, City of Renton  
Dick Marzano • Commissioner, Port of Tacoma  
Roger Millar • Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation  
Ed Murray • Mayor, City of Seattle  
Mike O'Brien • Councilmember, City of Seattle  
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Terry Ryan • Councilmember, Snohomish County  
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John Stokes • Mayor, City of Bellevue  
Marilyn Strickland • Mayor, City of Tacoma  
Rick Talbert • Councilmember, Pierce County  
Mike Todd • Councilmember, City of Mill Creek/Other Cities & Towns in Snohomish County  
Barbara Tolbert • Mayor, City of Arlington/Other Cities & Towns in Snohomish County  
Amy Walen • Mayor, City of Kirkland

# 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 Tribe—Mukilteo—Newcastle—Normandy Park—North Bend—Orting—Pacific—Port Orchard—Poulsbo—Puyallup—Puyallup Tribe of Indians—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—Alderwood Water & Wastewater District—Port of Edmonds—Island County—Puget Sound Partnership—Snoqualmie Indian Tribe—Thurston Regional Planning Council—Tulalip Tribes—University of Washington—Washington State University

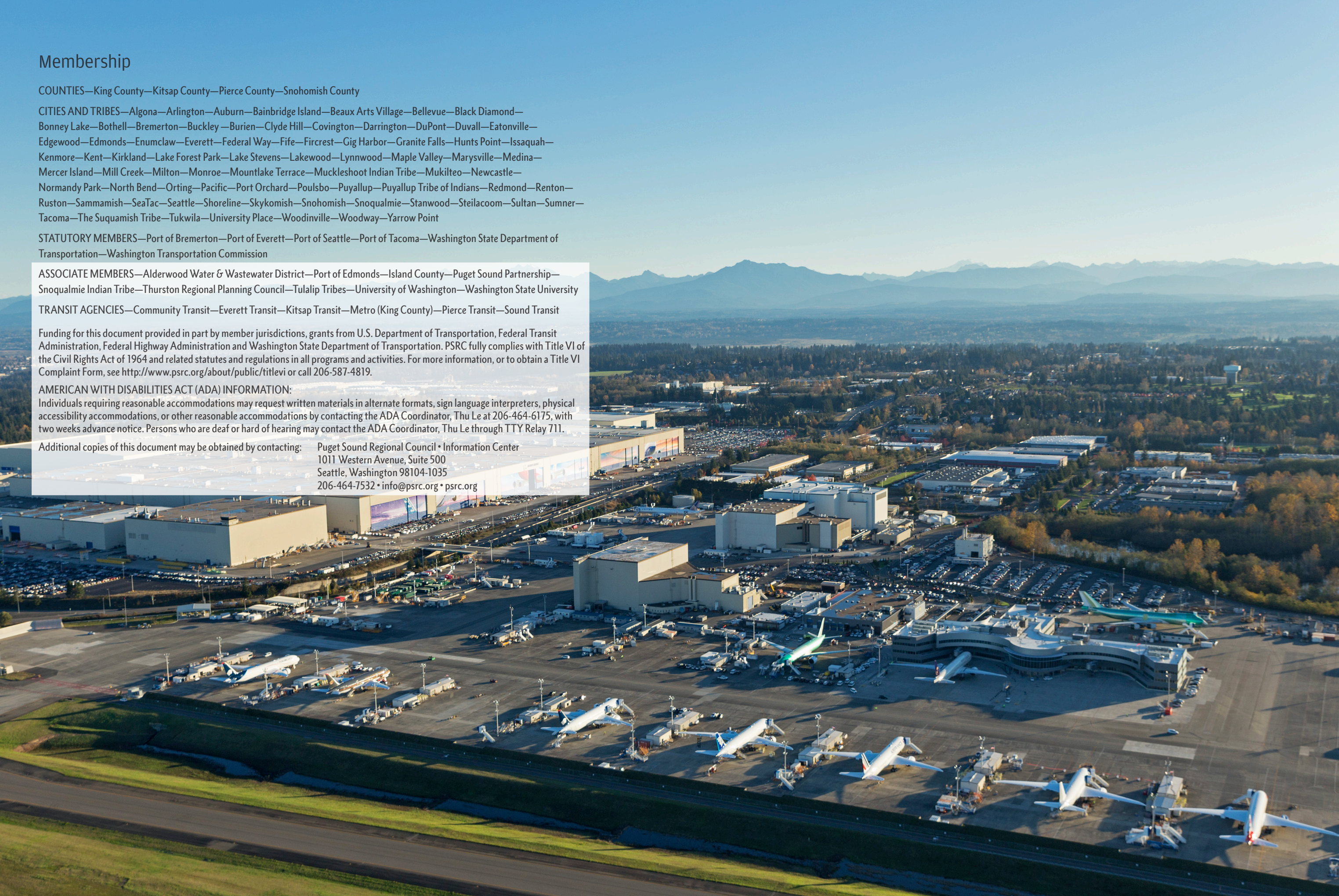
TRANSIT AGENCIES—Community Transit—Everett Transit—Kitsap Transit—Metro (King County)—Pierce Transit—Sound Transit

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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  
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**MAY 2017**