

# Transportation Planning Activities: Regional Transportation Plan and Project Selection

Regional Staff Committee  
January 20, 2022



Puget Sound Regional Council



# Transportation Planning Activities

Topics covered in today's presentation:

- **Regional Transportation Plan**
  - *Reminder of overall milestones*
  - *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

**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)

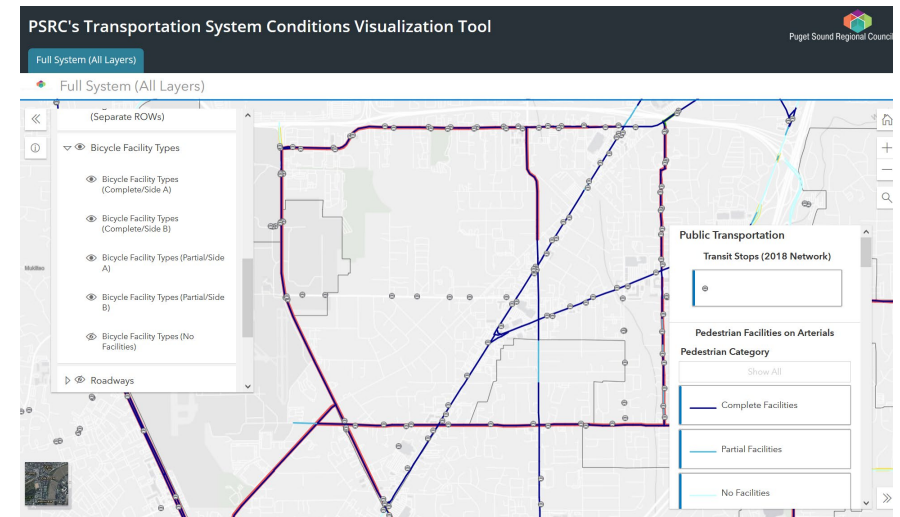


# Key Policy Focus Areas

Building from VISION 2050, board identified key policy areas:

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

*Significant data collection efforts, new visualization tool to support analysis and future planning*



# 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 will the Plan Deliver?

- \$300 billion of investment over the next 28 years
  - 56% = maintenance, preservation, operations
  - 70% of system improvements = local and regional transit
    - tripling of transit boardings
    - increased access to transit, increased walking and biking
    - decreased household travel delay and driving
    - plan to meet climate goals



**36**

Bus Rapid Transit routes



**10**

Passenger-only Ferry routes



**116**

Miles of light rail and 80+ stations



# 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





# Online Open House

- **Opportunity to submit comment**
  - January 13 through February 28, 2022
  - <https://engage.psrc.org/welcome-rtp>
    - Short videos available
- **Public Webinars**
  - Wednesday, February 2, 8-9 am
  - Tuesday, February 8, 12-1 pm
  - Wednesday, February 9, 5:30-6:30 pm



# 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

Policy  
Criteria

Technical  
Criteria





# 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



# Call for Projects

Call for projects will include:

- Online application materials
- Guidance on addressing the evaluation criteria
- Online resources including a web map to assist in completing applications

Workshops will be held in each of the four counties

An eligibility review of every project will be conducted prior to final submittal of applications

