PRTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 15, 2025 | 10:00 – 12:00
Zoom Meeting – Login Below

1. 10:00 **Welcome and Introductions**

2. 10:05 **Consent Calendar** — ACTION
   - *Approval of Agenda*
   - *Approval of Recap from March 20, 2025 (Attachment)*

3. 10:10 **Joint Operations Group Formation in Peninsula Region** — BRIEFING
   Roger Wilbur, *Joint Operations Group, WSDOT*
   The TAC will hear about a new interagency group forming within the Peninsula Region. The Joint Operations Group, or JOG, is a collaboration between WSDOT, the WA State Patrol, and the WA Fire Chief. It intends to create a venue for regular, ongoing communications among the region's many different transportation providers and enhance the ability of JOG partners to respond to incidents that impact the transportation system as well as major disasters. There is no cost to be a member of the JOG. JOG members have access to real-time data and information platforms developed for this purpose. Participation entails one hour a month. This briefing will introduce you to this new opportunity and provide answers to your questions.

4. 10:40 **Peninsula RTP Online** *(Attachment)* — WORK SESSION
   The working draft RTP update is almost ready for public review. Before it is released, TAC members are asked to review the new online format, try out the navigation links, and provide feedback to staff to help refine the content further before it's presented to the public. Members are asked to pay particular attention to the Planning Framework and its associated Strategic Agenda & Action Plan. The TAC is asked to recommend the draft be released for public review. Board approval will be requested in June.

6. 11:40 **PRTPO Coordinator Updates** — BRIEFING
   Short updates to keep members apprised about matters of potential interest.

7. 11:45 **Member Roundtable** — ALL
   An opportunity to share information on activities and other topics of interest to members.

NEXT TAC MEETING – July 17, 2025

Complete Street Candidates Dashboard – Final Review and Discussion
Review of 2026-2031 RTIP Development Process
Guidance on Developing the 2026 RTP Project List

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81296656214?pwd=IdtWZAvbZk4MO6E8JC8Sfd8fRwRj5f.1
Or by phone: 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma). Meeting ID: 812 9665 6214 Pass Code: 4780

Meeting Recap

PRTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 20, 2025
10:00 – 12:00
Via Zoom

Call to Order
Chair Jayme Brooke called the meeting to order at 10:00.

ATTENDEES

Technical Advisory Committee:

Clallam County	Steve Gray
Kitsap County	Melissa Mohr
Mason County	Kobree Glaser
City of Bremerton	Vicki Grover
City of Port Angeles	Tim Hayes
Port Orchard	Chris Hammer
City of Poulsbo	Michael Bateman
City of Sequim	Katie Cole
City of Shelton	Aaron Nix
Port of Bremerton	Arne Bakker
Port of Shelton	Dick Taylor
Clallam Transit	Jim Fetzer
Jefferson Transit	Jayme Brooke
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Wendy Clark-Getzin
Skokomish Tribe	Marty Allen
Squaxin Island Tribe	Leo Thomas
WSDOT Olympic Region	Nazmul Alam

Staff:
Thera Black, PRTPO Coordinator
Edward Coviello, PRTPO Coordinator, Lead Planning Agency

Other Attendees:
Steve Abernathy, DEA

Welcome and Introductions
Chair Brooke welcomed attendees and conducted introductions.

Approval of Consent Calendar

ACTION: Dick moved, and Michael seconded to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar

- ***Agenda***
- ***Recap of January 16,2025 Meeting***

RTP: Determination of Consistency Between RTP and Local Plans

Thera explained the regulatory nature and history of PRTPO's consistency determination of local countywide planning policies and comprehensive plans. This is a somewhat administrative function at this point in GMA implementation and so it can be streamlined to be less of a burden on local agency and regional staff.

She reviewed draft language in a working brief. It is intended to be a standing statement of consistency that will remain in place until such time that the Executive Board feels it needs to be changed. She walked through the situations in which a local plan may be determined by the Board to be inconsistent with the RTP in the future: either the local comprehensive plan is determined by the Growth Management Hearings Board to be inconsistent with its relevant countywide planning policies, or it fails to comply with mandated GMA requirements. In either of those unlikely situations the Board would want to review the situation and might revise its determination based on that review. In addition, any member can request the Board to look at a particular plan because of concerns about consistency, as a part of its biennial RTP review process. She noted PRTPO has very limited authorities granted to it under state law. GMA-compliant countywide planning policies establish the framework for consistency determinations. It would be very difficult for those to change in a way that they would become inconsistent with the Growth Management Act.

Members supported the effort to streamline the process and eliminate the 20-page checklists used in the past. If there are issues between jurisdictions, the logical place to resolve those is with Commerce and ultimately, the Growth Management Hearings Board. PRTPO has no jurisprudence over matters like that.

PRTPO also has more limited authorities than PSRC. Kitsap members will still need to comply with PSRC's consistency review requirements. They are completely separate from PRTPO's process.

Michael suggested PRTPO notify local planning departments of this approach. Others observed this would allow local agencies to include a corresponding statement of consistency in their plans, reinforcing the coordinated nature of local and regional plans. Thera confirmed that TAC members would be willing to take this to their respective planning departments and be the liaison with PRTPO on this.

Complete Streets Candidates – Local Review

TAC members have taken responsibility for developing regional guidance to support WSDOT Olympic Region in its efforts to comply with the *Complete Streets* budget proviso by identifying locations that merit a closer look with WSDOT conducts its screening processes. WSDOT is required to look at the need for complete street improvements when it is doing a project, though it received no funding to actually carry out those improvements. This exercise is intended to highlight those select areas on the state system where land use is generating transit, walk, and bike trips that are not safely accommodated by the highway serving these trips.

Thera walked the TAC through the online mapping tool developed for this purpose. She explained that the forty sites shared with the TAC in January have been entered, and showed what information is included for each site. She advised that for most of the sites she was unable to input what local plan or study identified each site, if applicable, nor other relevant local context that explains why each site merits extra consideration. This is information TAC members will need to input.

Wendy and Melissa both accessed the tool before the meeting and made changes. They shared their experience and noted it was fairly intuitive to use, even without a User Guide. There is some disappointment that a corridor location is represented by a point and not a line. Thera explained she had to choose one or the other and opted for the point since so many locations are site specific. But the Location Description field and the Additional Notes field can be used to clarify corridor locations and their extents.

Wendy suggested this platform could be expanded to include all the locations identified in locally adopted Complete Street plans that are located on the regional network. Not all of the cities and counties have developed such a plan, but for those who have, it would highlight additional needs on the regional system. Thera considered the idea and advised it would be best to complete this tool as it was intended, to support WSDOT's complete streets screening process, and then look at additional opportunities such as Wendy suggested as add-ons. She was uncertain there would be the time and budget to do that broader work as a part of the update underway, but it is a great example of the kind of follow-up activity the RTP can put forward.

Michael asked if the data form could include an attachment field. Some of these locations have associated drawings or studies that would also be useful. Thera will check with her GIS support to see if this can be added.

Peninsula RTP Online

Thera introduced the TAC to the working draft of the RTP taking shape on PRTPO's website. It is still under development, but it is accessible now from the Documents page of the website. She walked members through the content that is currently available and encouraged them to spend some time exploring it. She highlighted features including the draft Regional Agenda and Action Plan that are being developed for this update as well as the online mapping tools that are available. She asked members to explore the site and provide her with feedback, suggestions, and updates as development progresses. The TAC will be asked to recommend its approval in May to the Board.

PRTPO Coordinator Updates

Thera reported that Local Programs is urging local agencies to proceed with obligating their federally funded projects and to keep expenditures flowing. There is concern that with all the uncertainty, agencies won't meet their obligation targets this year and Washington will lose funding. Members observed that it is taking a very long time for Local Programs to process submittals. They are doing their best, but agencies should plan on including much longer times for project approvals than typical.

Member Updates

Michael reported that Poulsbo received good bids for the Noll Road North project and a curb ramp project. Both will get underway shortly. He also shared information about a new AI-supported network inventory and rating tool that Poulsbo public works staff have been using for a couple of weeks. It is called Vialytics and it does pavement ratings, inventories manhole covers, signs and conditions, and other roadway features. He offered to stick around and show interested members some of its output.

Melissa reported that Kitsap Public Works Director Andy Nelson is retiring mid-April.

Vicki reported that the Bremerton Public Works Director Tom Knuckey is retiring in June.

Marty reported that the Skokomish Tribe completed its road inventory update.

Ed let everyone know that he is back from his short stint with FTA and is in his old job at Kitsap Transit, and will continue working with PRTPO.

Adjourn

Jayme adjourned the meeting at 12:00.

DRAFT

ACTION ITEM

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: Thera Black, PRTPO Coordinator
Date: May 8, 2025
Subject: **Review of Draft Peninsula RTP Online and Release for Public Comment**

REQUESTED ACTION:
The TAC is asked to help refine and then approve the draft Peninsula RTP Online for public review. The draft can be found on the Documents page of PRTPO's website.

Background
For the last two years, the TAC and Executive Board have been deeply involved in an update to PRTPO's long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). We are nearing the end of that process. If things go as planned, the Executive Board will be asked to adopt the update in June. Between now and then we will finalize the draft with feedback from the TAC and release it for public comment. Your review and input are important for that to be successful.

Overview
For compliance purposes, this update extends the planning horizon to 2050, ensuring PRTPO maintains a 20+ year perspective. A more significant aspect of this update, though, is converting the long-range planning document into an online format that is more useful to members and is easier to keep current. To that end, we've separated out the relatively static regulatory components of the region's RTP from the planning components.

- You'll find a **Policy Framework** that documents RTPO regulatory compliance and serves as an easy to navigate library for RTP elements that appeal primarily to a small universe of transportation professionals – goals and policies, consistency determinations, biennial reviews, regulations, checklists. Most of these items have a long shelf life. We'll also have printable versions of some of the dynamic content, but in a simplified format.
- You'll also find a dynamic **Planning Framework**. This is specific to the Peninsula Region and is tailored to PRTPO's needs and interests. It is oriented around those tough topics members developed and which are specific to this region. It introduces a *Strategic Agenda & Action Plan* that lays out big issues derived from the Board's *Transportation Outlook* folio, as refined by the Board and TAC over this past year. It clarifies PRTPO's objectives for these tough topics and identifies small but meaningful steps that PRTPO or others can take to get the ball rolling on some of these matters. It is the most significant change in the actual content of the RTP.

You will find modest updates to PRTPO's long-standing goals and policies, located now in the Policy Framework. As discussed early on, we did not concentrate PRTPO's limited resources for this update on major updates to this section. Those goals and policies reflect years of refinement by members and seem to address most any facet of the regional system people might be interested in. A few additions address the new topics and state priorities that have emerged in the last five years. For those interested in those changes, a mark-up copy of the text is available.

We also migrated the required "system inventory" to an online GIS format. This will enable that information to do more than satisfy RCW 47.80 requirements, offering regional data that will be refreshed with current data as it is available.

We are trying to enhance the RTP value by aligning it with PRTPO's other mandatory work program deliverables: the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). This helps PRTPO get more done with its tiny budget. It can also be a useful lever for advancing priority regional concerns and projects.

Introduction of the *Strategic Agenda & Action Plan* is in response to the Board's expressed interest in helping to carry out the RTP. Board members are looking for ways that PRTPO can be an effective regional partner alongside its local, state, and tribal partners and other stakeholders in tackling some of these big issues facing the region.

PRTPO doesn't have much of a budget, but it has a big table with 27 governments together around it. The Planning Framework takes advantage of that. Activities presented in the *Strategic Agenda & Action Plan* offer a menu of potential work program items that PRTPO can pursue within its regular budget or with supplemental support. Each is a useful "next step" that will increase understanding and help queue up logical next steps and the alliances needed to get traction on these matters.

While the public review will include the entire RTP Online, we expect the Planning Framework and associated *Strategic Agenda & Action Plan* will generate the most interest outside of select planning audiences.

Consistency Determination

As we discussed in March, I am working to come up with a consistency determination process that is efficient to administer and passes muster with WSDOT. It may not be quite as streamlined as I'd hoped. Members are in various stages of their Comprehensive Plan updates and have some different GMA requirements to meet. PRTPO's consistency determination needs to accommodate all of that. We may complete this after the RTP update is finalized. I am working with WSDOT now to come up with a process that supports local and regional planning needs while satisfying state regulatory requirements.

Feedback Requested

TAC members learned in March how to access the draft RTP content from PRTPO's website. I've heard from a couple of people who've explored it and revised some of the navigation. A few peripheral things still need to be done and I need to add image attributes, but most elements are complete now, and all links should work. Other than some additional formatting and graphics support, I think it is close to ready for public review. But I want to know what you think.

Please try to make a little time before the meeting Thursday to take the draft RTP Online for a spin. We will go through it in some detail at the TAC meeting, but it would be helpful if you spent a little time with it before then. Here are a couple of specific things I'm curious about, with your fresh eyes on this:

- How effective is the organizational structure of the Policy Framework and the Planning Framework? Is navigation in and around the site logical and easy to understand?
- Does the format of the *Strategic Agenda & Action Plan* work? What about the content of that new feature? This may become the most frequently referenced section of the RTP and will be updated regularly. This is a good time to clarify language and add or delete specific action items. The TAC has been helpful in identifying specific needs that PRTPO could undertake that will have benefit to members.

And of course, I welcome comments or suggestions on any of the content. I aim to have photos of each member throughout the Planning Framework. If you have any images you'd like to contribute, please send them my way.

Unless this completely misses the mark, I will incorporate feedback I get from the TAC into this working draft by May 22nd, when I'd like to release it for review. During that review period, we can continue to work together to word-smith this and correct mistakes.

Next Steps

The public review period is expected to run from May 22nd through June 12th. It is an online process. If you are willing to share the notice and link with those you think might be interested, that would be great. Depending on the magnitude of suggestions we receive, I hope to have a final draft for the Board to review on June 13th, for approval on June 20th.