

Connecting People to Transit

July 19, 2023 • Special Needs Transportation Committee



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

psrc.org/equity

Today's Presentation

Background

- Work program
- PSRC transit access tools

Discussion

Next Steps



Regional Transportation Plan calls for PSRC to:

“...Develop and update tools and resources to **help identify where access to transit can be improved**, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians. ”

Transit access in RTP:

- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Walk, Bike, and Roll
- Transit Service
- Drop-off/Pick-up Modes
- Parking



Transit Access Work Program

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

- This task builds upon past work and will help inform future tasks.
- Work with the Transit Access Working Group to assess unique challenges/needs for different contexts in the region.

Where We Are At...

Internal review of tools

Working group recruitment

- Roster ready to share (Attachment A)
- Working group represents a variety of transit access aspects

PSRC staff presentation scheduled for relevant committee meetings in June & July

First working group met on July 11th

PSRC Transit Access Tools

PSRC published transit access tools and resources in 2017.

Initial Transit Access Assessment Identifies three transit access characteristics:

- Urban Form
- Transit Service
- Parking



Transit Access Assessment Findings

Context matters:

- The quality of transit access depends on many different variables.
- There currently is no consistent, comprehensive, and transparent framework for understanding the transit access context in the region.

Many actors, unclear roles:

Multiple actors are involved in the delivery of transit access investments. However, roles are not always clearly defined.



Transit Access Checklist

- The Checklist provides a framework for conducting a **comprehensive assessment of existing transit access conditions** at any given location.
- It also includes relevant data sources and transit agency and PSRC contacts.



Transit Access Toolkit

- The Toolkit identifies **various tools for improving transit access and organizes them** across eight strategic areas.
- The Toolkit was designed to help stakeholders understand how each strategic area increases transit access and the roles played by various stakeholders.



Transit Access Funding Matrix & Key Findings

- The Matrix documents **potential funding opportunities for transit access** strategies identified in the Toolkit.
- The Matrix also describes how transit access improvements are typically funded at various governmental scales.


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TRANSIT ACCESS FUNDING MATRIX & KEY FINDINGS

There are many kinds of transit access improvements, ranging in scale from small to significant. Some of these improvements are standalone investments while others are embedded in larger capital projects. Furthermore, multiple agencies may implement several different access improvements to benefit one major site of transit service. This reality can create funding complexity and challenges for providing transit access improvements throughout the region. The Transit Access Funding Matrix describes how transit access improvements are typically funded at various governmental scales, the key findings of which are identified below. In addition, the primary funding sources for transit access improvements are documented.

Key findings.

1. **Improving access involves multiple agencies using a variety of funding sources.** In most contexts, improving access involves multiple discrete projects serving different purposes, oftentimes with improved access as a secondary or tertiary outcome. Ensuring alignment between many agencies and sources is complex.
2. **The passage of ST3 created the first dedicated funding source for transit access projects.** However, these funds alone cannot meet regional transit access needs, especially outside of Sound Transit's service area. There currently is not an approach for prioritizing projects based on the access value added in the process for other potentially appropriate funding sources.
3. **Large-scale projects (primarily associated with Sound Transit) create opportunities to maximize access in specific areas.** The resources and focus brought to bear on specific locations through Sound Transit-related projects may make it easier to align priorities and leverage resources.
4. **However, large-scale projects that are not primarily associated with Sound Transit projects are challenging to fund and therefore more complex to implement.** Projects of a certain scale that do not have an accompanying revenue source associated with them can be very challenging to fund.
5. **Timing of access investments matter,** but there is not a consistent approach for ensuring that access investments within a larger capital development process are aligned.



TRANSIT ACCESS FUNDING MATRIX & KEY FINDINGS | JANUARY 2017

TRANSIT ACCESS TOOLKIT



Existing Transit Access Tools

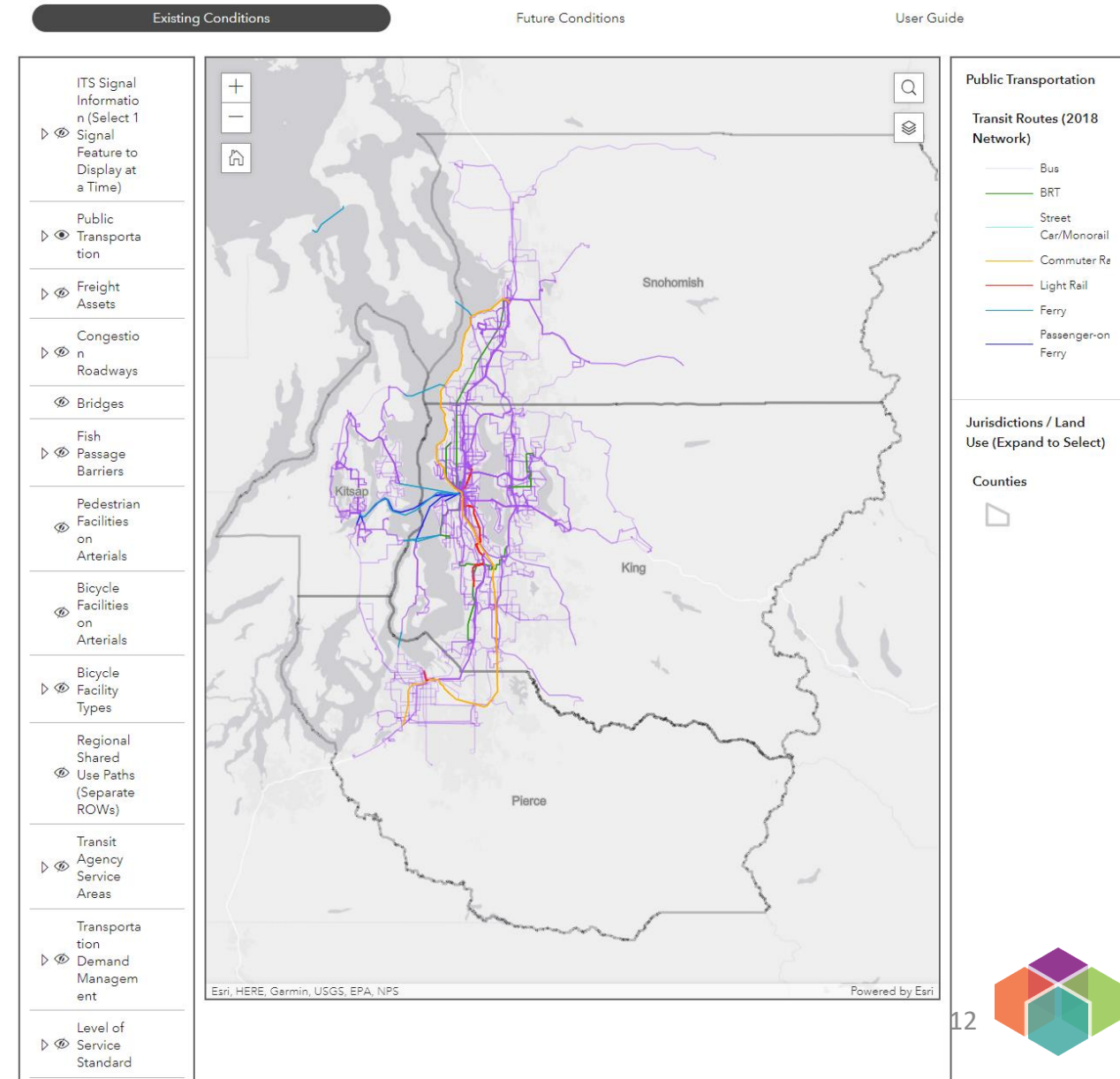
Transit Access Checklist addresses the need for...

- Assessing **ADA-compliant** and **connected sidewalks**.
- Improving **user experience** by providing protected waiting areas, real-time information, and improving the perception of safety/security
- Improving **drop-off/pick-up connections** by ensuring short transit transfers, easy and accessible multi-modal connectivity (e.g. paratransit, shuttles, rideshare vehicles, taxis, and etc.)



Compared to 2017...

- **New data is available**, including regional sidewalks and bicycle facilities inventories
- **Flexible services**, like micro-transit, are more formalized
- More attention to improving transit access to/from **underserved communities**



Discussion

- Do you have any suggestions on:
 - How the tools should be addressing the need for increasing transit access of the **Coordinated Mobility Plan's priority populations**?
 - How **specialized transportation** should be characterized in the tools?
- Are you aware of any **recent studies or literature on transit access** that PSRC should be aware of in our work on transit access?
- Do you have any suggestions for **existing or future high-capacity transit (HCT) station areas** that would be good candidates for case studies to help assess the tools?



Next Steps

July–November 2023: Conduct Transit Access Assessment

September 12, 2023: Transit Access Working Group Meeting #2

Early 2024: Begin work on next tasks

Periodic updates to committees and boards throughout the process



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Everett, Washington. A large bridge spans across a wide body of water, connecting the city to the mainland. The city features a mix of residential and commercial buildings, a marina with many boats, and industrial areas. In the background, there are mountains under a clear blue sky.

Thank You!

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