

## **Special Needs Transportation Committee Agenda**

Date: March 15, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Online Meeting Only: Use Zoom Connection Information Provided Below

1. Welcome and Introductions (9:30 a.m.) – Susan Carter, Hopelink

- 2. Action: Approval of Meeting Summary (9:40 a.m.)\*
  - January 18, 2023 SNTC Meeting
- 3. Discussion: DRAFT Specialized Transportation Work Program (9:45 a.m.)\*
  PSRC staff will share the draft specialized transportation work program. The
  committee will discuss the proposed work program and next steps. PSRC asks
  committee members to review the attached draft work program prior to the meeting.
- 4. Discussion: Terminology and Data Related to Specialized Transportation (10:15 a.m.)

Staff will present findings from the initial terminology research for feedback. The committee will review various terms of specialized transportation and special needs populations that other peer regions are using.

Staff will also engage the committee to discuss potential data updates and improvements for the <u>Coordinated Mobility Plan</u>. Please come to the meeting prepared to answer below questions:

- What type of data, including demographics, trends, and mapping data, included in the current Coordinated Mobility Plan do you think is most useful?
- What type of data (e.g., ridership, cost, or satisfaction survey results) do you think best explains the benefits of services available to people with mobility challenges? Are there any data that can help visualize the current status of the various services (e.g., service boundaries or usage of the services)?
- Do you have any other data or resources suggested for PSRC to explore?
   Do you aware of any new data that can help address equity in specialized transportation?
- 5. Discussion: Transit Access Work Program and Ad Hoc Working Group (10:55 a.m.)\*

PSRC staff will provide an update on the agency's draft transit access work program, as further described in the attached memorandum. Staff will then present on efforts to recruit stakeholders with expertise in transit access, including

perspectives of people with mobility challenges. Membership on the working group will not be limited to committee members. The ad hoc working group will advise on next steps for the work program.

6. Roundtable: Opportunity for SNTC members to share information on their programs and coalition news (11:15 a.m.)

#### 7. Information Items:

- DRAFT PSRC Public Participation Plan for Review\*
- PSRC VISION 2050 Awards Call for Nominations\*
- 8. Next Meeting: May 17, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- 9. Adjourn (11:30 a.m.)

### **Zoom Participation Options:**

#### To join audio/video conference:

https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/92425097433?pwd=blJ4djl0aFFOdllDUldlbkNzM0RpZz09

#### To join via cellphone (1-touch dial):

One tap mobile 8884754499,,92425097433#,,,,,0#,,716161# US Toll-free 8335480276,,92425097433#,,,,,0#,,716161# US Toll-free

#### To join via phone:

888 475 4499 US Toll-free 833 548 0276 US Toll-free 833 548 0282 US Toll-free 877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 924 2509 7433

Passcode: 716161

#### Other Formats:

- Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 711.
- العربية |Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, ロロロ | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, visit https://www.psrc.org/contact-center/language-assistance.

<sup>\*</sup>Supporting materials attached



## **Special Needs Transportation Committee Meeting Summary**

Date: January 18, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Location: Remote – Online Meeting Only (Zoom Meeting)** 

#### Welcome and Introductions

Susan Carter, Chair, welcomed everyone at 9:30 a.m. and took a roll call of the membership in attendance. The recent passing of Donna Smith, alternate for Sound Transit, was acknowledged.

#### **Approval of Meeting Summary**

The December 6, 2022 meeting summary was approved as presented.

# Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan and Coordinated Mobility Plan Implementation

Jean Kim, PSRC, provided an overview of current and upcoming work program items related to specialized transportation, as part of the implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan's Coordinated Mobility Plan.

The latest plan can be found on the PSRC website: <a href="https://www.psrc.org/planning-2050/regional-transportation-plan/coordinated-mobility-plan">https://www.psrc.org/planning-2050/regional-transportation-plan/coordinated-mobility-plan</a>

The presentation is available on the PSRC website <a href="here">here</a>.

For more information, contact Jean Kim at jkim@psrc.org

# Discussion: Strategy 7.1 Improving Regional Coordination for Specialized Transportation Programs

Jean reviewed background information regarding growing mobility needs for specialized transportation in the region. She reminded the committee that the Coordinated Mobility Plan identified the need to improve regional coordination based on the federal CCAM model that convenes more agencies with transportation funding programs, which has the potential to encourage agencies to leverage resources to improve regional mobility. Nick Johnson, PSRC, shared initial findings from research on the federal and state convening bodies, like CCAM and ACCT, as examples and used the Mentimeter survey tool for the committee to provide feedback for discussion on potential updates to the current SNTC membership structure to improve regional coordination.

The presentation is available on the PSRC website <a href="here">here</a>.

For more information, contact Jean Kim at <a href="mailto:jkim@psrc.org">jkim@psrc.org</a> and Nick Johnson, at <a href="mailto:njohnson@psrc.org">njohnson@psrc.org</a>.

# Roundtable: Opportunity for SNTC members to share information on their programs and coalition news

During the local coalition reports, the committee received updates and announcements from the following attendees:

- Bree Boyce, Hopelink (RARET)
- Bebhinn Gilbert, Hopelink (KCMC)
- Beth Hamby, Sound Transit
- Brock Howell, SNOTRAC
- Jean Kim, PSRC
- Daeveene May, Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition
- Ausha Potts, Pierce Transit
- Jonny Prociv, Volunteer Services of CCS-King County

For more information, contact Jean Kim at <a href="mailto:jkim@psrc.org">jkim@psrc.org</a> or Gil Cerise at <a href="mailto:gcerise@psrc.org">gcerise@psrc.org</a>.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

#### \*Members and Alternates Represented

See attached attendance roster.

#### \*Alternates, Guests and PSRC Staff Present

Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (Alt.); Bree Boyce, Hopelink; Matthew Cramer, WSDOT; Bebhinn Gilbert, Hopelink (KCMC); Marianna Hanefeld, WSDOT; Linda Moran; Tiffany Olson, King County 211; Juli Rose, Homage; Staci Sahoo, Hopelink (KCMC) (Alt.); Mona Steele, Homage

#### **PSRC**

Monica Adkins, Gil Cerise, Jean Kim, Nick Johnson

All attendees were present via remote participation

#### **SNTC Attendance Roster**

(Members and Alternates represented)

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Sound Transit (1)  x Beth Hamby, Sound Transit  VACANT (Alt.)  Regional Education  Educational Service Districts (1)  x Jacque Mann, PSESD  Davina Miller, PSESD (Alt.)  Tribal Representation **			Jared Fernley, WSF (Alt.)	_		
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Educational Service Districts (1)  x Jacque Mann, PSESD  Davina Miller, PSESD (Alt.)  Tribal Representation **			VACANT (Alt.)	_		
Davina Miller, PSESD (Alt.)  Tribal Representation **	Regional Education			4		
Tribal Representation **	Educational Service Districts (1)	х	Jacque Mann, PSESD	_		
			Davina Miller, PSESD (Alt.)			
Tribes (1) VACANT	Tribal Representation **					
	Tribes (1)		VACANT			
VACANT (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)			as of 1/202.

<sup>\*</sup>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.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Representative is chosen by local Tribal Transportation Planning Organizations (TTPO)

<sup>^</sup>Role does not include WSDOT Consolidated Grant Voting



Item 3 MEMORANDUM March 15, 2023

**TO:** Special Needs Transportation Committee (SNTC)

**FROM:** Jean Kim, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT: DRAFT Specialized Transportation Work Program** 

#### **IN BRIEF**

PSRC staff will ask for feedback on the attached draft specialized transportation work program (Attachment 3-A). Please come to the meeting prepared to provide feedback.

#### DISCUSSION

To initiate the Regional Transportation Plan/Coordinated Mobility Plan implementation, PSRC staff engaged the committee to develop potential work program items related to specialized transportation in January 2023.

Key work program elements the committee agreed upon include:

- Data Updates and Improvements for Coordinated Mobility Plan
- Membership Review for Better Regional Coordination
- Regional Priority Ranking Factors Review and Updates
- Specialized Transportation Terminology Research

Please review the draft work program included in Attachment 3-A. This is an initial draft developed based on the committee's feedback and prioritized strategies identified in the plan. This document will be updated based on the staff capacity and direction of the Transportation Policy Board as a living document. PSRC will provide periodic updates on the work program implementation status to the committee, as appropriate.

**LEAD STAFF:** Contact Jean Kim, Senior Planner, at <a href="mailto:ikim@psrc.org">ikim@psrc.org</a> or 206-971-3052 for more information.

**Attachment 3-A:** Draft PSRC Specialized Transportation Work Program

# Attachment 3-A: PSRC DRAFT Work Program Specialized Transportation

PSRC will focus on advancing a regional specialized transportation work program via regional coordination and improving data and information within the <u>Coordinated Mobility Plan</u> for 2022-2026. This work will also help to implement the Regional Transportation Plan by advancing the prioritized strategies in the Plan and improving performance measurement of specialized transportation programs.

#1. RTP Implementation: Improve data and plan-level performance measures associated with transportation programs serving people with mobility challenges.

PSRC will continue its efforts to collect consistent and comprehensive regional data related to transportation for people with special transportation needs. Consistent data reporting and establishing data standardization can help inform the needs of underserved communities. PSRC will work with stakeholders to develop or improve plan-level performance measures for specialized transportation programs.

Task 1a: Review existing data and identify ways to better address the benefits of transportation (both transit and specialized transportation) that are used by people with mobility challenges and identify additional data needs. (Q1-2 2023)

#### **Deliverable:**

- List of potential data/resources
- Regional template for data collection

Task 1b: Request and obtain new data from specialized transportation and transit agencies on programs and services that they operate, including fixed routes, various types of demand response (i.e., ADA paratransit, flexible shuttles), contracted service, travel training, and taxi vouchers. Inquire state's GTFS-Flex data as well. This work will feed into an update of existing conditions and inventory for the next Coordinated Mobility Plan development. (Q2-3 2023)

#### Resources to review/consider:

- Regional ORCA ridership/usage data (including LIFT, ORCA Youth, RRFP, etc.) and Free Youth Transit Pass data, if available.
- National Transit Database ADA paratransit ridership
- ADA paratransit service boundary, eligibility review data, etc.
- Specialized transportation ridership/service information by priority populations
- Micro-transit (like Metro's Flex, CT's Zip Alderwood, PT's Runner, and KT's BI Ride) ridership/service information by priority populations
- Costs and metrics associated with operating various transportation programs

GTFS-Flex data

#### Deliverable:

- Summary of regional mobility trends/current status (base year: 2022)
- DRAFT Coordinated Mobility Plan's Inventory of services (if need be, data collection for inventory can happen between 2024-2025)
- (Potential) Explore and develop methods of visualizing coverage and individual or collective impact of the programs to help assess the mobility needs of people with special transportation needs.

**Task 1c: Develop plan-level performance measures.** The Special Needs Transportation Committee (SNTC) will serve as a sounding board and resource for the development of this work product. Align this work with the federal and state requirements for Human Service Transportation Plans (HSTP) and consider ways to advance equity. **(Q4 2023-Q1 2024)** 

#### Resources to review/consider:

- Work with stakeholders to estimate the costs of implementing prioritized strategies.
- Coordinate with the state to develop a transit asset management (TAM) framework for specialized transportation programs, including those seeking capital grants.

In addition to the tasks described above, staff will help ensure the needs of people with mobility challenges are addressed in other PSRC work programs like transit access, safety, and ADA transition plan research efforts.

**#2.** Implement Coordinated Mobility Plan's prioritized strategies through better regional coordination.

Prioritized strategies were developed to address each of the seven key mobility needs identified in the Coordinated Mobility Plan. PSRC will promote improved regional coordination through the task identified below:

Task 2: Revisit existing SNTC membership and identify potential agencies with transportation programs aimed at people with mobility challenges, based on the federal example of the <a href="Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility">Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM)</a>.

Identify potential agencies that can help leverage available specialized transportation funding. To supplement, PSRC staff will interview the CCAM and WSDOT's <u>Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT)</u> participants to identify lessons learned from the federal and state models. Once identified, staff will reach out to mobility coalitions and potential members for recruitment. This work also includes efforts to ensure active representation of all four counties on the committee. (Q1-3 2023)

#### Resources to review/consider:

- CCAM/ACCT website
- Interviews with stakeholders
- Peer regions' membership structure research

#### **Deliverable:**

Revised SNTC membership roster and operating procedures

#3. Continue to advance and improve regional specialized transportation work program.

Task 3a: Research universal language for specialized transportation and priority populations covered in the Coordinated Mobility Plan. (Q1-2 2023)

#### Resources to review/consider:

- Peer region review
- A Progressive's Style Guide—Sum of Us

#### **Deliverable:**

Summary of findings

**Task 3b:** Update and improve regional priority ranking factors based on the adopted Coordinated Mobility Plan for the upcoming Consolidated Grant regional priority ranking process. PSRC will work with SNTC to identify regional priorities to recommend projects that are consistent with the goals and prioritized strategies outlined in the plan. **(Q3-4 2023)** 

#### Focus this work on:

- Strengthening equity criteria to take historically marginalized and underserved areas, and tribal lands into consideration
- Identifying regional priority (for example, innovation vs. sustaining)
- Making any other improvements based on the feedback collected from July 2023
   Consolidated Grant debrief (planned)

#### Resources to review/consider:

- Peer regions assessment tools for specialized transportation funding competitions
- FTA's Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities <u>Mapping</u>
   Tool
- EPA's EJ Screening and Mapping Tool

#### **Deliverable:**

 Revised list of Regional Priority Ranking Factors for the upcoming Consolidated Grant call for projects release



Memorandum March 15, 2023

**To:** Special Needs Transportation Committee

**From:** Gil Cerise, Program Manager

Subject: Transit Access Work Program and Ad Hoc Working Group

#### **IN BRIEF**

At the March 15 meeting, PSRC staff will share a draft work program addressing an action called for in the Regional Transportation Plan to improve work on transit access in the region. Staff will also share a plan for standing up an ad hoc working group to assist in guiding progress on this work program between updates to PSRC advisory committees.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Regional Transportation Plan calls on PSRC to "...develop and update tools and resources to help identify where access to transit can be improved, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians." PSRC staff have developed a work program (see Attachment 5-A) that addresses the many facets of transit access and builds upon past work in this topic area.

The work program starts with a review of existing transit access tools and resources in conjunction with updated data to help identify potential improvements to transit access assessments and next steps. This initial task will begin with review of tools, such as the PSRC Transit Access Checklist and Transit Access Toolkit, found on the PSRC website at this <a href="Link">Link</a>. Data available that can help with assessment of transit access needs will also be reviewed. This includes data available on the <a href="PSRC Transportation System Visualization Tool">PSRC Transportation System Visualization Tool</a>.

The initial work (Task 1) will provide findings or recommendations to inform future tasks by providing a more refined identification of needs and gaps associated with assessing transit access improvements.

#### **Ad Hoc Transit Access Working Group Recruitment**

In order to assist PSRC with technical expertise and lived experience, we are planning to recruit an ad hoc working group to assist in review and evaluation of existing tools, resources and data through use of several case studies representing different contexts and transit access challenges within the region.

The working group will be charged with addressing Task 1 on the work program found in Attachment A, and possibly providing input and guidance on other tasks on the work program, as needed. PSRC anticipates that the working group will be convened four times between May and November 2023, with potential for input via email between meetings.

As described in the Regional Transportation Plan, transit access comes in many different forms. It covers:

- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).
- · Active transportation modes like walking, bicycling, and rolling.
- Transit service, provided by regular fixed-route transit (rail, bus, ferry).
- Transportation services of varying sorts provided by transit, human service agencies, and private providers that drop-off and pick-up of transit passengers without requiring them to park at the transit station (generally categorized as Mobility On Demand [MOD] or specialized transportation).
- Parking, such as at a park & ride.

As such, PSRC is recruiting stakeholders with specific expertise and perspectives that will inform this work. These include:

- Local jurisdiction staff with knowledge and expertise in:
  - o Land use planning, development, and place-making.
  - o Infrastructure in the public rights-of-way, including design and operation of rights-of-way that prioritize various modes and curb space management. This includes:
    - Pedestrian infrastructure and prioritizing pedestrian access and comfort.
    - Bicycling infrastructure and prioritizing bicycle access and comfort.
    - Prioritizing access and reliability for transit vehicles.
    - Curb management for transit, Mobility On Demand, specialized transportation, etc.
- Transit agency staff with knowledge and expertise in:
  - Transit service as a form of access, including both regular fixed-route transit (rail, ferry, bus) and flexible, MOD-types of services.
  - Transit station/stop access, including physical station infrastructure that melds with the surrounding public rights-of-way controlled by local jurisdictions.
  - Management of parking at park & rides.
- Developers and similar professionals with knowledge and expertise in:
  - Transit-Oriented Development
  - o Place-making
- Perspectives of a variety of system users and others who can provide lived experiences to inform this work, including:
  - People with mobility challenges (e.g., people with disabilities, older adults, youth, people with low incomes, or people with limited English proficiency).
  - People of Color who are experiencing accessibility needs.
  - o Caregivers.

The list of expertise noted above is intended to be representative and not all-inclusive. In order to keep the working group to a manageable size to schedule meetings and facilitate work progress, PSRC plans to limit the size of this group to fifteen people, providing a core set of complementary expertise needed to conduct this work.

PSRC will provide periodic progress updates to advisory committees throughout 2023.

**LEAD STAFF:** For more information, please contact Gil Cerise at <a href="mailto:gcerise@psrc.org">gcerise@psrc.org</a> or 206-971-3053.

**Attachment: 5-A** – DRAFT Transit Access Work Program

# Attachment 5-A: PSRC DRAFT Work Program Improving Transit Access

RTP Regional Action: "Develop and update tools and resources to help identify where access to transit can be improved, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians."

Task 1: Review existing transit access tools/resources in conjunction with updated data to help identify potential improvements to transit access assessments and next steps

The intent of this task is to review and build off of existing transit access tools and resources, both those developed by PSRC, as well as relevant information provided by other agencies.

#### Resources to review/consider:

- PSRC Transit Access resources available at: <a href="https://www.psrc.org/our-work/transit-access">https://www.psrc.org/our-work/transit-access</a>
- Data resources available for the region at a scale that is useful for assessing access improvements
- Transit access policies, strategies, and resources provided by the region's transit agencies and WSDOT

**Deliverable:** a draft report providing an analysis of existing transit access tools and data, along with a recommendation for next steps in Tasks 2-5.

Task 2: Identify potential improvements to assessment of pedestrian and bicycle connectivity near existing and planned transit stations.

Based upon the findings from Task 1, PSRC will consider ways of improving assessment of pedestrian and bicycle connectivity near transit facilities. Given constraints of time and resources, prioritize existing and planned transit facilities that do or will move the most people.

Deliverable: This task and its deliverable will be updated based upon findings from Task 1.

Task 3: Review and assess Mobility On Demand (MOD)/Microtransit and other flexible transit services in providing transit access.

Inventory existing and past microtransit or MOD services within the region. Build on existing inventories of specialized transportation services found in Coordinated Mobility Plan and other resources. Assess the role that these services provide in transit access within the region and assess transit agency plans for expanding these services over time.

**Deliverable:** Inventory of MOD/microtransit services and their characteristics. Assessment of the role of MOD/microtransit in future transit plans for use in RTP update.

#### Task 4: Update PSRC's existing transit access resources

Based upon findings from Tasks 1-3, make updates to the PSRC Transit Access Assessment, and the Transit Access Checklist and Toolkit. Incorporate any updated findings relating to equity, safety, and other relevant work.

Task 5: Work with stakeholders to develop regional transit access needs assessment and potential recommendations for addressing those needs.

Building on work of previous tasks, work with stakeholders to explore development of regional transit access needs assessment and/or identification of recommendations to better assess transit access needs in the future.





Item 7

MEMORANDUM March 15, 2023

**SUBJECT:** DRAFT Public Participation Plan

#### **IN BRIEF**

PSRC staff have been working with the Equity Advisory Committee to update the Public Participation Plan. A draft version is being reviewed by PSRC boards this month with the goal of releasing the plan for public comment from March 23 to May 8, 2023.

#### DISCUSSION

The Puget Sound Regional Council maintains a Public Participation Plan to establish consistent procedures to ensure people have reasonable opportunities to be involved in the regional planning process and provides examples of the types of tools and techniques the agency may use to communicate with the public. Public Participation Plans are a federal requirement for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. PSRC's Public Participation Plan was last updated in 2018.

The new draft Public Participation Plan has an enhanced focus on equity, updated goals, desired outcomes and guiding principles, as well as a suite of new techniques and tools for engagement. Past versions of the Public Participation Plan have been focused on the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, since the mandate for the plan is derived from PSRC's MPO planning requirements. The new plan features an expanded emphasis on public participation related to VISION 2050 and the Regional Economic Strategy.

The draft Public Participation Plan is available on our website.

**LEAD STAFF:** contact Michele Leslie at <a href="mleslie@psrc.org">mleslie@psrc.org</a> or Noah Boggess at <a href="mlosgess@psrc.org">nboggess@psrc.org</a> for more information.

# VISION 2050 AWARDS &



# **Call for Nominations 2023**

The Puget Sound Regional Council is seeking nominations for the VISION 2050 Awards Program through April 1, 2023.

The VISION 2050 Awards celebrate progress to enhance the region's communities and natural environment while advancing equity and opportunity for all. The awards recognize innovative work by jurisdictions, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other groups in the region to create a better future for central Puget Sound.

We welcome nominations in the following categories:

#### On the Ground

Projects that show VISION 2050 in action today, including housing, mixed-use development or redevelopment, expanding access to opportunity, open space preservation, and transportation investments.

## **Planning Ahead**

Comprehensive or subarea plans, economic development plans, climate action plans, equity initiatives, design guidelines, outreach programs, and other similar efforts that are shaping a positive future for the region.

## **Working Together**

Cross-jurisdictional or public/private partnerships focused on solutions or working together to tackle tough problems and advance VISION 2050. Examples include multijurisdictional work on housing affordability, environmental and climate initiatives, corridor transportation planning, or other similar efforts to face long-term regional challenges.



# The region's vision for 2050

is to provide exceptional quality of life, opportunity for all, connected communities, a spectacular natural environment, and an innovative, thriving economy. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at

www.psrc.org

## **Eligibility**

Nominations must be for projects, programs, plans and partnerships in the four-county region (King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties) that are developed in the public or private sectors, or through public/private partnerships. Any individual, business, agency, Tribe, organization or jurisdiction may submit a nomination.

#### **Submit a Nomination!**

Nominations must be submitted online through the <u>VISION 2050 Awards Nomination Form</u>

Learn more at: www.psrc.org

Scan the code for the nomination form



### **Schedule**

April 1, 2023 – Nominations due

April-May 2023 – Awards Selection Committee composed of PSRC board members will select the award winners

Summer/Fall 2023 – Awards presented on location around the region

