



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only**

**Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 pm**

**Optional: Post-Meeting Q&A from 7:30-8:00 pm**

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**1. Welcome (5:30)** – *Shannon Turner & Julius Moss, Co-Chairs*

**2. Reports**

- a. Meeting Summary for April 6, 2023\*
- b. Staff Announcements

**3. Discussion Item (6:00)**

- a. Equity Pilot Program Co-creation\* – *Kelly McGourty, Charles Patton & Noah Boggess, PSRC*

**4. Break (6:45)**

**5. Discussion Item (6:55)**

- a. Equity Pilot Program Co-creation cont.\* – *Kelly McGourty, Charles Patton & Noah Boggess, PSRC*

**6. Zoom Poll (7:25)**

**7. Adjourn (7:30)**

**8. Next meeting: June 1, 2023**

**Optional Post-Meeting Q&A (7:30)** – *Charles Patton, PSRC*

\*Supporting materials attached.

Members can access the attendance sheet [here](#) to complete and submit to [finance@psrc.org](mailto:finance@psrc.org) for compensation.

### **Zoom Remote Connection Details**

- To join the webinar, please click the following link: <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/85279327117?pwd=b1JWR01RUXI3ZGx6RzlvZmNKM2NyQT09> and enter Passcode: 855513.
- To join by phone, call 888 475 4499 or 833 548 0276 and enter Webinar ID: 852 7932 7117 and Passcode: 855513.
- For TTY-based telecommunications relay service dial 711.
- العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact/language-assistance>.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Date: April 6, 2023**

**Location: Remote Only**

Presentations from the meeting are available on the [Equity Advisory Committee webpage](#). Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

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#### **Welcome**

Julius Moss, from Pierce County, and Charles Patton, PSRC, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chair welcomed everyone and asked Mikayla to begin the roll call for attendance.

#### **Staff Announcements**

Charles shared with members that if they would like to follow up about a specific topic from a meeting, to email him with feedback. Noah also announced that PSRC is starting a Summer Planning Academy in the summer of 2023, an opportunity for high school students who might not be aware of planning careers to engage with different types of planning in the region, i.e. transportation, environmental, etc. There are twenty spots available, and more information can be found [here](#). Members were asked to share this opportunity widely with their network.

#### **Equity Pilot Program Co-Creation**

Members revisited what they learned over the course of the first quarter of 2023. Following this brief review, members began the process of co-creating the Equity Pilot Program.

You can view the presentation [here](#) and the Jamboard co-created during the meeting [here](#).

Questions? Contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org).

#### **Adjourn**

At the close of the meeting, members participated in a poll to evaluate the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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#### **Members Represented at the Table**

See attached attendance roster.

#### **PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present**

Mikayla Svob, PSRC

Charles Patton, PSRC  
Noah Boggess, PSRC  
Kelly McGourty, PSRC  
Erin Hogan, PSRC  
Rev. Violet Kashewa  
Crystal Koch





# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

May 4, 2023

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

**SUBJECT: Project Selection Co-creation**

## IN BRIEF

Between January and September 2023, the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) will work with PSRC staff to review PSRC's current project selection process as it relates to equity, and ultimately develop an equity pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The EAC will also develop recommendations for potential further equity improvements in future PSRC project selection processes.

During the upcoming meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee, members will revisit the feedback they shared during the April EAC Meeting. Following this brief review, members will continue the process of co-creating the Equity Pilot Program.

## DISCUSSION

PSRC conducts a project selection process to distribute federal transportation funds every two years. The process and the criteria used to evaluate every project is based on policies and outcomes detailed in [VISION 2050](#) and the [Regional Transportation Plan](#). These include elements such as accessibility, multimodal mobility, safety, equity and climate, as well as financial and project readiness considerations.

In addition to substantial improvements to how equity was incorporated into the existing project selection process, as part of the 2022 *Policy Framework* approximately \$6 million of PSRC's FHWA funds were set aside for an Equity Pilot Program. The EAC is asked to co-create this program, developing the parameters by which projects would be selected for funding, with an overarching focus on improving equity with transportation investments.

During the April meeting, members of the EAC encouraged staff to increase the points allocated for equity, evaluate the quality of displacement policies, encourage agencies to partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) on their transportation projects,

etc. Attachment 1 groups the feedback EAC members shared into the following categories:

- Comments PSRC can consider for the Pilot
- Comments better suited for PSRC policy and planning work
- Comments currently outside the scope of the Pilot and require more discussion

During the May meeting, PSRC will briefly revisit the feedback to confirm staff heard members correctly. Following this brief review, staff will continue the process of co-creating the Equity Pilot Program with members of the Equity Advisory Committee.

Members will be asked questions such as:

- Do the categories we placed your feedback in make sense? Do you understand why some comments don't connect directly to the Pilot and can't be incorporated right now?
- Is there consensus that these are the topics we want to address? Is anything missing?
- Should equity serve as its own distinct criterion, or should it be woven throughout the project selection process?

Additionally, EAC members will be asked if they are interested in attending staff meetings to help design the Pilot. Ideally, two to three members will join staff for these one-hour meetings. It is anticipated that a minimum of three meetings will occur between June and August, with potentially more as needed. Members who participate in these meetings will be compensated \$62.50 per meeting.

### **Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on June 1, 2023. During this meeting, members will have a follow-up conversation about the Public Participation Plan. Members will also hear about the finalization of two resources within the Regional Equity Strategy: The Equity Tracker and Equity Planning Resources.

### **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org) or Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives, at [cpatton@psrc.org](mailto:cpatton@psrc.org).

## EAC FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS

Item #	Issue / Idea	PSRC Comments	Comments we can consider for the Pilot	Comments better suited for PSRC policy and planning work	Comments currently outside the scope of the Pilot and require more discussion
1	Consider unintended consequences and other elements of the racial equity toolkit	It's unclear how this would be incorporated into the project selection criteria at this time, but further guidance might be considered for comprehensive plans.  More research is needed, including exploration of incorporating elements of the equity toolkit.			X
2	Require agencies compensate community members for their input	PSRC does not have the authority to require this, but additional efforts related to outreach and community input can be included in the project selection criterion and guidance. The topic is addressed in the VISION 2050 guidance for comprehensive plans.	X		X
3	Consider access to both peak and off peak transit	The criteria could be updated to ask if projects are supporting both peak and off-peak service; however, this will not apply to all types of projects submitted into the competition (e.g., sidewalk projects).	X		
4	Incorporate access to destinations, emphasize pedestrian safety	The criteria includes accessibility to various destination: population at large: pedestrian safety is captured in the	X		
5	Address the quality of displacement policies	There is potential to elaborate within the displacement criterion.  Displacement will be reviewed as part of the plan review process of local plans, and PSRC will continue its efforts to analyze displacement risk and provide best practices.	X	X	
6	Ask agencies to describe how equity was incorporated into their comprehensive plans	There is not a direct linkage to project selection, but there is a direct link to VISION 2050 and the comprehensive plan certification process. Equity is a key element of this work, but further internal and board discussions would be required regarding the expectations of certification.		X	
7	Add more points for equity	This could be considered in relationship to item #15	X		



Item #	Issue / Idea	PSRC Comments	Comments we can consider for the Pilot	Comments better suited for PSRC policy and planning work	Comments currently outside the scope of the Pilot and require more discussion
8	Report and monitor on outcomes, future community feedback post-award	This is not tied directly to the project selection process and information at the point of award. There are ongoing monitoring and measures associated with the Regional Transportation Plan and VISION 2050, as well as tracking of existing conditions and trends. It's unclear how this would tie back to project selection.			X
9	Encourage jurisdictions to grow their dialogues with community to learn about their needs and build relationships, specifically marginalized groups	Possible updates to the outreach section of the equity criterion (e.g., community liaisons). This topic is also included in the VISION 2050 guidance for comprehensive plans, and additional content could be considered in that work.	X	X	
10	How to address income equality, area level of income rather than our current thresholds	This would require a change in the data available and established thresholds set for "people with low incomes" throughout PSRC's planning work.			X
11	Consider language access in outreach / improvements to community engagement and integration, not as an afterthought	Possible updates to the outreach section of the equity criterion.	X		
12	Encourage / require agencies to partner with community on their projects; avoid allowing this to serve as a checkbox experience	This topic is included in the VISION 2050 guidance for comprehensive plans. Possible inclusion for pilot project, as well as further comprehensive plan guidance.	X		
13	Address resilience of the system - e.g., when the bus doesn't run what are the options	Possible updates to the criteria. Possible further efforts related to PSRC's larger planning work on resilience, monitoring of existing conditions.	X	X	
14	Address the issue of lack of capacity of CBOs, always using the same groups for outreach -- need capacity support building. Address the disparity in who has the "privilege of time to be involved"	This is not tied directly to the project selection process, but could possibly be further advanced in the guidance for comprehensive plans and equitable engagement. More research and discussion is needed on this topic.		X	X

Item #	Issue / Idea	PSRC Comments	Comments we can consider for the Pilot	Comments better suited for PSRC policy and planning work	Comments currently outside the scope of the Pilot and require more discussion
15	Weight the equity criterion more, or consider equity as the overall umbrella	Consider both options for the pilot.	X		
16	Identify the most marginalized group related to the project and describe how it addresses their needs	The criteria could be updated to address which groups are most marginalized rather than simply asking sponsors to identify marginalized groups. This will require additional guidance to help sponsors adequately respond.	X		
17	Require agencies to share demographics of their staff or project managers, and compare to the population of residents they're attempting to serve with the project. Share what they're doing to better reflect the diversity of their community.	This is outside the scope and authority of PSRC's project selection process. Additional discussions may be had for PSRC's equitable engagement guidance.		X	X
18	Use models to forecast how the project will benefit marginalized users in the future.	PSRC does not have the ability to currently do this. We will work with our data team on possible future efforts.			X
19	Use the location of marginalized communities in relationship to the project.	The current criteria addresses the location of the project relative to the regional averages for the six equity focus population groups. The criteria could be updated to provide greater granularity and a continuum of points based on the concentration of marginalized residents where the project is located, but this will require more guidance for project sponsors to determine this information.	X		
20	Consider the impacts benefits strategies	The current criteria address the benefits of the project, but we can review and consider updates.	X		
21	Focus on access to opportunity	Access to opportunity is included in the current criteria, but we can review and consider updates.	X		
22	Focus Pilot on transit and bike/ped projects	This can be considered for committee discussion.	X		