

TRANSPORTATION FUTURES: NEXT STEPS

Following the conclusion of the Transportation Futures Task Force work program, several steps could be taken to implement recommendations. As clearly demonstrated in the public opinion research and public engagement, the general public is unaware that there is a significant problem with the structure of the transportation finance system. A consistent core message of the barriers and conditions going forward should serve as context for additional work. Engagement with regional decision makers can lay the groundwork for a wider regional conversation about these issues. At the same time, there are opportunities to continue working on the recommended Early Action steps in 2016.

Barriers and Conditions to Address Going Forward: Underscore the Problem

- The general public – both statewide and in the region:
 - Believes that transportation is a significant problem that needs more resources to address;
 - Does not know that there is a structural problem with current transportation revenues and that these revenues are insufficient to meet our future needs;
 - Does not support unfamiliar and untested new revenue sources
- The region's population and economy are growing faster than the rest of the state and at a time when its transportation infrastructure is the most stressed in the state
- Recent State transportation packages have focused on securing revenues for state highways and regional transit, leaving mounting unmet needs for local governments and local transit
- Public and private sector leaders have recognized the need for new regional funding tools that do not place additional burden on the rest of the state to meet our needs.

Action Steps

- **Engage with Regional Decision Makers.** Bring the problem described above and Task Force recommendations to regional leadership. Arrange a meeting with Task Force representatives and PSRC officers/leadership; organize speakers bureau to bring issues and recommendations to regional transportation boards, chambers of commerce transportation committees, others.
- **Develop Proposal for Regional Authority.** In 2016, work with regional leaders to develop a proposal for a regional authority that identifies its structure, powers, and organization. Consider developing draft legislation for the 2017 legislative session.
- **Work towards a Pay-Per-Mile Pilot.** In 2016, work with the WA State Transportation Commission to develop a Road Usage Charge (pay-per-mile) pilot project in the central Puget Sound region, which includes demand management, time of day, and facility-specific pricing consistent with Task Force recommendations.
- **Consider Recommendations in the Regional Transportation Plan Update.** Work with PSRC committees to consider recommendations as part of the 2018 Transportation 2040 (work begins in late 2016).