



Puget Sound Regional Council

Special Needs Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

Date: December 6, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: PSRC Board Room – 1011 Western Ave., Seattle, 98104

Remote Participation via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

Jean Kim, PSRC, welcomed everyone at 9:00 a.m. and took a roll call of the membership in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The September 21, 2022 meeting summary was approved as presented.

Action: WSDOT Consolidated Grant Regional Priority Ranking Recommendations for Projects Seeking Funding in 2023-25 Biennium/2023-27 Biennia (9:15 a.m.)

Jean provided an overview of the process the committee will follow to prepare a regional priority ranking recommendation to the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC). As part of this overview, PSRC staff clarified that the process that SNTC engages in for regional priority factors does not hold any bearing on WSDOT review or assessment of applications, other than the assignment of state-directed rankings in the form of an A, B, C, or D. WSDOT conducts its own scoring of applications statewide using its own scoring criteria.

Regional Priority Rankings

Regional priority rankings provided by Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO's) add points to the overall project score in WSDOT's statewide competition. Of the 21 regional priority rankings WSDOT has allotted to the PSRC region for the 2023-25 biennium, 15 were available for this competition. Six ABC rankings (2 A's, 2 B's, and 2 C's) were already used and awarded for four years in 2021 for the 2023-25 biennium. Fifteen available rankings included:

- 5 "A" rankings = For purposes of this competition, WSDOT has indicated that "A" ranked projects will be fully funded. (An "A" ranking has traditionally been awarded 50 points added to WSDOT statewide scoring.)
- 5 "B" rankings = 25 points added to WSDOT statewide scoring.

- 5 “C” rankings = 12 points added to WSDOT statewide scoring.
- Unlimited “D” rankings = 0 points added to WSDOT statewide scoring.

The SNTC was able to recommend a total of 15 value-add regional priority rankings (A, B, or C) and unlimited number of “D” rankings to specialized transportation projects seeking funding from a variety of federal and state funding sources.

As additional context to this year’s recommendation, eight regional priority rankings, including two D ranking projects, that were awarded to projects in the 2020-21 competition were awarded funding for two biennia. These projects provide an additional \$2.8 million to the region for the 2023-25 biennium. The SNTC reviewed these additional projects in their deliberation to provide a holistic view of specialized transportation projects in the central Puget Sound region.

Regional Priority Ranking Factors and Additional Considerations

Sixteen projects were submitted to the PSRC region for regional priority rankings. The projects totaled \$10.9 million in request for the 2021-23 biennium and \$8.3 million for the 2023-25 biennium. The projects submitted consisted of a mix of operating projects and mobility management programs, as well as one planning grant request.

WSDOT’s Consolidated Grant competition includes funding from a variety of federal and state sources that can be applied anywhere in Washington State. In addition, as part of this competition, WSDOT also includes the FTA Section 5310 funding for the large-urbanized (Seattle-Tacoma-Everett) area. Funding from this source can only be used for programs benefiting this large-urbanized area, consisting of western portions of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The amount that FTA makes available on an annual basis for FTA Section 5310 is less than \$4 million. Funding amounts from the other federal and state sources that WSDOT awards cannot be predicted for the PSRC region since those funds are distributed statewide.

PSRC staff worked with the SNTC to develop four evaluation factors to review and provide an initial sorting of the projects submitted to PSRC for regional priority ranking. Most of these evaluation factors were based on PSRC’s Coordinated Mobility Plan, adopted in May 2022 as part of the Regional Transportation Plan. These factors included:

- Project Type (Preservation vs. New/Expansion)
- Support for PSRC’s Coordinated Mobility Plan (addressing high priority strategies that address needs and gaps identified in the plan)
- Uniqueness of Service or Program
- Financial Sustainability

Project sponsors were provided an opportunity to present on their grant proposals on November 16, 2022. PSRC staff and SNTC members were able to ask follow-up questions of applicants at and following this meeting.

PSRC staff reviewed all applications submitted by WSDOT's October 27, 2022 deadline and provided an evaluation of whether the projects adequately addressed the four factors a week prior to the December 6, 2022 SNTC meeting (SNTC meeting agenda packet can be found here for further information: <https://www.psrc.org/media/7232>). PSRC staff used a consistent methodology for review and evaluation based upon guidance developed and publicly shared with the Notice of Funding Availability information.

The results of the initial evaluation were shared with the SNTC as follows:

- 3 projects adequately addressed all 4 factors.
- 8 projects adequately addressed 3 out of 4 factors.
- 3 projects adequately addressed 2 out of 4 factors.
- 2 projects adequately addressed 1 out of 4 factors.

After review of the initial evaluation and PSRC's process for conducting the evaluation, the SNTC discussed additional factors to take into consideration in their deliberation on recommendations for regional priority rankings. The SNTC previously reviewed and discussed these factors and created a list of those they wanted to consider based upon past deliberations, as well as newer, relevant issue areas for specialized transportation.

Summary of the Deliberation

At the December 6th meeting, SNTC reviewed the list of additional factors that were used in previous deliberations and approved their use in the deliberations for that date. These included factors a. through f., as noted below.

The committee also discussed other potential factors to take into consideration at the meeting, including racial and social equity considerations identified by WSDOT and PSRC in their ongoing transportation planning work.

The committee agreed that racial and social equity are important factors for consideration, and that WSDOT is incorporating those factors into the state evaluation of projects. All of the projects in the competition serve equity populations such as people with disabilities, older adults, people with low incomes, among others. The committee members used demographic information (distribution of older adults and people with disabilities by county) and equity-related information derived from applications, included in the packet as attachment F and attachment H, as resources for discussion during deliberation. The committee acknowledged there is limited information provided by applicants to develop and use a specific equity factor for the current

competition and agreed to work together to further incorporate racial and social equity in meaningful ways in future deliberations.

The committee came to agreement to add one additional factor for consideration to include: Acknowledge the importance of the largest county service providers. This factor identifies the importance of larger specialized transportation operators in providing critical safety net mobility services to priority populations in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

The committee voted unanimously to include the following additional factors for consideration in the deliberation:

- a) Geographical distribution of regional priority rankings
- b) Project types (operations, mobility management, etc.)
- c) Agency equity
- d) Compelling cases for agencies with limited resources
- e) Strategic application of federal/state funds
- f) Coordination
- g) Acknowledge importance of the largest county service providers

Gil Cerise, PSRC, facilitated the committee deliberation on the allocation of regional priority rankings. The committee began its deliberation by noting there was one more project than available regional priority rankings. Using strategic application of federal/state funds (shown as e., above), the committee identified projects that tend to receive funding with lower regional rankings based upon past history (making use of Attachment H of the SNTC agenda packet). This resulted in the application of B rankings to several higher ranked projects, and allowed allocation of A rankings to projects ranked lower. When choosing where to apply the A rankings, the committee identified higher ranking projects that met the “acknowledge importance of largest county service providers” (shown as g., above) factor to provide a higher chance that these projects would receive funding. This also included one lower ranked project which provided the largest safety net service to vulnerable populations in Pierce County in the current competition, Pierce County Human Services’ Beyond the Borders.

The committee applied the “geographic distribution of regional priority rankings” (shown as a., above) factor by looking at the list of projects funded for the 2023-25 biennium holistically. It was noted that although there are few Snohomish County projects in the current competition, the projects that address the “acknowledge the importance of largest county service providers” (shown as g., above) factor, were funded for the upcoming biennium in the previous competition. Yet, the committee applied B rankings

to the smaller existing projects that were found wholly or in part (shown as multi-county) in Snohomish County through the application of remaining B rankings.

Once the committee allocated all the A's and B's, it focused on which of the lowest ranked projects should receive the D ranking, leaving the remaining projects to receive the 5 C rankings. It was decided that, because of the strategic application of federal/state funds, the D would go to the Regional Mobility Survey for Priority Populations project, because the state typically receives few planning grants in relation to the amount of money it can allocate in that funding category.

The committee deliberated in a collaborative manner, crafting its recommendation to leverage resources across the region to support existing operating and mobility management programs providing critical safety net services to vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and older adults. The recommendation also incorporates regional priority rankings to expand these services in areas identified as needing mobility improvements and incorporates a key regional priority to develop a regional one-call/one-click program that supports mobility for people with special transportation needs in the region.

The motion to recommend the final package to the TOC was approved unanimously by the SNTC.

Next Steps

The TOC will review SNTC's recommendation of regional priority rankings and forward its recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board (TPB). The TPB will review TOC's recommendation at its January 12, 2023 meeting and make a recommendation to the Executive Board meeting on January 26, 2023.

PSRC will provide WSDOT with the approved list of regional priority rankings after the Executive Board action, in time for WSDOT's Consolidated Grant Program scoring process. WSDOT plans to announce its final funding amounts in the spring of 2023.

The presentation is available on the PSRC website [here](#).

All project applications, presentations, and follow-up information can be found on PSRC's website at: <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/specialized-transportation-funding/consolidated-grant>

For more information, contact Jean Kim at jkim@psrc.org or Gil Cerise at gcerise@psrc.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Members and Alternates Represented

See attached attendance roster.

Alternates, Guests and PSRC Staff Present

*Penni Belcher, UWPC/South Sound 211 (Alt.), Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (Alt.); *Matthew Cramer, WSDOT; Christina Robertson, Catholic Community Services Snohomish (Alt.); Juli Rose, Homage TAP; Steph Vonnahme, Homage.

PSRC

*Monica Adkins, *Gil Cerise, *Jean Kim, Nick Johnson

**Denotes attendees were present in-person; all other attendees were present remotely*

SNTC Attendance Roster

Consolidated Grant Regional Priority Ranking Recommendations

(Members and Alternates represented)
 Date: December 6, 2022 9:00am - 2:00pm
Online/Remote Meeting Only

Representation		Name	Representation		Name			
King County - Transit			Snohomish County - Transit					
King County Metro (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don Okazaki, King County Metro	Community Transit/Everett Transit (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Margaret Keckler, Community Transit			
		Penny Lara, King County Metro (Alt.)			Brian Senyitko, Everett Transit (Alt.)			
King County - Local Coalition			Snohomish County - Local Coalition					
KCMC (1)		Jonny Procriv, Volunteer Services of CCSWW-KC (KCMC)	Representative from SNOTRAC (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brock Howell, SNOTRAC			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staci Sahoo, Hopelink (KCMC) (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)			
King County - Area Agency on Aging/ADRC			Snohomish County - Area Agency on Aging/ADRC					
Seattle-King County Aging and Disability Services (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dinah Stephens, Seattle ADS	Snohomish County Long-Term Care and Aging (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stefanie Novacek, Snohomish Co LTC & Aging			
		Suzy Miller, Seattle ADS (Alt.)			Michal Glauner, Snohomish Co LTC & Aging (Alt.)			
King County - Disability Advocacy Group			Snohomish County - Disability Advocacy Group					
King County Persons with Disabilities/Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Morrow, KCMC	Snohomish County Persons with Disabilities/ Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leigh Spruce, Arc of Snohomish County			
		Dorene Cornwell, KCMC (Alt.)			Corrina Fale, Arc of Snohomish County (Alt.)			
King County - Other Special Needs Group			Snohomish County - Other Special Needs Group					
Available county seat to be chosen by KCMC* (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phirun Lach, Sound Generations	Available county seat to be chosen by SNOTRAC* (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Julie Vess, Lincoln Hill Retirement Community			
		Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (Alt.)			Christina Robertson, Catholic Community Svcs Snohomish (Alt.)			
Pierce County - Transit			Kitsap County - Transit					
Pierce Transit (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ausha Potts, Pierce Transit	Kitsap Transit ^ (1)		Jeff Davidson, Kitsap Transit			
		Cherry Thomas, Pierce Transit (Alt.)			Jeff Vinecourt, Kitsap Transit (Alt.)			
Pierce County - Local Coalition			Kitsap County - Local Coalition					
Representative from PC Human Services (f/k/a PCCC) (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daeveene May, Pierce County, Human Services	KIRN - Kitsap County Coalition ^ (1)		Kelly Schwab, KIRN			
		Jodie Moody, Catholic Community Services (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)			
Pierce County - Area Agency on Aging/ADRC			Kitsap County - Area Agency on Aging/ADRC					
Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Guthrie, Pierce Co. Aging & Disability Resources	Kitsap County Dept. of Aging and Long-Term Care ^ (1)		VACANT			
		VACANT (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)			
Pierce County - Disability Advocacy Group			Kitsap County - Disability Advocacy Group					
Pierce County Persons with Disabilities/ Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Francie Peltier, PCCTC	Kitsap County Persons with Disabilities/ Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities ^ (1)		VACANT			
		Tara Zink, Pierce County, Human Svcs. Developmental Disabilities Dept (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)			
Pierce County - Other Special Needs Group			Kitsap County - Other Special Needs Group					
Available county seat to be chosen by PCCTC* (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Hutchins, Around the Sound	Available county seat to be chosen by Kitsap Group* ^ (1)		VACANT			
		Penni Belcher, UWPC/South Sound 211 (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)			
State and Regional Representation								
Medicaid Transportation – Pierce and Kitsap Counties								
Paratransit Services (1)		Ann Kennedy, Paratransit Services	green highlight = attended in-person					
		Christie Scheffer, Paratransit Services (Alt.)						
Medicaid Transportation – King and Snohomish Counties								
Hopelink (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Carter, Chair (Hopelink)						
		Darryl Sierra, Hopelink (Alt.)						
Washington State Ferries (WSDOT)								
Ferries - WSDOT (1)		Sarah Nagpal, WSF						
		Jared Fernley, WSF (Alt.)						
Regional Transit								
Sound Transit (1)		Beth Hamby, Sound Transit						
		Donna Smith, Sound Transit (Alt.)						
Regional Education								
Educational Service Districts (1)		Jacque Mann, PSES						
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Davina Miller, PSES (Alt.)						
Tribal Representation **								
Tribes (1)		VACANT						
		VACANT (Alt.)						

as of 9/2022

*This is suggested to be a representative from a transportation provider or other special needs populations listed in coordinated plan including seniors, low income, youth, veterans, and limited english proficiency groups.

** Representative is chosen by local Tribal Transportation Planning Organizations (TTPO)

^Role does not include WSDOT Consolidated Grant Voting