

Transportation Planning Activities: Regional Transportation Plan and Project Selection

Equity Advisory Committee
January 6, 2022



Puget Sound Regional Council

Transportation Planning Activities

Topics covered in today's presentation:

- **Regional Transportation Plan**
 - *Overview and work to date*
 - *Outreach activities and what we've heard*
 - *Highlights of plan performance*
 - *Public Comment period and next steps*
- **Project Selection Process for PSRC's Federal Funds**
 - *Overview and work to date*
 - *Proposed revisions*
 - *Schedule and next steps*



Regional Transportation Plan

2022-2050

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

VISION 2050 Implementation



Regional Transportation Plan

2022–2050

REGIONALTRANSPORTATIONPLAN

- Builds from VISION 2050
- Objectives:
 - Make progress on existing challenges, address current and future needs of the transportation system
 - Provide better data and analysis to support local investment planning (2024 comprehensive plans)
 - Plan for long-term system investments to accommodate future growth
 - Improve existing system, big picture thinking on future investments (aviation, rail, ferries)



Key Policy Focus Areas

Building from VISION 2050, board identified key policy areas:

- Access to transit
- Safety
- Equity
- Climate
- Local agency needs
- Forward thinking/future investments



Key Planning Work – System Needs and Opportunities

PSRC's Transportation System Conditions Visualization Tool

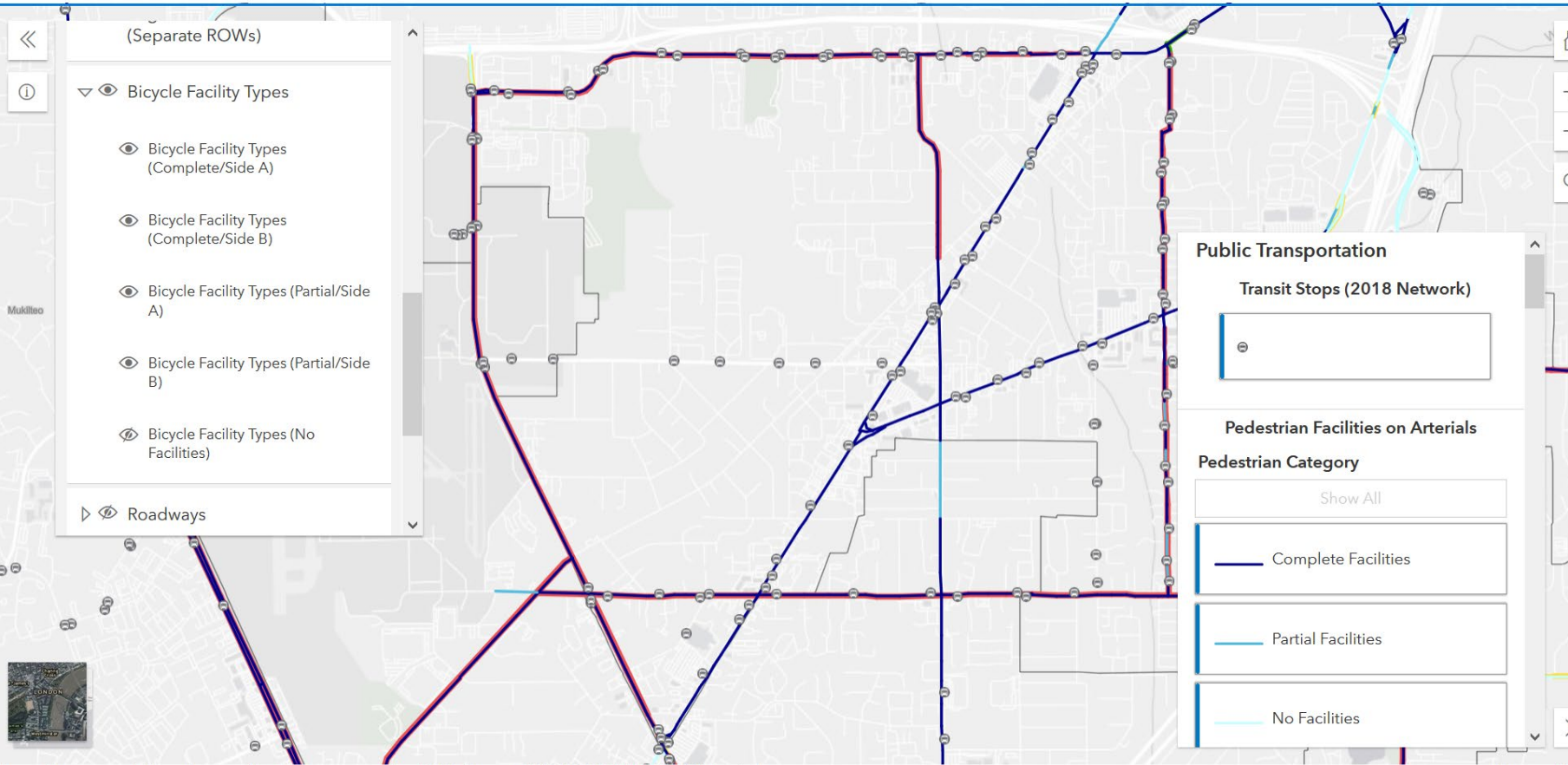


2022–2050

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Full System (All Layers)

Full System (All Layers)



<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-planning/regional-transportation-plan/rtp-data-research>



What Have We Heard?



Online Engagement Platform



Virtual Outreach Meetings



Personal Interviews



Social Media



Survey

Puget Sound Regional Council
on Thursday

We want to hear from you! Take a survey to help plan the future of transportation in Puget Sound: <https://engage.psrc.org/regional-transportation-plan>

HOW WILL YOU GET AROUND?

ENGAGE.PSRC.ORG
Regional Transportation Plan
PSRC is developing the next Regional Transportation Plan, which will des...

What Have We Heard?

2022–2050

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Top five priorities:

- Reliable, well-maintained roads and highways
- Reliable, well-connected transit service for local neighborhoods
- Expanded transit to major destinations
- Complete bike/ped facilities
- High speed rail

Top three motivators to use transit more:

- Shorter trip times
- Easier to access
- Extended service

Top mobility needs for specialized transportation services:

- Lack of services in locations where they're needed
- Long travel times
- Lack of service at times when they're needed
- Lack of physical infrastructure (i.e., lack of curb ramps)
- Difficulty getting to medical appointments



What's in the Plan?

- \$300 billion of investment over the next 28 years
 - 56% will maintain, preserve and operate the system
 - 70% of the plan's system improvements are for investments in local and regional transit
 - 84% of the plan funded with forecast current law revenues



36

Bus Rapid Transit routes



10

Passenger-only Ferry routes

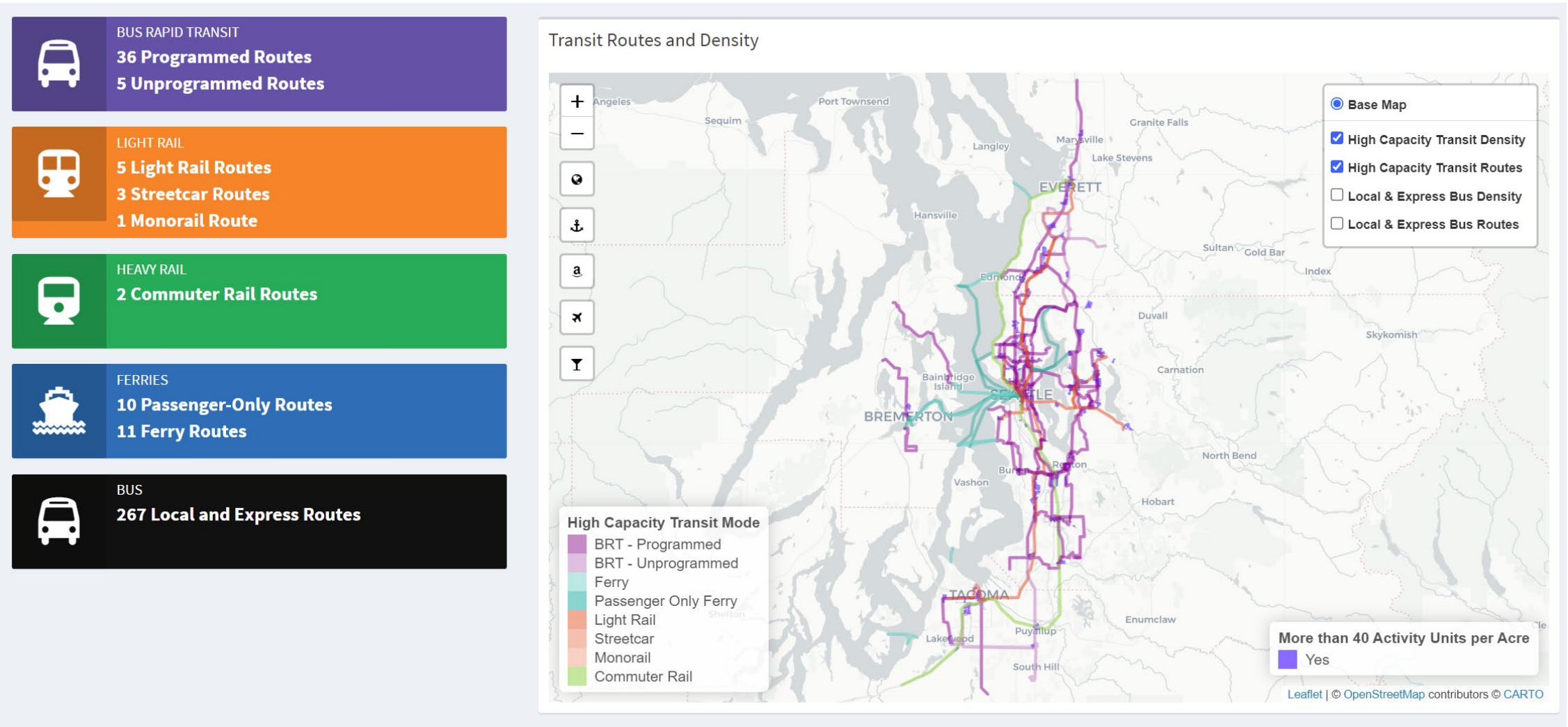


116

Miles of light rail and 80+ stations



2050 Regional Transit Network



Key Performance Measures

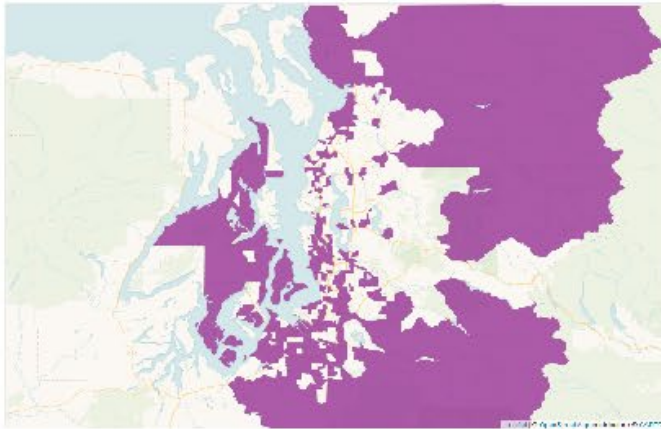
Centered on race and equity, the levels of geography that are analyzed =

- County
- Regional Growth Center
- Regional Geography
- 50% People of Color / above Regional Average People of Color
- 50% People of Lower Income / above Regional Average People of Lower Income
- Above Regional Average for People under age 18
- Above Regional Average People aged 65+
- Above Regional Average People with Limited English Proficiency
- Above Regional Average People with a Disability

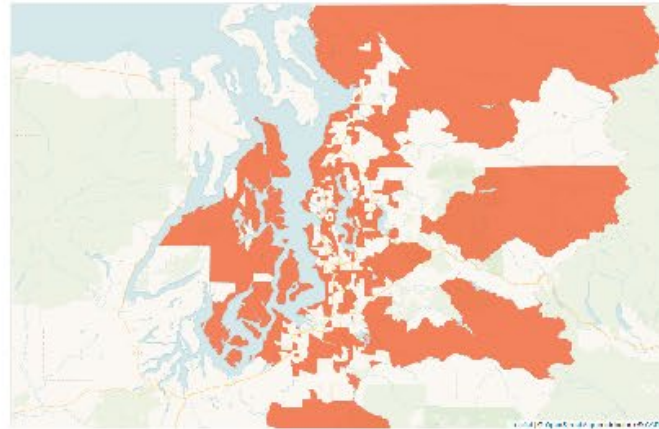


Equity Geographies

Disability



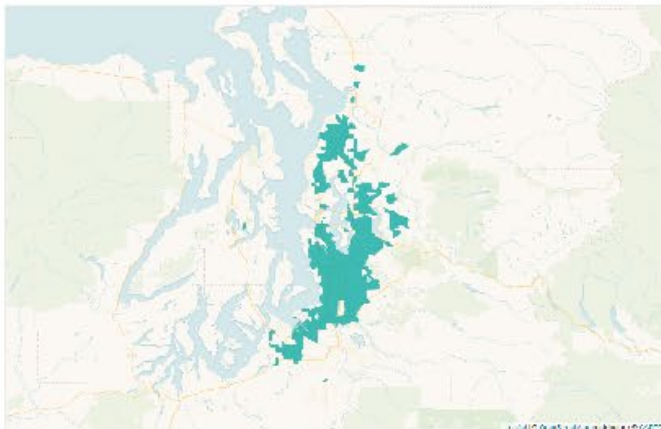
Over 65



Under 18



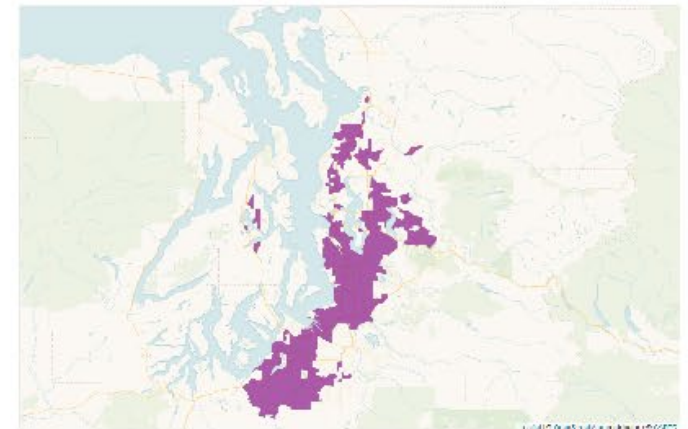
Limited English Proficiency



Lower Incomes



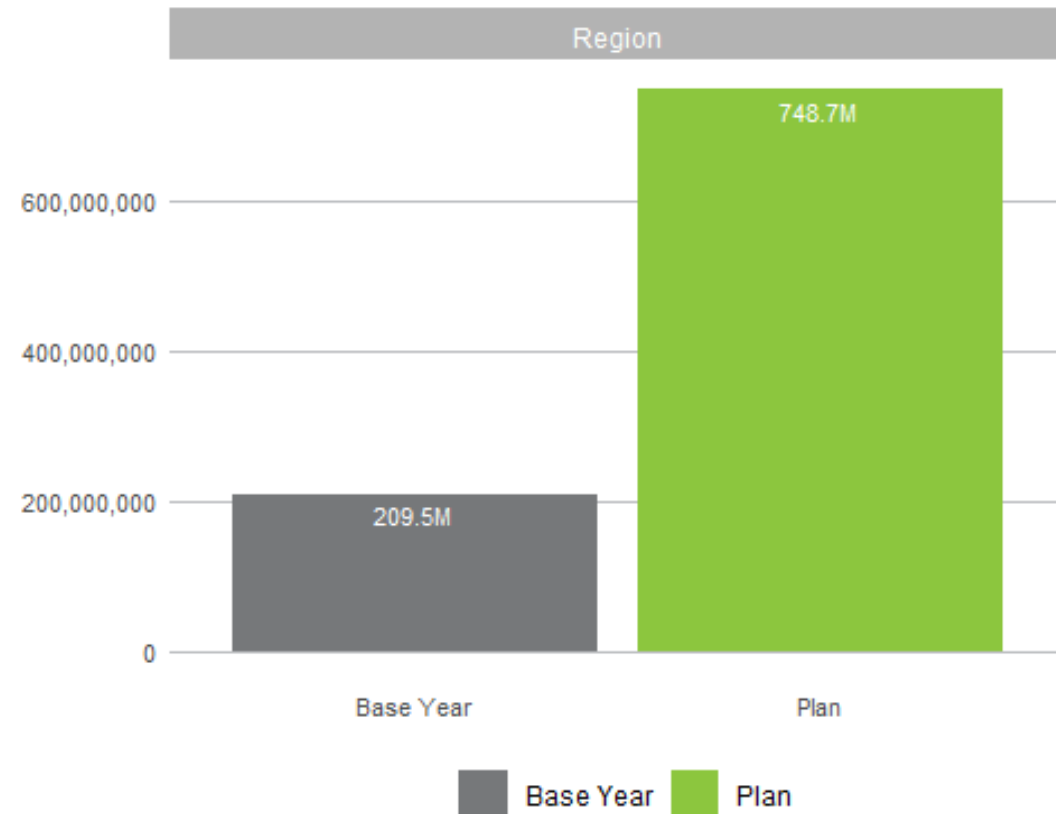
People of Color



Key Highlights: What will the Plan Deliver?

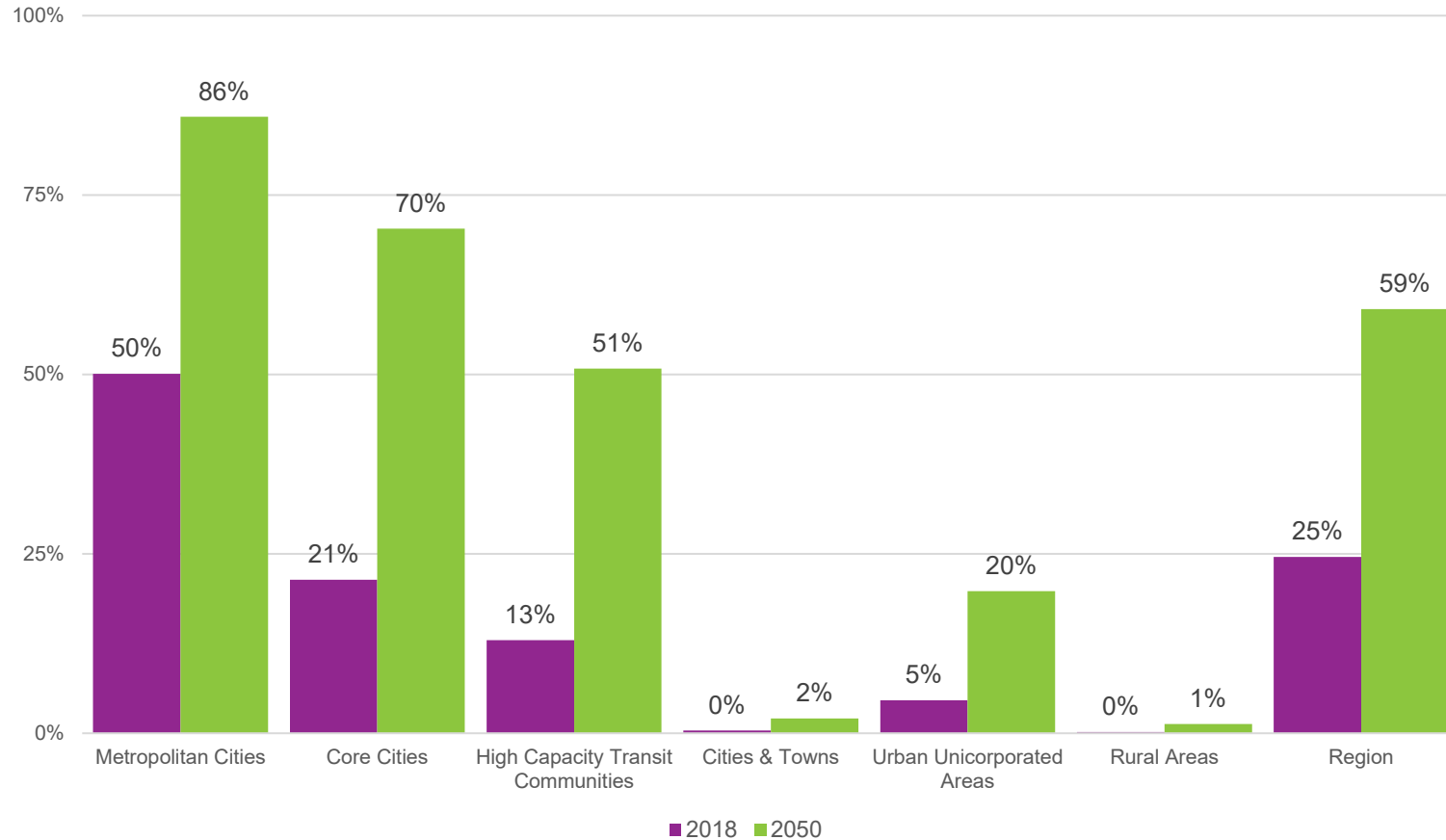
Transit boardings are forecasted to **more than triple** by 2050 with expansion of High-Capacity Transit investments in rail, bus rapid transit and passenger only ferries

2022-2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Key Highlights: What will the Plan Deliver?

2022-2050
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

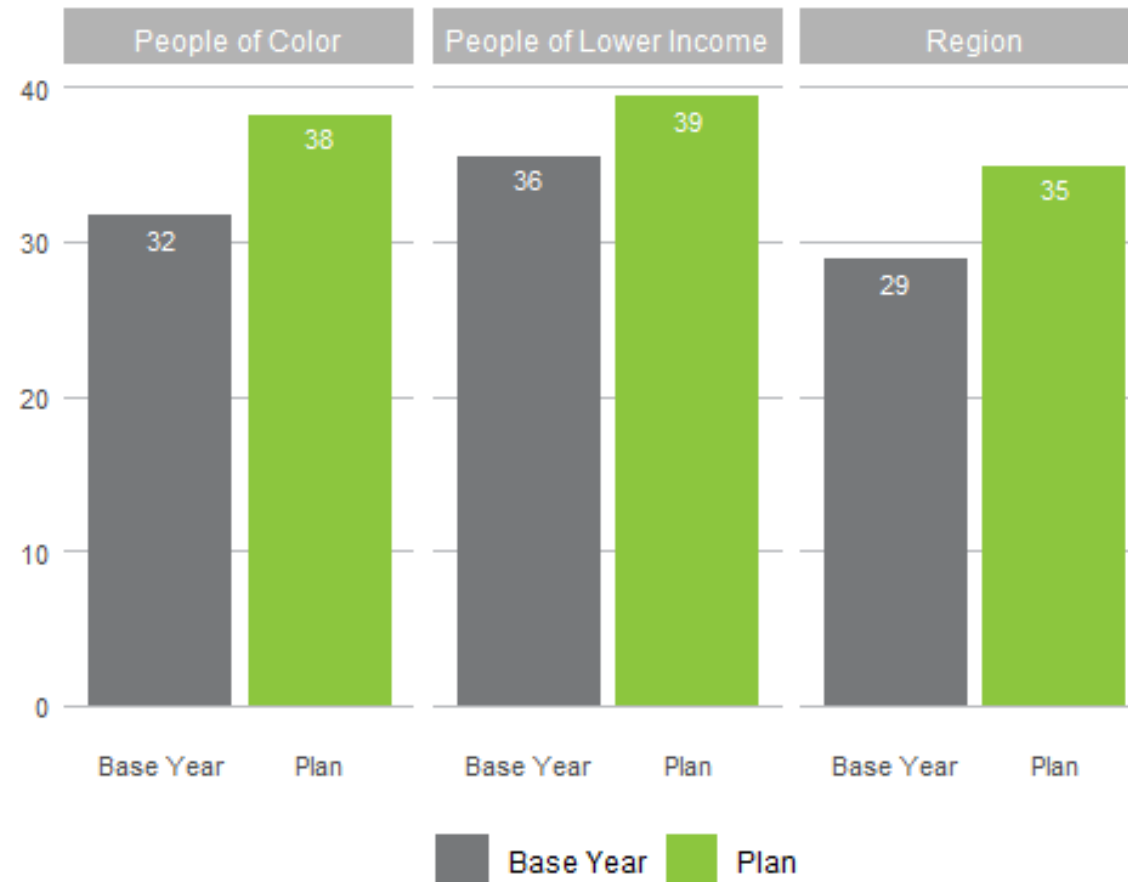


By 2050, **59% of households will live within a 1/2 mile of high-capacity transit service**



Key Highlights: What will the Plan Deliver?

By 2050, the average person will **walk or bike 21% more** than today



Key Highlights: What will the Plan Deliver?

In 2018, the average household spent an additional 62 hours a year traveling due to congestion. By the year 2050, the average household is forecast spend 53 additional hours each year traveling, a **-15%** reduction over the Base Year.

2022-2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Key Highlights: What will the Plan Deliver?



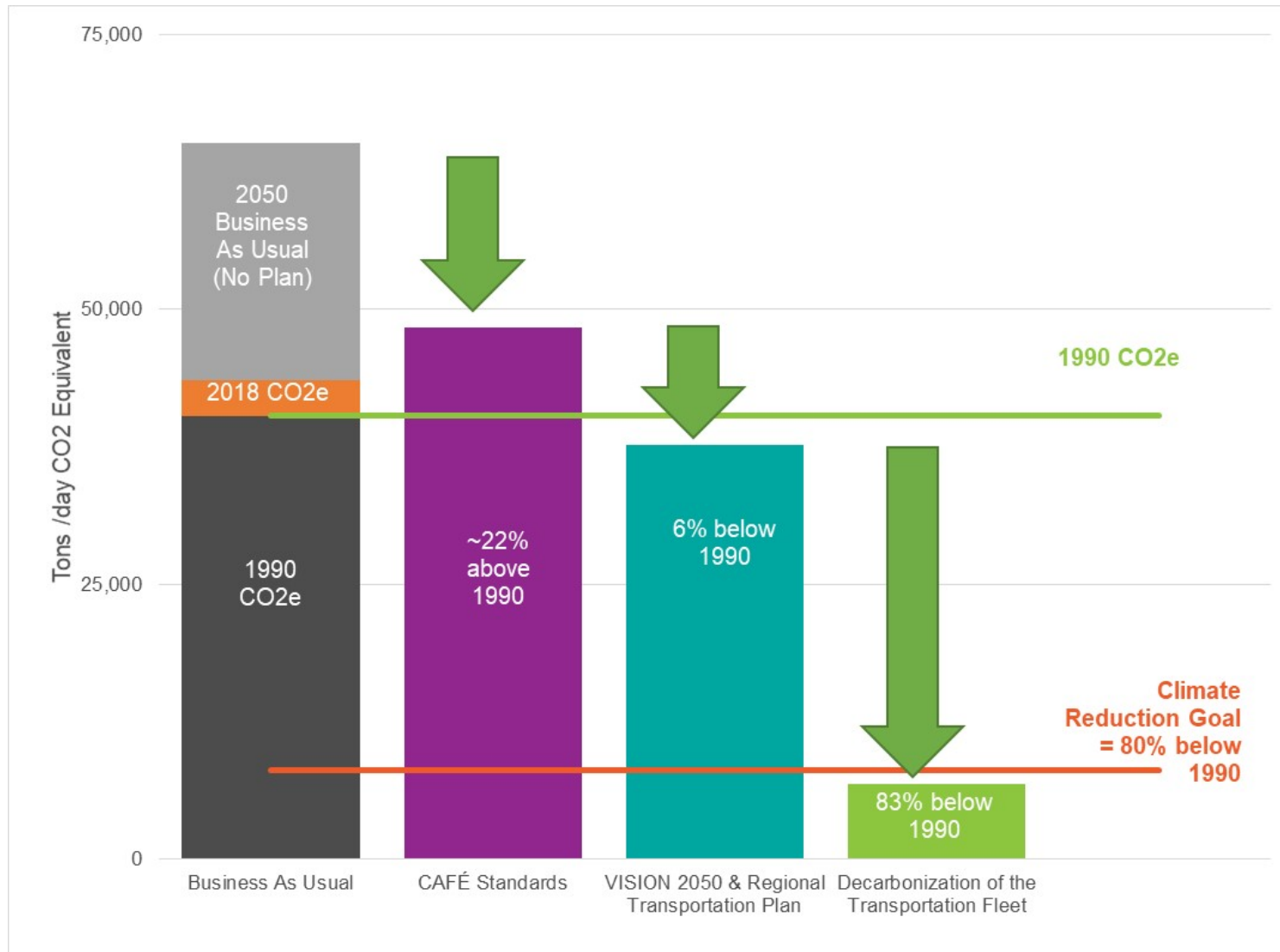
In 2018, the average household drove more than 15,900 miles per year. By the year 2050, the average household is forecast to drive approximately 12,300 miles per year, a **-23%** reduction over the Base Year.



Key Highlights: What will the Plan Deliver?

Steps to Meeting Regional Climate Goals

2022–2050
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Reflecting:

- VISION 2050
- RTP investments
- Fuel economy improvements
- Transition to zero emission transportation system



Schedule and Next Steps



Public comment period January 13 through February 28, 2022



Continued Outreach

- Continued outreach on Coordinated Mobility Plan
- Targeted focus groups
 - Business community
 - Underrepresented communities
- Outreach to countywide organizations, others
- Draft plan public comment period, including an online open house
- Board review of public comments



EAC Engagement on the RTP

- **Individual opportunity to submit comment**
 - January 13 through February 28, 2022
 - <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/rtp>
- **Opportunity for committee collaboration and discussion**
 - January through March 2022
 - Specific topics for further details and discussion?
 - E.g., Regional Equity Analysis, Coordinated Mobility Plan, other elements?
 - Opportunity to provide committee input to PSRC boards through April 2022



Project Selection Process for PSRC's Federal Funds

PSRC has project selection authority over specific sources of funds from the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** and the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

- ~\$90 million of FHWA funds per year
 - Several funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
 - In general, can fund roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, ITS, equipment, etc.
- ~\$200 million of FTA funds per year
 - Several funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
 - Must be transit-related



Process Details

Federal Highway Administration Funds	Federal Transit Administration Funds
Regional Competition	Regional Competition
Countywide Competitions	Earned Share Distribution

All processes will:

- Follow policy direction from Board, as adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Follow regional policies and procedures
 - Consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan
 - Consistent with local comprehensive plans

Policy Framework

Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds

- Adopted prior to each funding cycle
- Funds distributed approximately every 2 years
 - *Program funds into the future*
 - *2022 process will distribute FFY 2025-2026 funds*
- Based on VISION policies
 - *support for centers and the corridors that serve them*
- Provides board direction for project selection
- Detailed policies and procedures for conducting the process



Recommending Forums

Committees recommend to Transportation Policy Board; Executive Board makes final decision

FHWA processes:

Regional – Regional Project Evaluation Committee

Countywide forums –

- King County Project Evaluation Committee
- Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council
- Pierce County Transportation Coordinating Committee
- Snohomish County Infrastructure Coordination Committee

FTA process:

Regional FTA Caucus, Transportation Operators Committee



Project Selection Task Force

- A Project Selection Task Force is convened prior to each process
- Volunteers solicited from each of PSRC's four Boards:
 - *Transportation Policy Board*
 - *Growth Management Policy Board*
 - *Economic Development Board*
 - *Executive Board*
- Purpose =
 - ✓ Review key policy issues and administrative procedures for PSRC's project selection processes
 - ✓ Recommend the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds* to the Transportation Policy Board

Project Selection Task Force: Key Issues

Policy Issues

- Policy Focus (*support for centers and the corridors that serve them*)
- Set-Asides
- Project Tracking and Delivery Provisions
- Project Evaluation Criteria

Administrative Issues

- Estimated Funding Amounts
- Funding Splits by Competitions
- Number of Applications / Request Limits for Regional Competitions
- Contingency List Procedures



Project Evaluation Criteria

Project Evaluation Criteria include the following elements:

- Support for development of the center(s) (including housing / employment)
- Benefit to user groups
- Benefit to key demographic groups including people of color, people with low income, older adults, people with disabilities, highly impacted communities, areas of high/chronic unemployment/underemployment
- Mobility, accessibility, circulation
- Safety
- Active transportation
- Air quality / climate
- Project readiness



2021 Project Selection Task Force

- Over 40 board members met between April and November 2021 to review the policies and procedures for the upcoming 2022 project selection process
- Specific recommendations =
 - Strengthening criteria related to safety and equity
 - Development of a new Equity Pilot Program, in collaboration with the EAC



Proposed Equity Criterion Improvements

- Stand-alone criterion with increased point values
- Expanded elements, addressing:
 - Additional focus groups
 - ❖ People with limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees and transit dependent populations
 - Disparities / gaps in the transportation system
 - How community outreach will / has influenced project development
- Expanded guidance and resources



Proposed Safety Criterion Improvements

- Stand-alone criterion with increased point values
- Expanded elements, addressing:
 - Protection of vulnerable users, through improved bicycle and pedestrian safety
 - Reduced reliance on enforcement and/or project design for decreased speeds
 - Influence of adopted safety policies on project development
- Expanded guidance and resources



Proposed Equity Pilot Program

- Proposed new set-aside for an **Equity Pilot Program**
- Funded with ~\$6 million of FHWA funds
- Proposal to work with the EAC on development of the program from the beginning
- Propose to begin the development process in September 2022, specifically to:
 - ❖ evaluate the outcomes of the 2022 project selection process and the effectiveness of the equity and safety criteria revisions;
 - ❖ advise on the scope, eligibility and criteria for the equity pilot competition;
 - ❖ advise on procedural roles and responsibilities for conducting the competition; and
 - ❖ ultimately advise on next steps and the 2024 project selection process



Next Steps for Project Selection

- January 2022 – *Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds* adopted
- February 2022 – Call for projects launched
- July 2022 – Project funding recommendations presented to PSRC boards
- September 2022 – Public comment period on full 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including project funding recommendations
 - ***Propose to begin Equity Pilot Program development with EAC***
- October 2022 – adoption of 2023-2026 Regional TIP
- January 2023 – federal and state approvals

