

Public Participation Plan

Executive Board

June 22, 2023

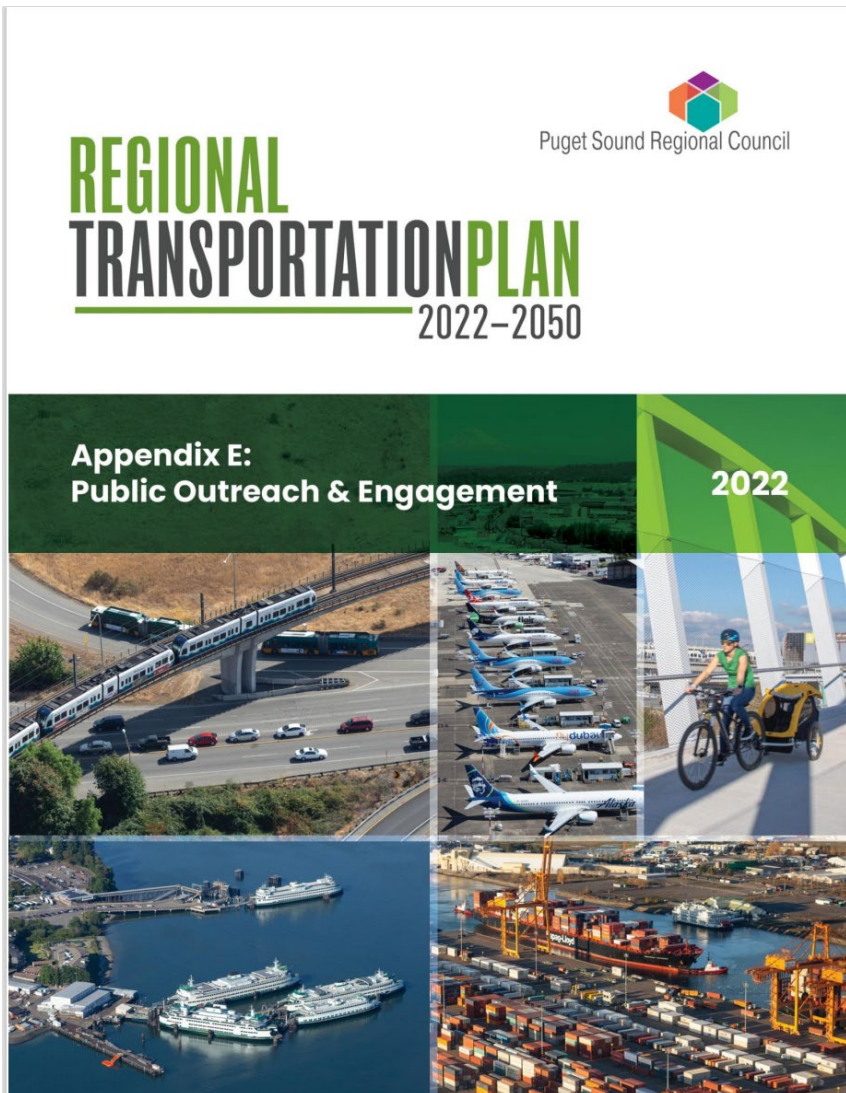


Puget Sound Regional Council

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**

Outreach Themes

- **Positive feedback on the increased focus on equity**
 - Appreciated that equity is weaved into 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
- **EAC recommended video/additional translation of key policies as part of public engagement/outreach**
 - Included additional emphasis in techniques section in final draft

Outreach Themes

- **Oral public comment at PSRC Board meetings**
 - One commenter suggested we move to written only comment for PSRC Board meetings
 - EAC and staff do not recommend a wholesale move to written comments only; rather, allow for written comments only for specific meetings with prior notice and focus on enforcing rules/expectations of conduct
- **Research pools**
 - One commenter suggested PSRC use a research pool for providing regular feedback on agency activities
 - Staff will continue to work to incorporate as part of outreach activities; no change to current draft Plan recommended
- **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; referred to PSRC staff for review and follow-up

Recommended Action

**The Executive Board approve adoption of the
Public Participation Plan**

Questions?

