



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Regional Project Evaluation Committee Agenda**

**Date: October 27, 2023, from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**

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

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**1. Introductions and Announcements (9:30)**

**2. Approve Meeting Summary for September 22, 2023\* (9:35)**

**3. Transportation Policy Board Debrief**

The 'At Work' reports for the Transportation Policy Board meetings on Thursday October 12, 2023, are available on the PSRC website at:

<https://www.psrc.org/board/transportation-policy-board>.

**4. Action Item: Project Tracking and Delivery Policy Updates (9:40)\***

Staff will present updates to PSRC's project tracking and funding competition policies recommended by the Project Delivery Working Group (attached) to help address ongoing project delivery issues. The committee will be asked to discuss and take action on the four policy update recommendations. Additional background information will be sent early in the week of October 23.

**5. Discussion Item: 2024 Project Selection Process (10:30)\***

Staff will provide an update on board discussions leading up to the 2024 project selection process, with the policy areas of climate, safety and equity as the main focus. The committee will have an opportunity to provide feedback that will be shared with the board in November.

**6. Discussion Item: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update (10:40)**

Staff will provide an update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program including overview of the legislation, timeline, work to date, and next steps. Please see October 12 TPB slides, [provided here](#).

**7. Other Business (10:55)**

**8. Information Items**

- a. PSRC Safety Program Update\*
- b. PSRC Information Items – October 2023\*

**9. Next Meeting: December 01, 2023: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**10. Adjourn (11:00)**

**\*Supporting materials attached**

For more information, contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at (206) 971-3601 or [KMcGourty@psrc.org](mailto:KMcGourty@psrc.org).

## **Zoom Remote Connection Information:**

### **To join audio/video conference:**

<https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/84781268394?pwd=T1F3RmY2SzQwY1JqU3g1T2l4ZHg4Zz09>

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

8778535257,,84781268394#,,,,\*167856# US Toll-free  
8884754499,,84781268394#,,,,\*167856# US Toll-free

### **To join via phone:**

877 853 5257 US Toll-free  
888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 847 8126 8394

Passcode: 167856

## **RPEC Attendees:**

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

- Please keep your mic muted when not speaking
- Use \*6 to mute/unmute phone
- When watching the meeting via computer and using phone audio, mute your computer's speakers and mic.

**Please Note:** As this is an advisory committee meeting, we ask that interested parties remain in a "listen only" mode during the meeting by keeping their audio muted at all times.

### **Other Formats:**

- Sign language, and communication material in alternative formats, can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090, 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 Project Evaluation Committee Meeting Summary**

**Date: September 22, 2023 from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Remote – Online Meeting Only (Zoom Connection)**

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### **Introductions and Announcements**

Doug McCormick, Chair, welcomed everyone at 9:30 a.m. He then took a roll call to confirm the members and alternates present.

### **Approval of Meeting Summary**

The June 23, 2023, RPEC meeting summary was approved as presented.

### **Transportation Policy Board Debrief**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reviewed the Transportation Policy Board meetings held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 and Thursday September 14, 2023. The 'At Work' report for the Transportation Policy Board meeting is available on the PSRC website at:

<https://www.psrc.org/board/transportation-policy-board>.

### **Discussion: Project Tracking and 2023 Delivery**

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC, provided a status report on 2023 delivery. This year the region had 85 projects with 2023 delivery with PSRC funds totaling about \$116 million. Although official final numbers had not yet been provided by WSDOT, it expected that the region will meet its delivery target for this year. She provided an overview of obligations by month, from June to September, and noted that over half of the delivery dollars were advancements or projects with supplemental funding to fill this year's delivery gap, pushing this year's overall delivery later into the year, with several projects still unconfirmed in September. She shared some early takeaways on delivery successes, including more effective communication with sponsors and WSDOT, and areas where continuing focus is needed. She provided a brief report on the policy topics under consideration by the Project Delivery Working Group; it is expected that the Working Group will finalize its recommendations to bring to RPEC in October. The committee discussed the conditions under which the region may receive additional funds through redistributed obligation authority (OA), and it was noted that this year's lag in delivery timeline did greatly reduce the amount of redistributed OA that the region was able to receive.

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

The presentation can be found on the PSRC website [here](#)

### **Discussion: Equity Pilot**

Charles Patton, PSRC, provided details on the Equity Pilot funding competition, which was developed in coordination with PSRC's Equity Advisory Committee, with a call for projects that was released on September 21, with applications due on October 18. He discussed the goal of the pilot program—which is to develop innovative ways to improve equity considerations in PSRC's project selection process, and to provide a feedback loop to help improve how transportation projects meet the needs of marginalized communities—and the development process applied by the EAC. Kelly McGourty, PSRC, walked through the criteria and guidance for two application pathways that applicants to be asked to complete. For pathway 1, the equity criteria are enhanced but similar in overall format to the criteria in the 2022 FHWA process. For pathway 2, the equity criteria are more integrated into the other criteria questions. Charles provided some examples of responses that would score highly in this process. About \$6 million is available to be awarded; one application may be submitted per agency, with a request cap of \$1 million. The EAC will review the applications and make award recommendations, and broader recommendations related to PSRC funding processes will be discussed with the boards in November and December.

*For more information, contact Charles Patton, at [cpatton@psrc.org](mailto:cpatton@psrc.org)*

The presentation can be found on the PSRC website [here](#)

### **Discussion: Preparing for the 2024 Project Selection Process**

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, provided preliminary information on the schedule of board discussions leading up to the 2024 project selection process. She provided reminder of the board-driven process that led to policy and criteria updates in the 2022 process, and described the overall process. It is expected that the key policy areas of climate, safety and equity will be the main topics of discussion, and any refinements for the 2024 process will likely focus on these areas. She provided an overview of the current work happening in all three areas. She outlined the schedule through July 2024, and next steps. She shared some project and safety information that has been shared with the board to date. Kelly asked committee members to think about the implications of potential changes to points in the safety category, for potential discussion at the October meeting. This is an ongoing effort and staff will keep RPEC apprised of board discussions and proposals, and will share feedback with the board.

*For more information, contact Kelly McGourty at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org)*

The presentation can be found on the PSRC website [here](#)

## **Discussion: Regional Safety Work**

There was not time for additional discussion on regional safety work. PSRC will provide an information item as part of the next RPEC agenda, and RPEC will continue to be briefed as the safety work proceeds.

*For more information, contact Gary Simonson at [gsimonson@psrc.org](mailto:gsimonson@psrc.org)*

## **Other Business:**

Kelly informed the committee that in case of federal government shutdown, PSRC's operation would not be affected, but to be aware that it would affect FHWA staffing, and could delay FHWA signoff on approvals and reimbursements.

## **Information Items:**

There were no additional information items presented.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:04 a.m.

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

See attached attendance roster.

## **\*PSRC Staff, Alternates and Guests Present**

Blake Trask; King County; Brianne Ross, Perteet; Perteet; Catherine Lander, City of Shoreline; Dan Hansen, City of Tacoma; Desiree Winkler, City of Federal Way; Eric Irelan, King County; Gunnar Fridriksson, City of Bremerton; Jack Niehuser, City of Tacoma; Mia Waters, City of Bellevue; Michael Kosa, City of Sumner; Robert Giacometti, Port of Seattle; Stevan Gorcester; Wesley Rhodes, Tacoma Planning

## **PSRC**

Jennifer Barnes, Sarah Gutschow, Alexa Leach, Kelly McGourty, Kalon Thomas, Josh Brown, Gary Simonson, Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Charles Patton, Jean Kim

*\*All attendees were present via remote participation*

# RPEC Attendance Roster - Designated Members

Date: September 22, 2023 - 9:30-11:00am

Remote/Online Only

**NOTE: Members are invited to sit at the table and vote. Alternates may sit at the table and vote when the member is absent. Please coordinate representation in advance of the meeting. All other Alternates and Guests are invited to attend and sit in the gallery. This roster is for attendance purposes only and should be marked by all members and alternates present at the table, regardless of voting status.**

Jurisdiction	✓	Name	Jurisdiction	✓	Name
King County (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Bourguignon	WSDOT-NW Region (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cameron Kukes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Heffernan			<i>Mehrdad Moini (Alt.)</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Vander Sluis	WSDOT-Oly Region (1)		JoAnn Schueler
		<i>Ruth Harvey (Alt.)</i>			<i>John Ho (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Sarah Green (Alt.)</i>	WSDOT-MoM (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matthew Kenna
	<i>Ivan Miller (Alt.)</i>			<i>April Delchamps (Alt.)</i>	
Seattle (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Strand	WSDOT-WS Ferries (1)		John Bernhard
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Storment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Krishan Aggarwal (Alt.)</i>
		Joanna Valencia			<i>Todd Lamphere (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Bill LaBorde (Alt.)</i>	Kitsap Transit (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steffani Lillie
		<i>Serena Lehman (Alt.)</i>			<i>Edward Coviello (Alt.)</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Benjamin Smith (Alt.)</i>		<i>Jeff Davidson (Alt.)</i>	
Bellevue (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Miller	Pierce Transit (1)		Tina Lee
		<i>Mia Waters (Alt.)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Wendi Gephart (Alt.)</i>
Other Cities/Towns (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chad Bieren, Kent	Community Transit (1)		<i>Darin Stavish (Alt.)</i>
		Joel Pfundt, Kirkland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Roach
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larissa Grundell, Duvall	King County Metro (1)		<i>Kathryn Rasmussen (Alt.)</i>
		Jim Seitz, Renton		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chester Knapp
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nytasha Walters, Shoreline	Sound Transit (1)		<i>Hannah McIntosh (Alt.)</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ingrid Gaub, Auburn (Alt.)</i>			<i>Lisa Shafer (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Jeff Hamlin, Snoqualmie (Alt.)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wolterink
		<i>Kamal Mahmoud, SeaTac (Alt.)</i>			<i>Tyler Benson (Alt.)</i>
	<i>Doug McIntyre, Sammamish (Alt.)</i>		<i>Kirste Johnson (Alt.)</i>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>John Mortenson, Issaquah (Alt.)</i>		<i>Monica Overby (Alt.)</i>	
Kitsap County (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Forte	Port of Seattle (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geri Poor
	<i>Joe Rutan (Alt.)</i>			<i>Robert Giacometti (Alt.)</i>	
Bremerton (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Weber, Vice Chair	Port of Tacoma (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deirdre Wilson
		<i>Gunnar Fridriksson (Alt. 1)</i>			<i>Christine Wolf (Alt.)</i>
Other Cities/Towns (1)		<i>Vicki Grover (Alt. 2)</i>	Port of Everett (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garrett Jensen
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Lenius, Poulsbo			<i>Maija Lampinen (Alt.)</i>
Pierce County (2)		<i>Vacant (Alt.)</i>	Port of Bremerton (1)		Arne Bakker
		Leticia Neal			<i>James Goodman (Alt.)</i>
		Melissa McFadden	PSCAA (1)		VACANT
Tacoma (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Peter Lewis-Miller (Alt.)</i>	Suquamish Tribe (1)		<i>Kathy Strange (Alt.)</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Clint Ritter (Alt.)</i>			VACANT
		Josh Diekmann	Muckleshoot Tribal Cncl (1)		<i>VACANT (Alt.)</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brennan Kidd			VACANT
Other Cities/Towns (1)		<i>Sue O'Neill (Alt.)</i>	Puyallup Tribe (1)		<i>VACANT (Alt.)</i>
		<i>Vacant (Alt.)</i>			VACANT
		Mark Burlingame, Steilacoom		<i>VACANT (Alt.)</i>	
Snohomish County (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jeremy Metzler, Edgewood (Alt.)</i>	<b>NON-VOTING</b>		Eric Goodman, Cmty. Transit-BPAC Chair
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doug McCormick, Chair			<i>Thomas Noyes, WSDOT - BPAC Vice-Chair (Alt.)</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Snyder			VACANT
		<i>Steve Dickson (Alt.)</i>			<i>Mohammad Uddin, Sno Cty-RTOC Co-Chair (Alt.)</i>
	<i>Janice Fahning (Alt.)</i>			Jennifer Hass, Cmty. Transit-TDM Co-Chair	
Everett (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Hood, City Engineer			Sarah Spicer, City of Seattle-TDM Co-Chair
Other Cities/Towns (2)		<i>Melinda Adams (Alt.)</i>			
		Rob English, Edmonds			
		VACANT			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jim Kelly, Arlington (Alt.)</i>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jakeh Roberts, Monroe (Alt.)</i>			

Rev. 8/2023

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jim Kelly, Arlington (Alt.)</i>			
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# Puget Sound Regional Council

## Regional Project Evaluation Committee Policy Recommendations to Help Address Project Delivery Issues

The following summarizes the context and policy recommendations of the Project Delivery Working Group, which has met regularly throughout the year to review project delivery issues and consider potential policy updates to help address them.

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### Problem Statement

*PSRC conducts a competitive process to select projects that best meet regional policies. Our region has difficulty achieving required delivery each year, typically requiring supplemental funding outside of the normal competitive process, pushing and sometimes missing obligation deadlines needed to ensure delivery within each fiscal year.*

As a region, we want to:

- achieve our delivery target with initially-awarded projects each year;
- stop having large supplemental funding actions each year and maintain the integrity of our competitive processes;
- demonstrate that we can deliver federal funds and be in position to receive additional federal funds above our allocation; and
- return our contingency list process back to its original form - utilize for new or returned funding before the next process, not a need for immediately ready-to-go projects to meet delivery.

### Project Delivery Working Group Recommendations:

***Recommended Policy Change #1*** – In funding competitions, remove Project Readiness/Financial Plan from the scored evaluation criteria and convert to an eligibility threshold.

Staff would work with WSDOT to develop the thresholds and expectations for projects to meet eligibility and proceed into the competition.

**Background Issues Addressed:**

- Screening form comments on project readiness and the financial plan are not being adequately addressed in the submitted applications. Projects then receive an award but later the issues emerge as a reason for delay and the projects require an extension.
- The 5 points currently available in the competitions do not fully address the importance of this issue and have limited variation across projects.
- Rather than use the RPEC/Countywide Chairs group, since they are also applicants, we would review any ineligible projects with WSDOT Local Programs for confirmation.

***Recommended Policy Change #2 – In funding competitions, do not award PE+1 phases; award only one project phase per competition.***

**Background Issues Addressed:**

- There is a high correlation between PE+1 awards and projects that have encountered delivery issues (either requiring a 1-year extension and/or returned funding). While ROW and environmental processes have been discussed as significant elements of the problem, they are not the only factors and limiting the requests to one phase at a time would address the primary issue.
- Staff reviewed data regarding potential project type exemptions, but delivery issues with PE+1 awarded projects occur across phases and project types, including preservation.

***Recommended Policy Change #3 – In the annual five-step TIP rebalancing process, move “Increased federal shares” ahead of “Fund projects from the contingency list.” Transition the contingency list and potential distributions of funding to the original format.***

**Background Issues Addressed:**

- The first step in the supplemental funding portion of the rebalancing process, should it be needed, is to seek immediately ready to go projects on the contingency list. This is by default awarding funds to new projects or phases, prior to providing an increase in the federal share of already awarded projects – this is less consistent with the intent of the competitive processes by which projects are selected.

- There is ample capacity with the Increased Federal Share option to fill any delivery gap, and still have remaining capacity for the emergency tool option should it be necessary.
- To still support the development and use of the contingency lists, the following is further proposed.
  - To fill a gap to delivery due to extensions / returned funds – implement Increased Federal Shares
  - If all programmed projects deliver on time in a given year, without extensions or returns, but there is a gap in delivery due to higher allocations of funding than originally estimated (i.e., new funds) – implement Contingency Lists
  - If any additional funding becomes available “off-cycle” or unexpected – implement Contingency Lists

***Recommended Policy Change #4*** – In the annual TIP rebalancing process, move up the obligation deadline for (1) projects advancing funds from later years of the TIP, and (2) those projects receiving an increase in federal share, from July 15 to June 1.

**Background Issues Addressed:**

- Some delivery issues result from insufficient planning by agencies, or a tendency to push right up to obligation deadlines. A flood of submittals late in the year strains WSDOT review and can result in issues being identified late in the process, putting achievement of the delivery target in jeopardy.
- Staff has reviewed various timeline options and believe this proposal will address some of these issues in a manageable fashion, especially since these two categories of projects are already awarded funds.

# 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) Agenda - Item 5 - Page 1 of 18

October 27, 2023

## 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

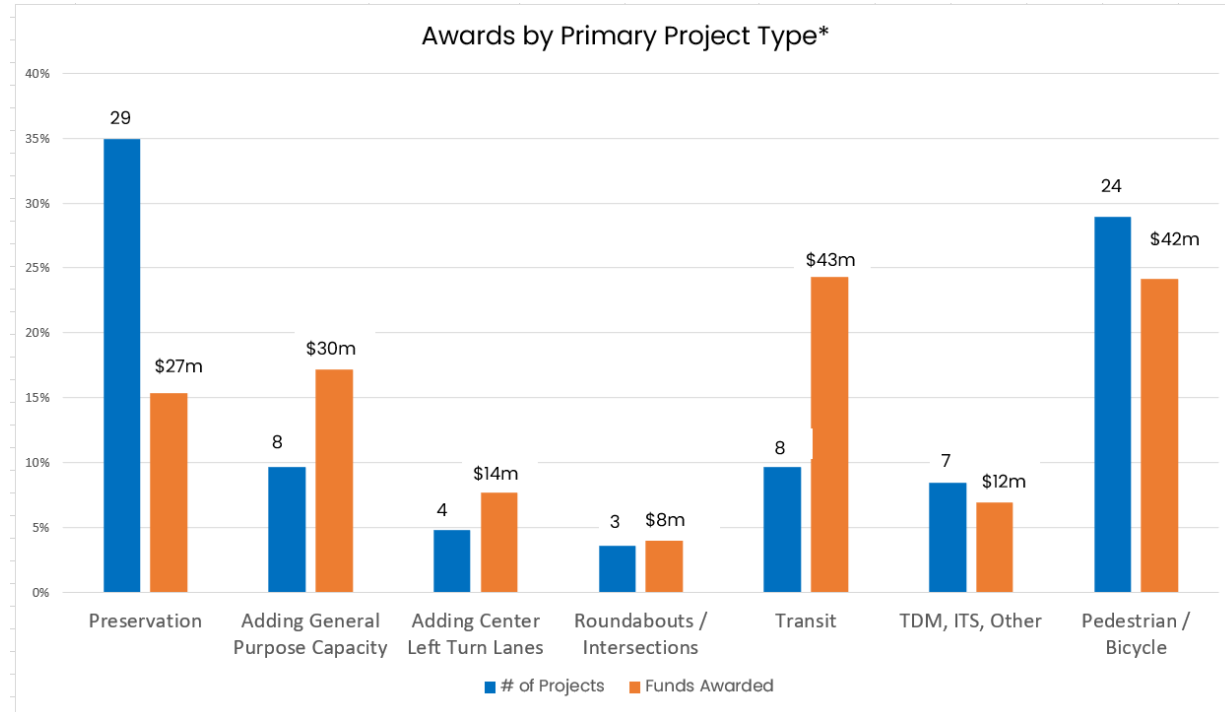
- 2022 process made significant revisions to Equity and Safety criteria
  - Including establishing a new Equity Pilot, currently in process
- Policy emphasis areas continue to be:
  - ✓ Safety
  - ✓ Climate
  - ✓ Equity



# 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

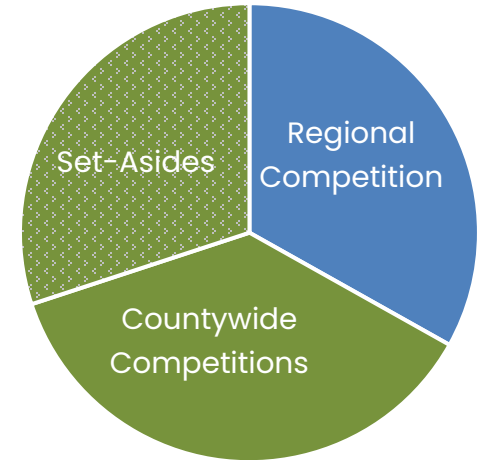
- There are two key levers in PSRC's funding competitions:
  - Funding distributions – splits between competitions, and identification of set-asides
  - Project scoring criteria and additional project evaluation requirements



# 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?

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
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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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

- 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





# Puget Sound Regional Council

## **Regional Project Evaluation Committee PSRC Safety Program Update – October 2023**

Provided below are updates for PSRC's Safety work program, including a short overview of the Regional Safety Summit, a status report on the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant, and a high-level overview of the Regional Safety Plan scope of work and schedule.

### **Regional Safety Summit**

PSRC's first Regional Safety Summit was held on June 29, 2023. About 140 participants, including elected officials, transportation experts, citizens and other stakeholders, gathered to discuss transportation safety issues and how to move the region forward to achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries.

The summit featured national speakers leading the charge for a Safe Systems Approach, and local experts shared data on road safety in the Puget Sound region. Afternoon breakout sessions on safer streets and safer people were held, and feedback from attendees will inform the development of a comprehensive, data-driven Regional Safety Plan that will follow a Safe Systems Approach for equitable and impactful progress on achieving the safety goals throughout our diverse four-county region.

PSRC received a significant amount of feedback through the breakout sessions, which will inform the Regional Safety Plan. Key themes that emerged through the discussion include:

- Identify roles and responsibilities across all levels.
- Infrastructure improvements are expensive, and funding is short.
- Coordination and consistency across jurisdictions at the local, regional, and state levels is important.
- Context matters – there is no one size fits all solution.
- Safety means different things to different people.
- Develop a regional toolbox that can be scaled and contextualized.
- Acknowledge the array of challenges that we face.

## **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Update**

The USDOT Safe Streets and Road for All (SS4A) is a discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over five years. In 2022, PSRC, in coordination with the Cities of Burien, Everett, Kent, Redmond, Tukwila, and Pierce County applied for and was awarded \$4.9 million for safety planning. PSRC is using its portion of grant funding to develop a Regional Safety Action Plan. As the regional administrator for the funds awarded through SS4A, PSRC executed an overarching signed agreement with USDOT in June 2023. Since then, PSRC has been working with the local jurisdiction sub-recipients that were awarded funds to develop and sign sub-agreements, to ensure they are meeting USDOT standards and grant requirements. As of September 2023, PSRC has signed agreements with three of the sub-recipients and is working on finalizing the contracts for the other three.

In July 2023 PSRC partnered with ten additional local jurisdictions to apply for an additional \$2.9 million through the second round of the SS4A Grant Program. For this round, PSRC's role is to offer our umbrella services to facilitate the development of more local plans. (USDOT has stated their preference for grant applications to be consolidated at the regional scale, with MPOs serving as the lead.) PSRC anticipates award announcements for the second round of SS4A by October or November 2023.

## **Regional Safety Plan Draft Scope of Work and Schedule**

Responding to the feedback heard at the summit, as well as components required by the provisions of the SS4A planning grant, PSRC has developed a draft scope of work for a Regional Safety Plan. The plan will follow a Safe System Approach for equitable progress on achieving the safety goals across the. We will be developing the plan with support from a consultant team, which will be selected by the end of 2023. The target adoption date for the Plan is the first quarter of 2025. Key components of the Scope of Work include:

### ***Overview***

- Discuss the traffic safety challenges that we face. Highlight trends, negative impacts and costs.
- Discuss what a regional safety action plan is, what it does and what goals and policies it is guided by.

### ***Safety and Equity Analyses***

- Examine fatalities, serious injuries, and high injury network, and explore other options for data that make sense to analyze at regional scale

- Focus on typologies for more context and to tease out key differences in terms of incident rates across categories like type of facilities, user groups (equity component) and community context.

### ***Engagement and Collaboration***

- Use an array of outreach efforts (events, workshops, online surveys, etc.) to ensure we are hearing from everyone, including equity groups and other stakeholders not usually at the table.
- Describe why we are engaging and what we heard.

### ***Strategies and Actions***

- Menu of options including strategies, actions, and proven countermeasures.
- Provide toolkits that jurisdictions can use to choose the most effective approach depending on specific context, scale and other key typologies.

### ***Implementation & Next Steps***

- Highlight key roles and responsibilities to implement this plan.
- Commit to monitoring and tracking progress.
- Provide implementation tools to help agencies develop approaches and implement their projects/programs.





# Puget Sound Regional Council

## **Regional Project Evaluation Committee October 2023 Information Items**

The following information provides status reports on various PSRC Transportation work program items currently underway.

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### **Current Grant Competitions:**

The Rural Town Centers and Corridors (RTCC) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) competitions have been underway since late spring. The Transportation Policy Board released the Rural Town Centers and Corridors (RTCC) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project recommendations for public comment at their September meeting. Final board approval is scheduled for October.

The Equity Pilot program was developed in collaboration with PSRC's Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) to award \$6 million of available funding and help inform future funding competitions. The call for projects was released on September 21 with applications due on October 18. The submitted applications are currently being reviewed and scored, and project recommendations will be discussed with the EAC at their November meeting.

### **Regional Transportation Inventory Updates:**

PSRC has been working with stakeholders to develop survey tools and other methods of collecting regional transportation system inventory data as part of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) implementation over the last several months. This is a preliminary step in preparation for the next RTP, anticipated for adoption in 2026. Regional transportation system inventory information is collected to update the baseline conditions and help inform needs for long range planning. PSRC will be reaching out to our member organizations to collect this information by mode or program area.

Initial inventory outreach will be conducted on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and on transportation demand management (TDM), with requests for information being distributed in late October. Additional topic areas that PSRC will request information on over the coming months include: freight network, mobility on

demand (MOD), Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)/traffic signals, and specialized transportation. Please be on the lookout for these data requests for a timely response. Each data request will include a PSRC contact for follow-up. If you have any questions about the regional inventory data collection effort, please contact Gil Cerise at [gcerise@psrc.org](mailto:gcerise@psrc.org) or (206) 971-3053.

**Regional Transportation Plan:**

The regular mid-cycle call is planned to be released during the week of October 23 for project updates for Regional Capacity Projects in the Regional Transportation Plan, with applications due on November 29. This call is limited to projects for which action is anticipated before the next major update in 2026, that need to be updated or added to the Regional Capacity Projects list to move forward before that time. For more information please contact Mitch Koch at [mkoch@psrc.org](mailto:mkoch@psrc.org).