



Tacoma
City of Tacoma

November 14, 2018

Pierce County Regional Council
930 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear PCRC Chair Tremblay

Every two years PSRC's Regional Project Evaluation Committee (RPEC) makes recommendations to PSRC's policy boards as to which regionally significant projects should be funded with this region's share of formula funded federal gas tax money; a somewhat equivalent amount of funding is allocated by the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC). Pierce County jurisdictions currently have six positions/votes on RPEC, a committee comprised of staff: two from Pierce County, two from the City of Tacoma, one from 'other cities and towns', and one from the Port of Tacoma.

Last month the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC), a staff committee that makes recommendations to the PCRC, recommended on a split vote (8-7) that one of Tacoma's RPEC representatives be given to 'other cities and towns.' The primary rationale for this proposed shift is that 'other cities and towns' have gained, in aggregate, more population (since 2014) than the City of Tacoma. It should also be noted that every Pierce County jurisdiction/agency gets one vote on the TCC irrespective of their size.

The TCC's recommendation is inconsistent with PSRC's regional strategy as set forth in VISION 2040, Tacoma's Comprehensive Plans, the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), and the Pierce County Council's action in recently adopting the CPPs (Ord No. 2017-24s). Specifically, this last action set 2030 Growth Targets for population and employment, shown in Exhibit A pages 1-3, for Unincorporated Urban Pierce County, Rural Pierce County Geography, and for each city and town. Each participating jurisdiction also passed local legislative action confirming the changes to their 2030 Targets (see Table 1). Taken together as they are in VISION 2040, population and employment targets are aggregated into activity units (population + employment). Given that RPEC and the PSRC boards are charged with selecting regional transportation projects that advance Vision 2040, the adopted growth targets should be the basis of representation for Pierce County jurisdictions on the RPEC.

Table 1. Summary of Exhibit A/ Adopted Allocations of Activity Units

P.C. Jurisdictions	'08 – '30 Pop / Employ Growth	'30 Total Pop + Employ Allocation
Metro City (Tacoma)	78,600 / 64,213	142,813
Core Cities (Auburn, Lakewood, Puyallup)	66,480 / 53,522	120,002
Large Cities (Fife, Univ Place)		
Small Cities (17 incorporated total)		
Unincorporated Urban P.C.	60,000 / 16,568	76,568
McChord/Ft Lewis Geography	1,000 / 14,867	15,867
Unincorporated Rural Geography	3,600 / 1,050	4,650

As the Port has one of the six seats on the RPEC, an allocation of the remaining five seats by activity units would result in two seats for Tacoma, two for 'other cities and towns', and one for Pierce County. The City of Tacoma is neutral as to whether or not Pierce County and 'other cities and towns' reallocate seats between themselves. However, as the metropolitan city for the South Sound with responsibility for accommodating high levels of population and employment, Tacoma is opposed to reallocating one of its two seats on RPEC, seats that assist it in achieving the regional mission and advancing growth management.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pauli
 City Manager