



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 pm

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

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

2. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary for July 6, 2023*
- b. EAC Member Announcements*
- c. Staff Announcements

3. Discussion Item (6:00)

- a. Equity Pilot Program: Design Review and Discussion* – *Kelly McGourty, Charles Patton, & Doug Cox, PSRC*

4. Break (6:40)

5. Discussion Item (6:50)

- a. Equity Pilot Program: Design Review and Discussion Cont.* – *Kelly McGourty, Charles Patton, & Doug Cox, PSRC*

6. Zoom Poll (7:25)

7. Information Item

- a. TOD Save the Date – From Pandemic to Prosperity: Downtowns Reimagined – Friday, September 29, 2023*

8. Next meeting: October 5, 2023

9. Adjourn (7:30)

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 for compensation.

Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join the webinar, please click the following link: <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/84808198742?pwd=cGxBNDIZNTRFQ2tPU3VnM1RtdVZLQT09> and enter Passcode: 880390.
- To join by phone, call 877 853 5257 US Toll Free or 888 475 4499 US Toll Free and enter Webinar ID: 848 0819 8742 and Passcode: 880390.
- 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: July 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.

Welcome

Julius Moss, from Pierce County, and Shannon Turner, from Kitsap County, 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 that if members have questions prior to the meeting, that relevant staff are available to answer or discuss agenda questions and topics. He reminded the committee to respond to the Microsoft forms survey sent out regarding membership for 2024.

Charles shared a brief presentation on PSRC Board Participation for EAC members, to gauge the interest and capacity level from the committee.

Racial Equity Impact Assessment: Update and Training

As part of the Regional Equity Strategy, PSRC has developed a Racial Equity Impact Assessment. Staff incorporated feedback from the EAC, other PSRC staff, and external staff to publish the Racial Equity Impact Statement on PSRC's website in draft form for additional public comment. At the July meeting, staff shared the updates made to the current draft form of the assessment and detailed the work being done to create a training opportunity for local staff to learn how to use the assessment.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Grant Gibson, Associate Planner at ggibson@psrc.org.

Anti-Displacement Organizations Team Update

PSRC staff have completed the first draft of the Anti-Displacement Organizations Directory and Report. PSRC staff presented the draft to the EAC, specifically covering the summary of organizations identified and the best practices for local governments to foster growth in the anti-displacement space. The EAC was asked to provide input on the draft report and to make suggestions for what the next phase of this effort should look like.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Noah Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, nboggess@psrc.org.

Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report

PSRC staff provided an update on the Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report, sharing what has been done since the last meeting. Staff asked the Equity Advisory Committee if their previous feedback was incorporated appropriately.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Charles Patton, Program Manager, at cpatton@psrc.org.

PSRC State Legislative Agenda

PSRC staff briefed the Equity Advisory Committee on the role PSRC plays at the Washington State Legislature and the process for adopting 2024 Recommendations to the State Legislature.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@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.

Members Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Charles Patton, PSRC
Grant Gibson, PSRC
Noah Boggess, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Howard Greenwich
Eliana Horn
Ed Engel
Linda Moran



WELCOMING WEEK

Bridging the Gap: Addressing Housing Disparities in East King County

Friday, Sept 15, 2023

Together Center | 16305 NE 87th St. Redmond, WA

Lunch available 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Program: 12:15-2 p.m. | Registration: Sept15.eventbrite.com

How are local governments planning for more equitable housing?



Join the conversation as we explore how to undo the disparities that hinder our ability to create more welcoming and affordable communities on the Eastside.

Opening Address: Dr. Julian Agyeman, Tufts University, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning.



Presented by:



EASTSIDE FOR ALL



With support from:



CMO-23-8242



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

September 7, 2023

TO: Equity Advisory Committee
FROM: Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning
SUBJECT: **Project Selection Co-creation**

IN BRIEF

From January and September 2023, the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) worked 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. Additionally, from July to August, a subgroup of EAC members attended staff meetings to help design the Pilot. Moving forward 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 these meetings. Following this brief review, members will confirm the design of the Pilot aligns with their recommendations and offer additional feedback.

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.

During three meetings in July and August, an EAC subgroup worked with staff to develop questions that reflected these recommendations. They also offered additional recommendations such as encouraging agencies to improve the resilience of the transportation system, aligning relevant questions with the Regional Economic Strategy, requiring all project sponsors describe how displacement is being addressed, etc.

Please see Attachment A and B to view a draft of the Equity Pilot the EAC subgroup co-created.

PSRC will provide an overview of the Equity Pilot to confirm the EACs feedback was incorporated appropriately. Following this overview, 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:

- Does the design of the Pilot reflect your recommendations?
- Are these the correct point values?
- Equity will serve as its own distinct criterion, and it will be woven throughout the project selection process. What is the value of this exercise? What are we hoping to achieve?

Next Steps

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on October 5, 2023. During this meeting, members will have a follow-up conversation about the state legislative agenda. They will also have an opportunity to select EAC representatives for the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB).

Lead Staff

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

Attachments:

Attachment A: Equity Pilot Pathway 1 – Updating Existing Process

Attachment B: Equity Pilot Pathway 2 – Updating Existing Process and Elevating Equity Throughout

Attachment A: EQUITY PILOT PATHWAY 1 – UPDATING EXISTING PROCESS

Regional Project Evaluation Criteria – Proposed Edits

	Point Values	Point Values
Development of Centers	30	24
Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility	27	21
Equity	10	20
Safety	8	10
Air Quality / Climate Change	20	20
Project Readiness / Financial Plan	5	5
TOTAL	100	100

Development of Center = 24 Points (6 points/bullet)

- Describe how this project will support the housing and/or employment development in a regional, countywide or locally adopted center. Does it support multiple centers?
- Describe how the project will support the development/redevelopment plans and activities (objectives and aims) of the center.
- Describe how the project will benefit a variety of user groups, including commuters, residents, and/or commercial users.
- Describe how the project will support the establishment of new jobs/businesses or the retention of existing jobs/businesses including those in the industry clusters identified in the adopted regional economic strategy.

Guidance notes: VISION 2050 established policy focus of supporting growth in centers, with centers broadened to include regional, countywide or local. Projects should be derived from established comprehensive plans, subarea plans or centers plans.

Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility = 21 Points (7 points/bullet)

- Describe how the project provides access to major destinations within the center, such as completing a physical gap, providing an essential link in the transportation network for people and/or goods, or providing a range of travel modes or a missing mode.
- Describe how the project will improve circulation to or within the center and enhance opportunities for active transportation, for example through improvements in: walkability, public transit access, public transit speed and reliability, bicycle mobility,

streetscape improvements, traffic calming, etc.

- Describe how the project remedies a current or anticipated problem (e.g. congestion, incomplete sidewalk system, inadequate transit service/facilities, modal conflicts, preservation of essential freight movement, **addressing redundancies in the system, and/or improving individual resilience and adaptability to changes or issues with the transportation system**).

Guidance notes: Guidance will provide examples of high scoring projects and elaborate on access to destinations such as critical services, recreation, employment, schools, etc. Key notes will also be provided on transit network or access improvements being addressed not just for peak period commuter services but all services throughout the day.

Equity = 20 Points

Section 1. Addressing population groups, benefits and disparities (8 points)

- Identify the equity populations to be served by the project with supportive data. PSRC's defined equity populations are: people of color, people with low incomes, older adults, youth, people with disabilities, and people with Limited English Proficiency.
 - **Further identify the most impacted or marginalized populations within the project area. For example, areas with a higher percentage of both people of color and people with low incomes, and/or other areas of intersectionality across equity populations. These intersections with equity populations may also include areas with low access to opportunity, areas disproportionately impacted by pollution, etc.**
- Identify the existing disparities or gaps in the transportation system or services for these identified equity populations that need to be addressed.
- Describe how the project is addressing those disparities or gaps and will provide benefits or positive impacts to these equity populations by improving their mobility.

Guidance notes: Additional resources, best practices and examples of high scoring projects will be provided to assist applicants to better respond to this criterion. This will include PSRC's web maps and other state and national resources identifying historically disadvantaged communities.

Section 2. Addressing outreach (6 points)

- Describe the public outreach process that led to the development of the project. This could be at a broader planning level (comprehensive plan, corridor plan, etc.) or for the specific project. Include specific outreach or communication with the equity populations identified in the previous section, **including activities reflective of best practices from PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance**. These include, for example:
 - **Compensating community members for their input**

- Effectively addressing language barriers
- Partnering and co-creating with community-based organizations
- Describe how this outreach influenced the development of the project, e.g., the location, scope, design, timing, etc.

Guidance notes: Guidance will describe high scoring projects and elaborate on equitable engagement strategies and how projects can be informed by this engagement. More details will also be provided on how to address this criterion based on the different types and level of engagement, for example if the outreach was conducted for a broader planning effort vs. for the specific project.

Example of a High Scoring Project under Outreach:

“The outreach process included creating an ad hoc committee comprised of people with disabilities (i.e., the EFA for this project) that met several times to identify project needs and goals, review improvement options, and select recommended improvements. The agency engaged in meaningful conversations with the committee to better understand their needs and center the project on issues they shared with staff. Committee members were compensated for their time and expertise.

Committee members cited a need for sidewalks, traffic calming, and a street design that would keep residents safe from vehicle traffic. They were particularly interested in sidewalks and street designs that would address access and safety issues for people with disabilities who currently wait for the bus along the edge of the road.”

Section 3. Addressing displacement (6 points)

- Is the project in an area of low, medium, or high displacement risk?
- Using PSRC’s Housing Opportunities by Place (HOP) tool, identify the typology associated with the location of the project and identify the strategies the jurisdiction uses to reduce the risk of displacement that are aligned with those listed for the typology.

Guidance notes: The guidance will explain the new resources developed under the HOP tool, and identify how a project may score highly under this criterion. The intent is to educate applicants on these tools and the expectations on jurisdictions to address displacement risk moving forward.

Example of a High Scoring Project under Displacement:

“The project serves areas of high displacement risk / lower opportunity, which falls under the “Improve Access and Affordability” typology. The

Comprehensive Plan includes strategies that align with this typology and reflect the jurisdiction's commitment to reduce the risk of displacement. Examples of these strategies include: no minimum parking requirements, incentive / inclusionary zoning, and relocation assistance. Attachment A includes language from the comprehensive plan that provides additional details on these strategies."

Safety and Security = 10 Points

- Describe how the project addresses safety and security. (4 points)
- Describe how the project helps protect vulnerable users of the transportation system, by improving pedestrian safety and addressing existing risks or conditions for pedestrian injuries and fatalities and/or adding or improving facilities for pedestrian and bicycle safety and comfort. (3 points)
- Does your agency have an adopted safety policy (e.g., Vision Zero, Target Zero, etc.)? How did these policies inform the development of the project? (2 points)
- Describe how the project reduces reliance on enforcement and/or designs for decreased speeds. (1 point)

Guidance notes: Guidance will elaborate on how applicants can demonstrate that the project is addressing unsafe conditions and improving safety for vulnerable users in particular. Examples will be provided, and agencies are encouraged to develop safety plans and/or policies that drive investments.

Air Quality / Climate Change = 20 Points

- Describe how the project will reduce emissions, particularly of diesel particulates, through one or more of the following: (15 points)
 - Eliminating vehicle trips;
 - Inducing a mode shift away from single occupant vehicles (SOVs);
 - Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT);
 - Improving traffic flow (e.g., through signal coordination or by removing a bottleneck);
 - Converting to cleaner fuels, equipment, fuel systems and/or vehicles.
- Is the project located in an area identified as a 7 of 10 for diesel pollution and disproportionate impacts in the Washington Environmental Health Disparities map? (5 points)

Guidance notes: Supportive resources on how various projects can reduce emissions will

be provided. Information will also be provided on areas that have experienced disproportionate impacts from diesel pollution, and how projects may address those impacts.

Project Readiness/Financial Plan = 5 Points

- When will the sponsor complete all prerequisites needed to obligate the project's requested regional funds?
- How reasonable is the financial plan for the requested phase(s)? Describe the funds already secured for the project, anticipated and reasonably expected to be secured, or unsecured at the time of the application.

Guidance Notes: This section is to ensure the efficient and timely use of the federal funds, with robust guidance on project requirements and expectations for delivery.

Attachment B: EQUITY PILOT PATHWAY 2 – UPDATING EXISTING PROCESS AND ELEVATING EQUITY THROUGHOUT

Regional Project Evaluation Criteria – Proposed Edits

CRITERIA	Point Values – Current	Point Values – Proposed Pathway 1	Point Values – Proposed Pathway 2
Development of Centers	30	24	25
Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility	27	21	28
Equity (Outreach and Displacement)	10	20	12
Safety	8	10	10
Air Quality / Climate Change	20	20	20
Project Readiness / Financial Plan	5	5	5
TOTAL	100	100	100

EQUITY INFORMATION

Identification of population groups

Applicants will be asked upfront to identify the equity populations to be served by the project with supportive data. PSRC’s defined equity populations are: people of color, people with low incomes, older adults, youth, people with disabilities, and people with Limited English Proficiency.

Applicants will be further asked to identify the most impacted or marginalized populations within the project area. For example, areas with a higher percentage of both people of color and people with low incomes, and/or other areas of intersectionality across equity populations. These intersections with equity populations may also include areas with low access to opportunity, areas disproportionately impacted by pollution, etc.

Development of Center = 25 Points (5 points/bullet)

- Describe how this project will support the housing and/or employment development in a regional, countywide or locally adopted center. Does it support multiple centers?
- Describe how the project will support the development/redevelopment plans and activities (objectives and aims) of the center.
- Describe how the project will benefit a variety of user groups, including commuters, residents, and/or commercial users.
- Describe how the project will support the establishment of new jobs/businesses or the retention of existing jobs/businesses including those in the industry clusters identified

in the adopted regional economic strategy. Describe the support for a diversity of business types and sizes within the community.

- Describe how the project will expand access to high, middle and/or living wage jobs for the EFAs identified above.

Guidance notes: VISION 2050 established policy focus of supporting growth in centers, with centers broadened to include regional, countywide or local. Projects should be derived from established comprehensive plans, subarea plans or centers plans.

Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility = 28 Points (7 points/bullet)

- Describe how the project provides access to major destinations within the center, such as completing a physical gap, providing an essential link in the transportation network for people and/or goods, or providing a range of travel modes or a missing mode.
- Describe how the project will improve circulation to or within the center and enhance opportunities for active transportation, for example through improvements in: walkability, public transit access, public transit speed and reliability, bicycle mobility, streetscape improvements, traffic calming, etc.
- Describe how the project remedies a current or anticipated problem (e.g. congestion, incomplete sidewalk system, inadequate transit service/facilities, modal conflicts, the preservation of essential freight movement, addressing redundancies in the system, and/or improving individual resilience and adaptability to changes or issues with the transportation system).
- Identify the existing disparities or gaps in the transportation system or services for the equity populations identified above that need to be addressed. Describe how the project is addressing those disparities or gaps and will provide benefits or positive impacts to these equity populations by improving their mobility.

Guidance notes: Guidance will provide examples of high scoring projects and elaborate on access to destinations such as critical services, recreation, employment, schools, etc. Key notes will also be provided on transit network or access improvements being addressed not just for peak period commuter services but all services throughout the day.

Outreach and Displacement = 12 Points

Section 1. Addressing outreach (6 points)

- Describe the public outreach process that led to the development of the project. This could be at a broader planning level (comprehensive plan, corridor plan, etc.) or for the specific project. Include specific outreach or communication with the equity

populations identified in the previous section, including activities reflective of best practices from PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance. These include, for example:

- Compensating community members for their input
- Effectively addressing language barriers
- Partnering and co-creating with community-based organizations
- Describe how this outreach influenced the development of the project, e.g., the location, scope, design, timing, etc.

Guidance notes: Guidance will describe high scoring projects and elaborate on equitable engagement strategies and how projects can be informed by this engagement. More details will also be provided on how to address this criterion based on the different types and level of engagement, for example if the outreach was conducted for a broader planning effort vs. for the specific project.

Section 2. Addressing displacement (6 points)

- ~~Is the project in an area of low, medium, or high displacement risk?~~
- Using PSRC's Housing Opportunities by Place (HOP) tool, identify the typology associated with the location of the project and identify the strategies the jurisdiction uses to reduce the risk of displacement that are aligned with those listed for the typology.

Guidance notes: The guidance will explain the new resources developed under the HOP tool, and identify how a project may score highly under this criterion. The intent is to educate applicants on these tools and the expectations on jurisdictions to address displacement risk moving forward.

Safety and Security = 10 Points

- Describe how the project addresses safety and security. (2 points)
- Specific to the equity populations identified above, describe how the project will improve safety and/or address safety issues currently being experienced by these communities. (2 points)
- Describe how the project helps protect vulnerable users of the transportation system, by improving pedestrian safety and addressing existing risks or conditions for pedestrian injuries and fatalities and/or adding or improving facilities for pedestrian and bicycle safety and comfort. (3 points)
- Does your agency have an adopted safety policy (e.g., Vision Zero, Target Zero, etc.)? How did these policies inform the development of the project? (2 points)

- Describe how the project reduces reliance on enforcement and/or designs for decreased speeds. (1 point)

Guidance notes: Guidance will elaborate on how applicants can demonstrate that the project is addressing unsafe conditions and improving safety for vulnerable users in particular. Examples will be provided, and agencies are encouraged to develop safety plans and/or policies that drive investments.

Air Quality / Climate Change = 20 Points

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- Is the project located in an area identified as a 7 of 10 for diesel pollution and disproportionate impacts in the Washington Environmental Health Disparities map? (5 points)

Guidance notes: Supportive resources on how various projects can reduce emissions will be provided. Information will also be provided on areas that have experienced disproportionate impacts from diesel pollution, and how projects may address those impacts.

Project Readiness/Financial Plan = 5 Points

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Puget Sound Regional Council

FROM PANDEMIC TO PROSPERITY: Downtowns Reimagined



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 29, 2023



Part 1

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Zoom & In-person
Panels**



Part 2

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**In Person Walking Tour
(location coming soon)**

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted downtowns and urban cores in unforeseen ways that now provide opportunities to revitalize these places to better serve all people. Join industry and community leaders to explore cutting edge data analysis, innovative techniques, and best practices to reimagine downtowns for our shared prosperity.

Free to attend. Online registration opens soon.