

# Preparing for PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process

Transportation Policy Board | October 12, 2023



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](https://psrc.org/equity)

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



# Project Selection Process

PSRC has project selection authority over specific sources of funds from the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** and the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

- ~\$90 million of FHWA funds per year
  - Competitive distributions – regional and countywide
- ~\$280 million of FTA funds per year
  - Earned share and *new* Equity formula distribution
- Specific eligibilities across multiple funding sources



# Policy Framework

- Policy direction from Board adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Based on VISION 2050 policies and consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan
  - Adopted policy focus = *support for centers and the corridors that serve them*
- Projects must be consistent with local comprehensive plans
- Process conducted every two years
  - 2024 process will distribute FFY 2027-2028 funds



# Project Evaluation Criteria

- Based on VISION 2050 policies
- Point values vary depending on funding source, competition
  - Development of Centers
  - Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility
  - Equity
  - Safety
  - Air Quality / Climate Change
  - Project Readiness / Financial Plan

*Policy changes over time provided in attachment*



# Additional Process Details

- Set-Asides: Preservation, Bicycle / Pedestrian, Kitsap County, Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program, PSRC funding
- Funding estimates
- Distribution splits between Regional and Countywide competitions
- Project tracking policies
- Contingency lists
- Caps on number of applications / funding requests



# 2022 Process

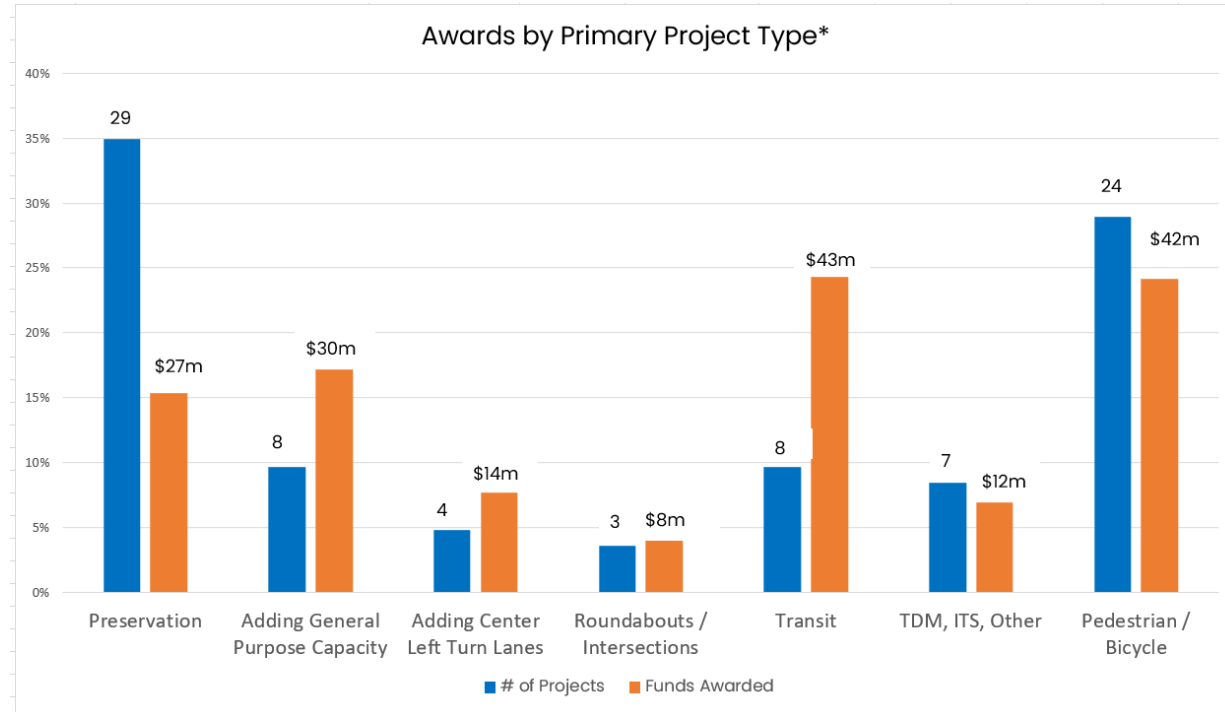
- 2022 process made significant revisions to Equity and Safety criteria
  - Including establishing a new Equity Pilot, currently in process
- Policy emphasis areas continue to be:
  - ✓ Safety
  - ✓ Climate
  - ✓ Equity



# Highlights from 2022 FHWA Process

- Projects provided improvements to:

- Freight
- Transit
- Bicyclists / pedestrians
- Intersections
- Preservation
- Safety
- Equity
- Emissions



*More details provided in attachment*





## POLICY DISCUSSION FOR 2024 PROCESS



# Board Discussion

- There are two key levers in PSRC's funding competitions:
  - Funding distributions – splits between competitions, and identification of set-asides
  - Project scoring criteria and additional project evaluation requirements



# Board Discussion

- Funding distributions – splits between competitions, and identification of set-asides

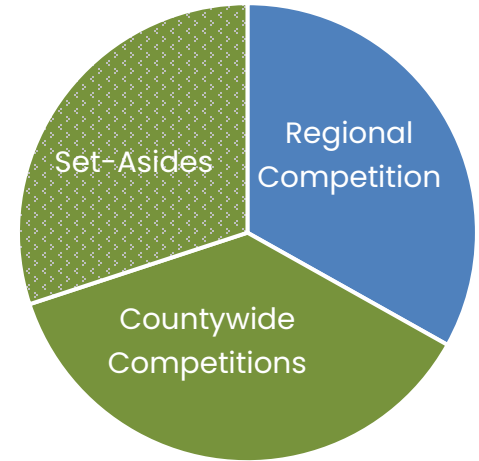
Set-Aside	Application
Preservation	20% of STBG Funds, distributed in countywide competitions
Bicycle / Pedestrian	10% of all Funds, distributed in countywide competitions
Kitsap County Adjustment	Population adjustment from STBG for Kitsap countywide process
Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program	10% of Regional Funds, distributed in off-year
PSRC Funding	\$1 million of STBG Funds per year
Equity Pilot	5% of STBG Funds for a new Equity Pilot Program in 2022



# Board Discussion

- Do you want to consider changes to either the set-asides or the distribution splits?

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# Board Discussion

- Current project evaluation criteria and point values

CRITERIA	REGIONAL POINT VALUES – STP	REGIONAL POINT VALUES – CMAQ
Development of Centers	30	15
Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility	27	14
Equity	10	10
Safety	8	6
Air Quality / Climate Change	20	50
Project Readiness / Financial Plan	5	5
TOTAL	100	100

➤ Policy emphasis areas continue to be:

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Climate
- ✓ Equity



# Board Discussion

Criteria options for consideration – **Safety**:

- Update scoring values (currently 6–8 points in the regional competition)?
- Update safety criteria & language to more concretely tie to the Safe System Approach and FHWA proven safety countermeasures?
- Consider a requirement that each agency have, or commit to develop, a safety plan based on a Safe System Approach?



# Board Discussion

Criteria options for consideration – **Climate:**

- Update scoring values (currently 20–50 points in the regional competition)?
- Set parameters around types of projects eligible for funding?

*Highest scoring projects for Air Quality/Climate do the following:*

- ❖ Eliminate vehicle trips or shift modes away from single occupant vehicles;
- ❖ Reduce vehicle miles traveled;
- ❖ Improve traffic flow, particularly for freight vehicles;
- ❖ Convert to cleaner vehicles



# Board Discussion

Criteria options for consideration – **Equity**:

- The Equity Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to the board in November and December on the Equity Pilot and proposed revisions to the Equity criterion
  - *Both enhancements to the criteria and guidance, as well as to the point values*





# Board Discussion

Other board ideas?

Changes to other elements of the project selection process?

Format for additional feedback before November meeting?



# Schedule and Next Steps

- **October – December 2023**
  - Board discussions on key policy areas for *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- January 2024
  - Adoption of *Policy Framework*
- February – June 2024
  - Conduct project selection process
- July 2024
  - Project recommendations to board

