



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Regional FTA Caucus Agenda**

**Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

**Online Meeting Only: Use Zoom Connection Information Provided Below**

---

**1. Welcome and Introductions (10:30)**

**2. Action: Approval of Meeting Summary – July 12, 2023\* (10:35)**

**3. Action: King County Metro Redistribution Request\* (10:40)**

King County Metro is requesting a redistribution of funds between two existing projects. Please see the attachment for details of the specific redistribution request.

**4. Discussion: Updates on Delayed FTA and FHWA Obligations\* (10:45)**

Chris Eilerman, City of Seattle, will provide information on the current status of the Center City Connector project. PSRC staff will then provide a brief update on other projects currently or at risk of experiencing delays in obligating their regional FTA funds or “flexed” FHWA funds.

**5. Discussion: Distribution of 2023-2026 FTA Funds\* (11:00)**

PSRC will provide an update on the distribution of 2023-2024 equity formula allocation funds and 2025-2026 earned share and equity formula allocation funds. The Transportation Operators Committee is scheduled to take action on the funding recommendations at its October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Caucus will also review and discuss next steps for redistributing returned Pierce Transit and Sound Transit funding, as detailed in the attachment.

**6. Transit Agency Roundtable (11:15)**

As time permits, transit agency staff will provide updates on their work, and ask questions or share information about FTA funding and other requirements.

**7. Other Business (11:25)**

**8. Next Meeting: November 8, 2023: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**9. Adjourn (11:30 a.m.)**

\* Supporting materials attached.

For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822 or [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org).

**Zoom Remote Connection Information:**

**To join audio/video conference:**

<https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/87800746580?pwd=dC9EdnBnVWdyakxsZE40Slldwd0NaQT09>

**To join via cellphone (1-touch dial):**

8335480276,,87800746580#,,,,\*921586# US Toll-free

8335480282,,87800746580#,,,,\*921586# US Toll-free

**To join via phone:**

Dial by your location

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 878 0074 6580

Passcode: 921586

**Regional FTA Caucus Attendees:**

**Please adhere to a few virtual meeting rules:**

- Please keep your microphone muted at all times when not speaking
- Use \*6 to mute/unmute phone
- Speakerphone is not recommended

**Other Formats:**

- Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 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-center/language-assistance>



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Regional FTA Caucus Meeting Summary**

**Date: July 12, 2023 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Location: Online Meeting Only - Zoom Remote Meeting**

---

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Steffani Lillie, Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:30 a.m. and took a roll call and confirmed the members and alternates present.

#### **Approval of Meeting Summary**

The summary for the May 10, 2023 Regional FTA Caucus meeting was approved as presented.

#### **Action: Delayed FTA and FHWA TrAMS Obligations**

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed the projects currently experiencing delays in obligating their regional FTA funds and “flexed” FHWA funds, as detailed in the [agenda packet](#).

Two City of Seattle projects that had previously received obligation extensions to June 2023 had not yet been submitted. Chris Eilerman, City of Seattle, said they had been working with their FTA grant representatives on progressing the applications and expected they would be submitted by the end of July 2023. Given that the applications were moving forward, the Caucus recommended that PSRC staff should continue to monitor progress on submitting them by the end of July.

Sarah then gave an overview of Sound Transit’s request to move \$1,100,000 in CMAQ funds from the Right of Way phase to the Preliminary Engineering/Design phase of its delayed Commuter Rail Project: Seattle to Lakewood project so that these funds could be obligated faster. Lisa Wolterink, Sound Transit, said the ROW phase would then continue to be fully funded using local funds. She also confirmed that with this change the full scope of the project would still be completed, and the project would be implemented as awarded. If approved, the agency anticipated the TrAMS grant application for these funds would be submitted by December 2023, with obligation expected in January 2024.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the requested scope change and obligation extension for recommendation by the Transportation Operators Committee (TOC) at their next meeting.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org).*

### **Discussion: Update on Distribution of 2023-2026 FTA Funds**

Sarah provided an update on the [planned schedule](#) for distributing 2023-2024 equity formula allocation funds and 2025-2026 earned share and equity formula allocation funds. Per board action, PSRC staff would be presenting the projects for review and recommendation by the TOC. The results of the TOC's work on this would then go to the boards for approval.

The Caucus discussed whether the equity formula allocation funds would be allowed a one-year grace period beyond their estimated date to obligate, as under PSRC's project tracking policies for other regional FTA funds. The committee formed a consensus to retain the one-year grace period for the equity formula allocation funds.

*For more information, contact Sarah Gutschow at [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org).*

### **Roundtable / Other Business**

- Lisa Wolterink, Sound Transit
- Melinda Adams, Everett Transit
- Benjamin Smith, SDOT
- Tina Lee, Pierce Transit
- Sarah Gutschow, PSRC

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

---

### **\*Members and Alternates Present**

See attached attendance roster for the member or alternate representing each agency at the meeting; additional alternates present are listed below.

### **\*Alternates, Interested Parties, and PSRC Staff Present**

Amanda Koerber, Everett Transit; Chris Eilerman, City of Seattle; Kirste Johnson, Sound Transit; Krish Aggarwal, WSF; Tyler Benson, Sound Transit; Roberta Vyrostek, Pierce Transit; Wendi Gephart, Pierce Transit

PSRC: Alexa Leach, Gil Cerise, Sarah Gutschow, Kelly McGourty, Nick Johnson

*\*All attendees were present via remote participation.*

# Regional FTA Caucus Attendance Roster

(Members and Alternates represented)

Date: July 12, 2023 10:30am - 12:00pm

Online/Remote Meeting Only

Agency/Jurisdiction		Name
<b>Transit Agencies</b>		
Community Transit (1)	x	Kathryn Rasmussen
		<i>Ashley Ross (Alt.)</i>
Everett Transit (1)	x	Melinda Adams
		<i>Amanda Koerber (Alt.)</i>
King County Metro (1)		Peter Heffernan
		<i>David Morrison (Alt.)</i>
Kitsap Transit (1)	x	Steffani Lillie, Chair
		<i>Jeff Davidson (Alt.)</i>
Pierce County Ferries (1)	x	Clint Ritter, Vice Chair
		<i>Peter Lewis-Miller (Alt.)</i>
Pierce Transit (1)	x	Tina Lee
		<i>Wendi Gephart (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Roberta Vyrostek (Alt.)</i>
Seattle DOT (1)	x	Benjamin Smith
		<i>Vacant (Alt.)</i>
Sound Transit (1)	x	Lisa Wolterink
		<i>Kirste Johnson (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Monica Overby (Alt.)</i>
<b>State</b>		
WSDOT - Washington State Ferries (1)	x	John Bernhard
		<i>Todd Lamphere (Alt. 1)</i>
		<i>Krishan Aggarwal (Alt. 2)</i>
		<i>Leslie Rifkin (Alt. 3)</i>
<b>Non-Voting Participants</b>		
Intercity Transit		Peter Stackpole
		<i>Jessica Gould (Alt.)</i>
Skagit Transit		Marcy Smith

rev. 4/2023

## King County Metro Redistribution Request

**Request:** King County Metro (KCM) requests to redistribute \$6,957,439 in Seattle-Tacoma Everett Urbanized Area (STE UZA) FFY2024 5337 HIFG funds between the projects identified below.

**Explanation:** KCM requests to redistribute funds from its "Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance for Electric Trolley Fleet 2023-2024" project to its new "Atlantic Base (AB) Substation Replacement" project. The redistribution is needed to fund a critical state of good repair project that will help keep the agency's zero emission fleet of trolley buses operational. This redistribution will ensure timely obligation of the agency's formula funding and help maintain the agency's operations in a state of good repair.

KCM intends to submit future requests to redistribute all remaining FTA funds from the "Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance for Electric Trolley Fleet 2023-2024" project to other projects. After the federal funds are redistributed, KCM will accomplish the current scope for this project using other funding sources. The "Atlantic Base (AB) Substation Replacement" project will use the additional funds to replace two traction power substations on KCM's Atlantic Bus Base that are critical to the operation of Metro's electric trolley fleet.

### FFY 2024 STE UZA 5337 HIFG Funds

Appropriation Year	TIP ID	Project Title	Source	Current	Proposed Change	Final
2024	MET-244	Vehicle, Equipment and Facilities Maintenance for Electric Trolley Fleet 2023-2024	5337 HIFG	\$18,152,767	-\$6,957,439	\$11,195,328
2024	TIP-New	Atlantic Base (AB) Substation Replacement	5337 HIFG	\$0	\$6,957,439	\$6,957,439

## Summary of Delayed FTA and Flexed FHWA Funding Obligations

Per PSRC project tracking procedures, regional FTA funds are considered delayed if they have not been *transmitted* six months after their estimated obligation date (EOD), while flexed FHWA funds are considered delayed if they have not been *submitted* in that time span. The tables below are current as of **October 4, 2023**.

### Previously Reviewed Projects

This table provides updates on projects that recently experienced delays in obligating funding. These projects were previously reviewed by the committee and do not require any additional action at this time.

Project	Agency	Funding	EOD	TrAMS Status	Notes
Transit Revenue Vehicles 2021-2022 (CT-69)	Community Transit	\$83,551 5307 Pres.	6/1/22	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
		\$1,388,734 5307 Pres.	6/30/22	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
Bus Replacements 2021-2022 (MET-222)	King County Metro	\$1,455,348 5307 Pres.	9/30/2021	Transmitted in May 2023	
Transportation Demand Management to Support Centers and Regional Service Investments (MET-231)	King County Metro	\$695,122 CMAQ	6/1/2021	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
		\$2,304,878 CMAQ	7/15/2021	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
Increasing Student and Family Access to Regional Travel Options through TDM (MET-237)	King County Metro	\$500,000 CMAQ	7/15/2021	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
On-Demand Feeder-to-Fixed Route Connections to Transit Program (MET-239)	King County Metro	\$500,000 CMAQ	6/1/2022	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
Clean Fuels Bus Replacement/Expansion 2021-2022 (PT-170)	Pierce Transit	\$750,000 CMAQ	6/1/2022	Submitted in Aug. 2023	Funding returned

Pacific Avenue/SR 7 BRT Buses (PT-172)	Pierce Transit	\$1,871,113 CMAQ	6/1/2022	Submitted in Aug. 2023	Funding returned
Pacific Avenue/SR 7 BRT Stations (PT-173)	Pierce Transit	\$2,305,700 CMAQ	6/1/2022	Submitted in Aug. 2023	Funding returned
Center City Connector (SEA-205)	Seattle	\$3,820,246 CMAQ	6/1/17	Transmitted in Aug. 2023	In May 2023, the Caucus recommended Seattle's requested scope change to use these funds for the PE/Design phase rather than vehicle purchases. As part of the recommendation, Seattle would first use local funds for a Planning / Feasibility Study, then provide a status report in Sept / Oct of 2023 to the Caucus. Seattle would then apply to obligate the full amount of delayed CMAQ funds under both grants. For both grants, the extended submittal deadline is March 2024.
		\$3,479,754 CMAQ	6/1/23	Not yet applied	
Monorail System Maintenance 2021-2022 (SEA-226)	Seattle	\$42,579,537 Preservation	9/30/2021	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
Northgate to Downtown Transit Improvements (SEA-240)	Seattle	\$4,030,400 STP	6/1/2022	Obligated in Aug. 2023	
Fairview Ave N Multimodal Improvements (SEA-215a)	Seattle	\$4,030,400 STP	6/1/2022	Obligated in Sep. 2023	
Commuter Rail Project: Seattle to Lakewood (RTA-4B)	Sound Transit	\$1,100,000 CMAQ	6/1/2022	Transmitted in Aug. 2023	Sound Transit was approved for a scope change to move the funds from the ROW to PE/Design phase and an extension until December 2023 to submit the grant application.



## Projects at Risk of Delay

This table shows projects with regional FTA/FHWA funds that have not yet been transmitted/submitted in a grant application and are approaching six months after their estimated obligation date. If the funds have not been transmitted/submitted by the deadline, PSRC staff will reach out to sponsors for more information at that time, and then present the information gathered to the committee for review and potential action.

Project	Agency	Funding	EOD	TrAMS Status
South King County Corridor Speed and Reliability Improvements (MET-241)	King County Metro	\$737,000 5307 Competitive	6/1/23	Not yet applied
RapidRide I Line: Speed and Reliability Improvements (MET-208)	King County Metro	\$1,776,000 CMAQ	6/1/23	Transmitted
Safe Routes to Transit: RapidRide I Line (MET-240)	King County Metro	\$219,951 TAP	6/1/23	Transmitted
		\$266,649 STP	6/1/23	Transmitted
Spanaway Transit Center Phase II (PT-176)	Pierce Transit	\$2,000,000 5307 Competitive	6/1/23	In-Progress
Clean Fuels Bus Replacement/Expansion 2021-2022 (PT-170)	Pierce Transit	\$459,551 5307 Preservation	6/1/23	In-Progress
Clean Fuels Bus Replacement Expansion 2023-24 (PT-175)	Pierce Transit	\$459,551 5307 Preservation	6/1/23	In-Progress
Johnson Road Park & Ride (KT-75)	Kitsap Transit	\$1,390,000 STP	7/15/2023	Transmitted
Southworth Terminal Redevelopment Project (KT-68)	Kitsap Transit	\$2,500,000 STP	6/1/2023	Transmitted
RapidRide Roosevelt (J-Line), Eastlake Segment (SEA-242)	Seattle	\$4,000,000 CMAQ	6/1/2023	Transmitted
Boeing Access Rd Infill Station (RTA-113)	Sound Transit	\$8,230,000 CMAQ	7/15/2023	Transmitted
Regional Express Bus Program (2023-2024) (RTA-106)	Sound Transit	\$3,810,528 5307 Preservation	6/1/23	Not yet applied

## Returned Regional FTA and FHWA Funds

Pierce Transit and Sound Transit are returning Regional FTA and flexed FHWA funds to the region for the projects shown below, as the agencies are not implementing the projects at this time. In total, there are \$13,599,637 in Regional FTA 5307 funds and \$4,926,813 in CMAQ funds that need to be redistributed to other projects.

The first table summarizes the projects returning funds and their current status. The following section illustrates some potential options for next steps. The preferred option would be to distribute older year funds to existing projects in exchange for freed-up 2023 funds to be distributed to other projects. The FTA funds would then be distributed via the new FTA Equity Formula.

### Summary of Returned Funds

#### PIERCE TRANSIT

Project	Year	Source	Amount	Status	Next steps
PT-172 - Pacific Avenue/SR 7 BRT Buses	2021	5307	\$5,000,000	Obligated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since these funds already obligated, Pierce Transit will work with PSRC and FTA to deobligate the funds and transfer them to a different project in exchange for an equivalent amount of later year funding.</li> </ul>
	2022	5307	\$2,000,000	Not yet obligated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As these funds have not yet obligated, Pierce Transit will work with PSRC and FTA to transfer them to a different project in exchange for an equivalent amount of later year funding.</li> </ul>
	2022	CMAQ	\$1,871,113	Flexed to FTA, not yet obligated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since already flexed, for all three projects PSRC will work to redistribute them to other flexed FHWA projects as part of the next FHWA TIP rebalancing process in 2024.</li> </ul>
PT-170 - Clean Fuels Bus Replacement/Expansion 2021-2022	2022	CMAQ	\$750,000	Flexed to FTA, not yet obligated	
PT-173 - Pacific Avenue/SR 7 BRT Stations	2022	CMAQ	\$2,305,700	Flexed to FTA, not yet obligated	

**SOUND TRANSIT**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
RTA-94 Sounder Vehicle Procurement	2017	5307	\$1,200,363	Lapsed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds have already lapsed.</li> </ul>
	2018	5307	\$2,500,000	Obligated under RTA-108	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since these funds already obligated, Sound Transit worked with FTA and PSRC to deobligate them and then obligate them under Sound Transit's 130<sup>th</sup> St Infill Station (RTA-108) project in exchange for an equivalent amount of 2023 funding.</li> </ul>
	2019	5307	\$4,099,637	Obligated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since these funds already obligated, Sound Transit will work with PSRC and FTA to deobligate the funds and transfer them to a different project in exchange for an equivalent amount of later year funding.</li> </ul>

## Options for Redistributing Returned Funds

For immediate next steps, the returned funds for all projects will be exchanged with projects currently programmed with 2023/2024 funds, for an equivalent amount of the later years' funding. Once the FTA funds have been exchanged, they will be redistributed to other projects under the FTA Equity Formula process. Once the CMAQ funds have been exchanged, they will be distributed as part of PSRC's normal rebalancing and/or contingency process.

There are a few options for redistributing the freed up 2023/2024 FTA funds:

- A. Redistribute the 2023/2024 funds as part of the current process for distributing 2025 and 2026 funds – i.e., increase the amount of Equity Formula funding available to projects as part of the current process. Funding would be included in the 24-01 TIP Amendment, with 2023 funding available for obligation once projects are approved into the State TIP in February 2024. The 2024 funds would be available at the completion of the 2024 Annual Adjustments process. This option would allow for the earliest obligation of the redistributed funds, as compared to Options B and C.
- B. Redistribute the 2023/2024 funds as part of stand-alone process in late 2023 or early 2024. The 2023 funding would then be available for obligation as soon as projects are approved into the State TIP, while 2024 funds would be available at the completion of the 2024 Annual Adjustments process. This option would allow sponsors more time to work on their Equity Formula project submissions, with funds available for obligation sooner than Option C.
- C. Redistribute the 2023/2024 funds as part of the larger 2024 Project Selection process for 2027-2028 FHWA and FTA funds, which will begin in early 2024. Funds would then be available following approval of the 2025-2028 Regional TIP, scheduled for final federal and state approval in early 2025. This option would give sponsors the most time for determining their additional Equity project submissions and should still provide sufficient time for 2023 and 2024 funds to be obligated prior to their lapse deadlines in 2028 and 2029.