



## City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

October 2, 2018

Milt Tremblay, Chair  
Pierce County Regional Council  
c/o Tiffany Aliment, Clerk Pierce County Planning and Land Services  
2401 S. 35th St., Room 175  
Tacoma, WA 98409

Dear Chair Tremblay,

The City of Tacoma is fully committed to engaging in regional planning through the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). To the greatest extent possible our Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations, and Capital Facility Plans reflect the shared regional vision currently articulated in PSRC's VISION 2040 growth strategy. Additionally, we are excited to be an integral part of implementing PSRC's Regional Transportation Plan and developing the updated VISION 2050 growth strategy.

A recent white paper entitled "Regional Planning Organization Options" (prepared by BERK Consulting and presented to the Lakewood City Council in May of 2017) presented two potential alternatives to the current model of how PSRC is utilized as the County's regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) and municipal planning organization (MPO). The two identified regional governance alternatives were: 1.) Forming alliances and seeking amendments to PSRC bylaws and plans, or 2.) Forming a county-specific agency. Additionally, the report indicated that support from the City of Tacoma would be necessary to establish the county-specific agency proposed under option two.

In the spirit of transparency and efficiency, I am writing on behalf of the City of Tacoma today to share our position on this issue so that PCRC will have this information readily available for discussion and decision making moving forward. The City of Tacoma contends that the State Growth Management Act mandates an expansive planning role for the PSRC. Separate from this mandate, the City of Tacoma also holds that land use, transportation, housing, and capital

facilities are inextricably linked and can only be adequately addressed using a collaborative and comprehensive regional approach. Because of this, the City of Tacoma has no intention to support a MPO or RTPO separate from PSRC.

If there are specific ways you believe we could strengthen the PSRC model in cooperation other cities and counties across our region, then I and my peers who serve on the PCRC would be open to additional conversation. Overall, we believe the current approach is producing solid results for our constituents, and we see an opportunity now to build on this solid regional planning framework, vision, and policies to produce even greater outcomes.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service as Chair of the Pierce County Regional Council. We look forward to continued engagement with PCRC and all the municipalities of Pierce County. I hope you will reach out with any questions you might have as discussion on these topics moves forward.

Yours in Service,

Victoria R. Woodards  
Mayor