

Freight Advisory Committee

February 9, 2022

Puget Sound Regional Council



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30) – Geri Poor, Chair

Roll call and introductions.

2. Approve Meeting Summary for January 12, 2022* (9:35)

3. Discussion: Industrial Lands Analysis* (9:40)

PSRC staff will provide a briefing on the update to the Industrial Lands Report, including an overview of the process, considerations, engagement plan, and schedule.

4. Action: NHFP Funding Process (10:00)

PSRC staff will provide a briefing on the freight projects identified by members to submit for WSDOT's National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding competition. Committee members will be asked to review and provide concurrence on the project list, for advancement to PSRC's boards before submittal to WSDOT in March. Additional materials will be sent in advance of the meeting.

5. Discussion: CUFC/CRFC Designation Process (10:30)

PSRC staff will provide a short overview of next steps for the broader Critical Urban Freight Corridor/ Critical Rural Freight Corridor (CUFC/CRFC) designation process. Committee members will discuss timing and the process for agencies to submit requests.

6. Discussion: Draft Regional Transportation Plan Public Comment Period (10:45)

PSRC staff will provide an overview of the online open house and opportunities to provide comment on the draft Regional Transportation Plan. Further RTP information can be found here: <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/rtp>

7. Discussion: Other Business and Announcements (10:55)

8. Next Meeting: April 13, 2022: 9:30-11:00 a.m.

9. Adjourn (11:00)



2022 CUFC/NHFP Funding Process

Timeline (2022)	Activity – “Project First”
January to mid-March	Solicit and select regional freight priority projects for NHFP funding competition Candidate NHFP projects due to PSRC by February 4 NHFP applications due to PSRC by February 28 (will provide ftp link) PSRC NHFP submittal due to WSDOT by March 15
Mid-March thru May	WSDOT review/scoring of NHFP applications PSRC work with FAC to identify roadways for CUFC designation
June - July	PSRC Board review / approval of CUFC list
Mid-July thru mid-August	WSDOT/PSRC review final submittal, FHWA review and certify designations
Mid-August	WSDOT notify project owners of selection process for FY 21-23 biennium*

*Fund utilization contingent upon FHWA approval of freight investment plan by December 2022



NHFP Process – Next Steps

- Eight candidate NHFP projects identified by jurisdictions, summarized in table
- Completed NHFP applications due to PSRC – February 28
- Transportation Policy Board review/approval of list – March 10
- PSRC submit application packet to WSDOT – March 15 (subject to Executive Board approval of list)
- Executive Board review/approval of list – March 24

FAC Discussion and Action Item

Does the committee concur with the NHFP Candidate Project List, for advancement to PSRC's boards in March?



CUFC and NHFP - Two Overlapping Tracks

NHFP Funding Competition	CUFC Designation Process
PSRC submit list of candidate projects (and project sponsors complete WSDOT application) by <u>mid-March</u>	CUFC designation recommendations confirmed by <u>mid-July</u>
Constrained candidate project list needed <ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited available funding (\$50M statewide over 4-year period)	More extended list <ul style="list-style-type: none">Still guided by location of planned freight projectsUp to ~71 miles of road segments can be designated (increase from ~37-mile limit from previous list)Covers roadway segments not already on Primary Highway Freight System<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Segments with NHFP candidate projects✓ Segments with priority projects intending to seek INFRA funds✓ Allocate any remaining balance to other freight-supportive road segments
Competitive with respect to NHFP evaluation criteria with supporting data	Segments must meet federal criteria for CUFC designation



CUFC Process

Federal Requirements for CUFC Designation

- Public road located in urbanized area, which meets one or more of the following four elements:
 - Connects an intermodal facility to the PHFS, interstate system, or an intermodal facility
 - Located within a corridor of a route on the PHFS and provide an alternative highway option important to goods movement
 - Serves a major freight generator, logistic center, or manufacturing and warehouse industrial land
 - Is important to the movement of freight within the region, as determined by the MPO or State

FHWA encourages states to consider first/last mile connector routes from high-volume freight corridors to freight-intensive land and key urban freight facilities, including ports, rail terminals, and other industrial-zoned land.

PSRC'S 2016 CUFC Process

Two-step approach

- Initial screening using available data to identify candidate corridors based on following criteria:
 - T-1 / T-2 freight corridor
 - Serves as first/last mile connector between intermodal facility and PHFN
 - Connects to large industrial/warehouse centers (minimum 200-acre industrial area within ¼-mile distance)
- Secondary screening to narrow down and identify segments with active freight projects



Proposed 2022 PSRC CUFC/CRFC Process/Schedule

- Feb 25 – PSRC will send out short form to agencies, by which to identify candidate corridors for CUFC designation, and provide relevant summary information
- March 25 – Completed CUFC nomination forms due to PSRC
- April 6 – compiled list of candidate corridors
- April 13 – FAC meeting to discuss, potentially finalize CUFC list
- May 11 – hold for special FAC meeting if needed to finalize recommendation
- May-June – Board review/approval of CUFC list
- July-August – WSDOT/FHWA review of statewide CUFC/CRFC list



Discussion

- Does the committee concur with applying similar initial screening, and if necessary, narrowing down approach applied in 2016?
- Does the committee concur with the proposed CUFC designation process and schedule?

