

Public Participation Plan

Equity Advisory Committee

June 1, 2023



Puget Sound Regional Council

Questions for the EAC

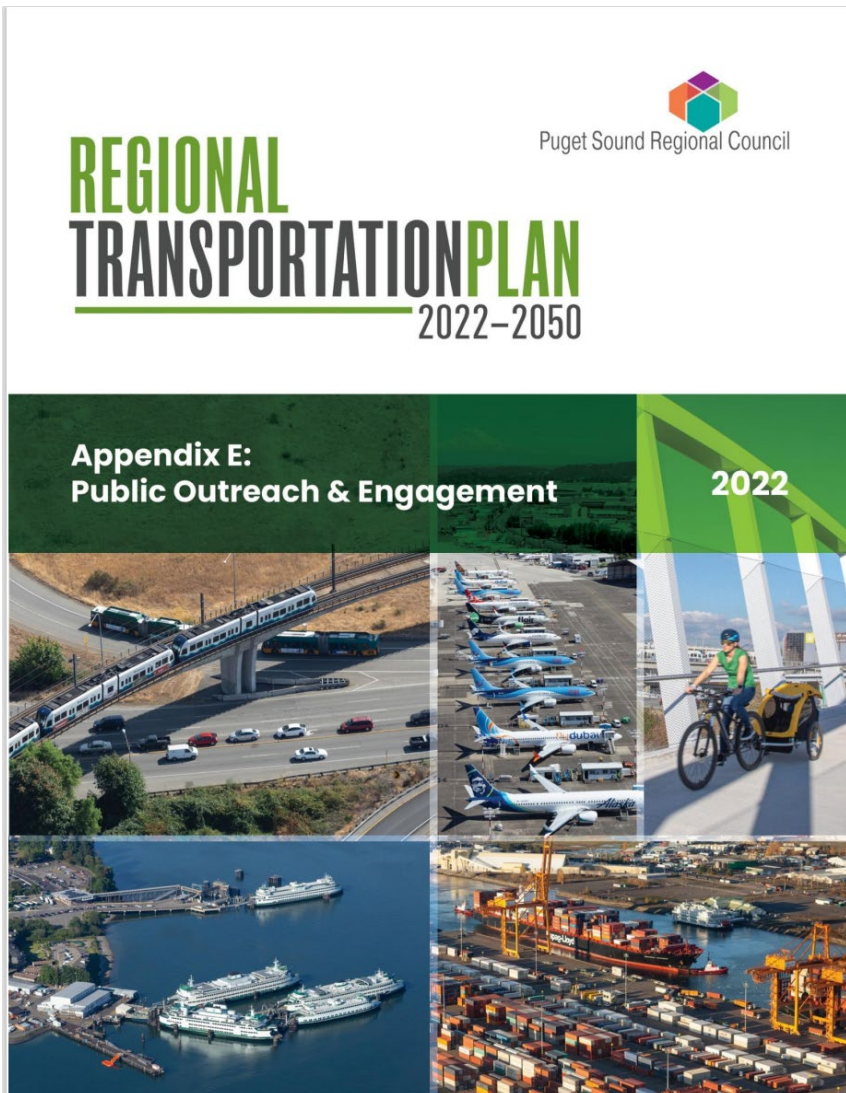
- Are there any additional comments on the agency framework for Public Participation moving forward?
- Do you have any questions or suggestions about how to make our public comment periods open and inclusive spaces?
- What other practices can we consider in our long-term plans to engage with community members?



What is the Public Participation Plan?

- Establishes consistent procedures to ensure people have opportunities to be involved.
- Provides examples of the types of tools and techniques PSRC may use to communicate with the public.
- Provides a blueprint for public participation overall.
- Federal government requirement for Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Outreach plans for each process



- Detailed outreach plans and activities are part of each planning process.
- RTP included:
 - Outreach goals, youth engagement, Future of Transportation Survey, CBO engagement, website, online open house, Tribal outreach, peer networking, and more

Update Process

- PSRC staff began the major update process last June
- Last update in 2018, only minor changes have been made since 2012
- Provided a general framework to federal partners July 2022



Update Process

- **Key updates were shared with the Equity Advisory Committee last July and December**
- **EAC Feedback led to revised Goals, Guiding Principles, Desired Outcomes, and Best Practices**



Leveraging the Regional Equity Strategy



Capacity Building

- ▶ Learning Opportunities
- ▶ Prioritizing Equity
- ▶ Inclusive Procurement
- ▶ Hiring and Retention



Data and Research

- ▶ Equity Tracker Data
- ▶ Data and Analysis
- ▶ Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report



Community Engagement

- ▶ Equity Advisory Committee
- ▶ Anti-Displacement Organizations
- ▶ **Equitable Engagement Guidance**



Best Practices

- ▶ Racial Equity Impact Assessment
- ▶ Equity Planning Resources

New Additions

- **Best Practices for Equitable Engagement**
 - Guidance document for PSRC staff
- **Amended Desired Outcomes and Guiding Principles**
 - Based on EAC feedback
- **Expanded compensation policies**
 - Direct engagement
 - Community-Based Organizations
 - Honorariums for speakers and events

Public Comment & Board Approval

- Draft Plan was presented to PSRC Policy Boards in Spring 2023
- Released for Public Comment Period in March
 - Included Focus Group with regional engagement professionals and individual interviews with outreach staff



Comment Themes

- **Positive feedback on the increased focus on equity.**
 - **Specifically the goals, desired outcomes, guiding principles, and best practices for equitable engagement.**
- **Relationship building with community-based organizations is key.**
 - **Engagement professionals stressed the importance of co-creating engagement strategies alongside community groups.**

Comment Themes

- **Oral public comment at PSRC Board meetings.**
 - One commenter suggested we move to written only comment for PSRC Board meetings.
- **Research pools.**
 - One commenter suggested PSRC use a research pool for providing regular feedback on agency activities.
- **Comments unrelated to Public Participation Plan.**
 - A few commenters shared interest in PSRC's other activities related to transportation and open space that were not relevant to the Public Participation Plan.

Public Comment at PSRC Boards

- One commenter suggested we move to written only comment for PSRC Board meetings.
- Stems from challenging interactions with one public commenter in particular.
- PSRC staff have received guidance from legal department with how best to deal with such challenges.



Next Steps

- Incorporate edits from public comment period into the final Public Participation Plan.
- Final draft presented to the Executive Board later this month for approval.



Questions for the EAC

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- What other practices can we consider in our long-term plans to engage with community members?



Questions?

