

# 2025–2026 FTA Funding Recommendations

Transportation Operators Committee – October 25, 2023



Puget Sound Regional Council



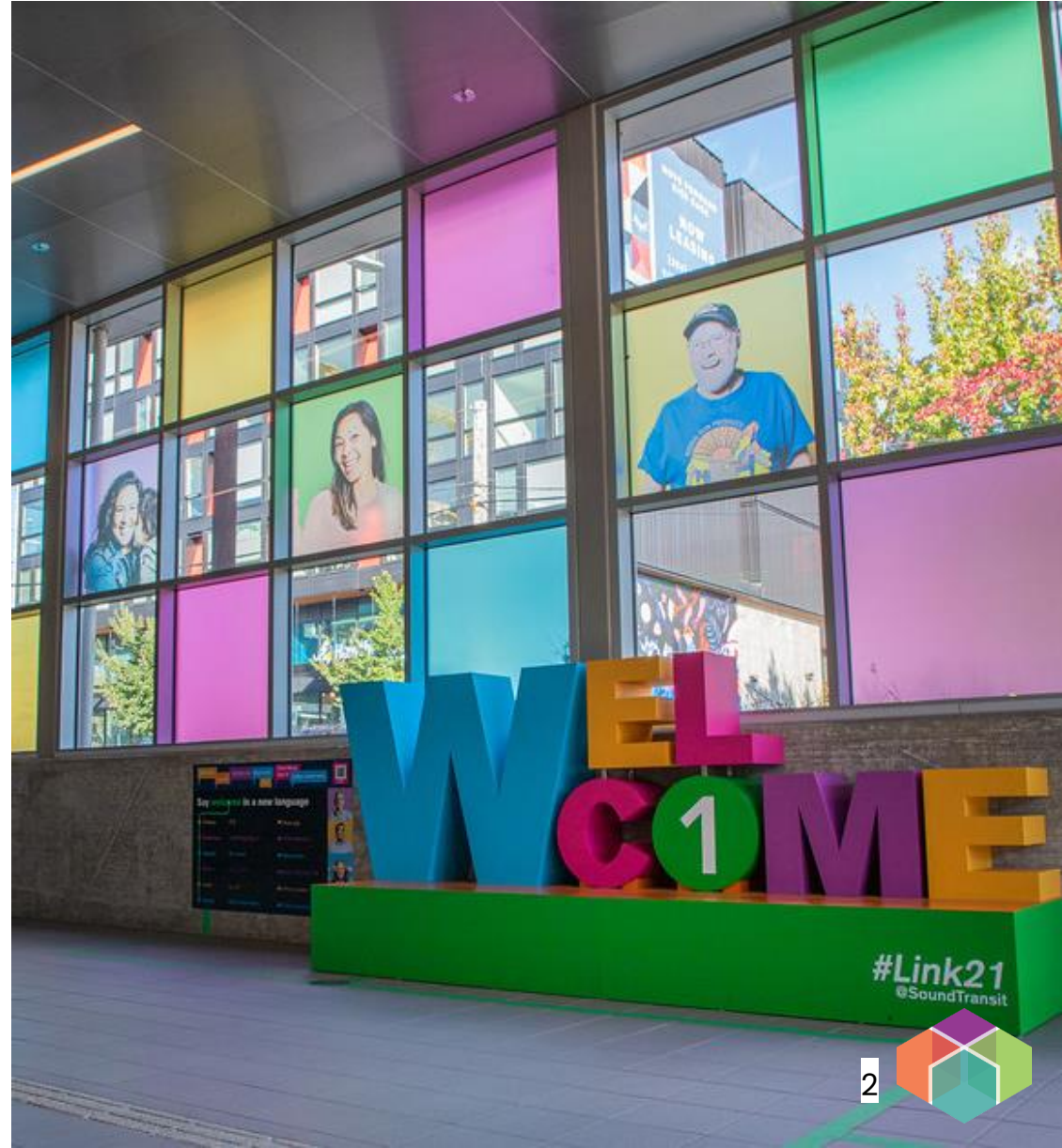
*We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.*

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



# Today's Presentation

- Background on PSRC FTA funding
- Updates to FTA distribution methodology
- Discussion and project recommendations



# PSRC FTA Funding Overview

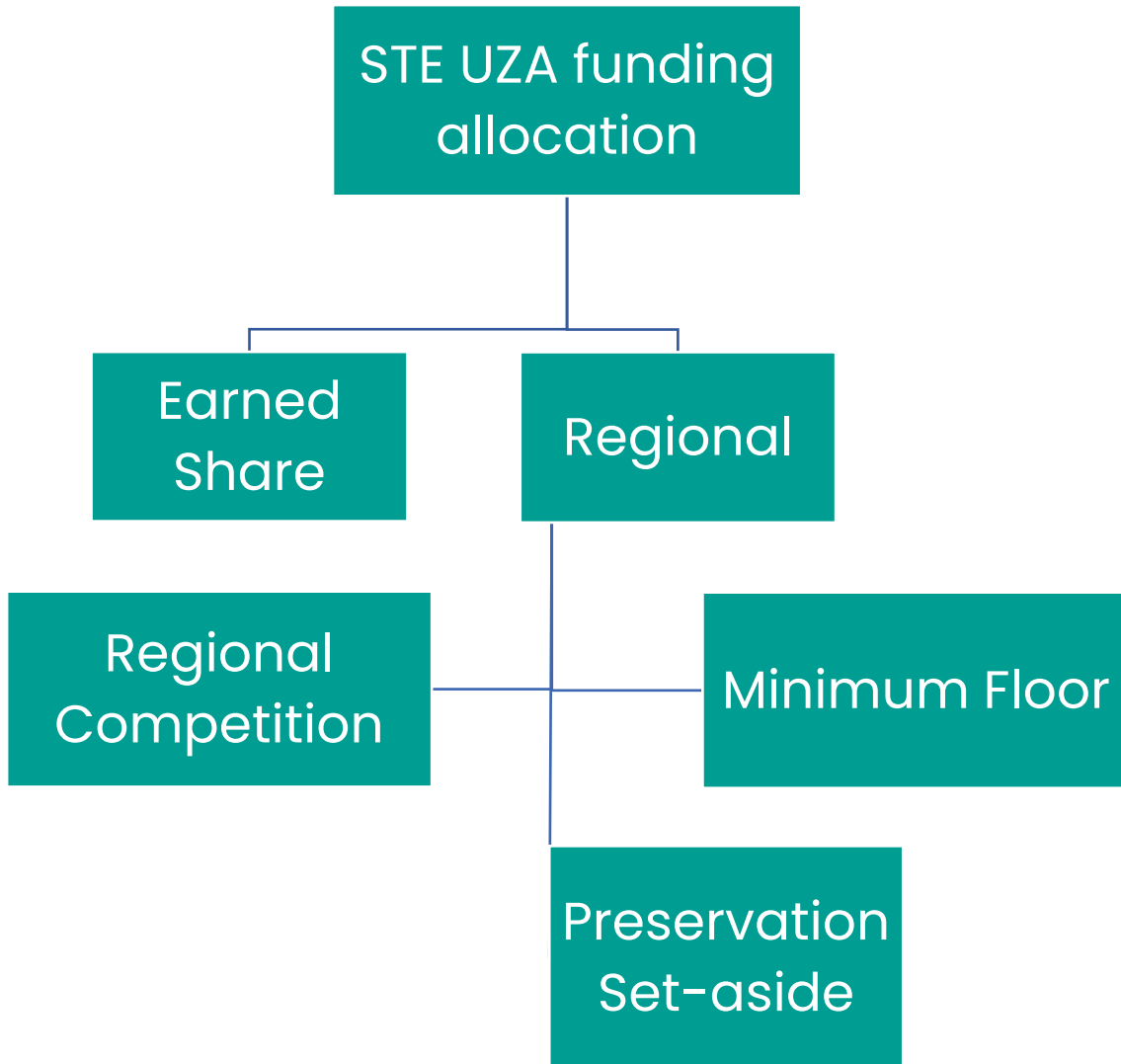


- PSRC distributes Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding from four programs with specific eligibility requirements for each.
- FTA funding allocated to three urbanized areas (UZAs) in PSRC region:
  - ✓ Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA
  - ✓ Bremerton UZA
  - ✓ Marysville UZA

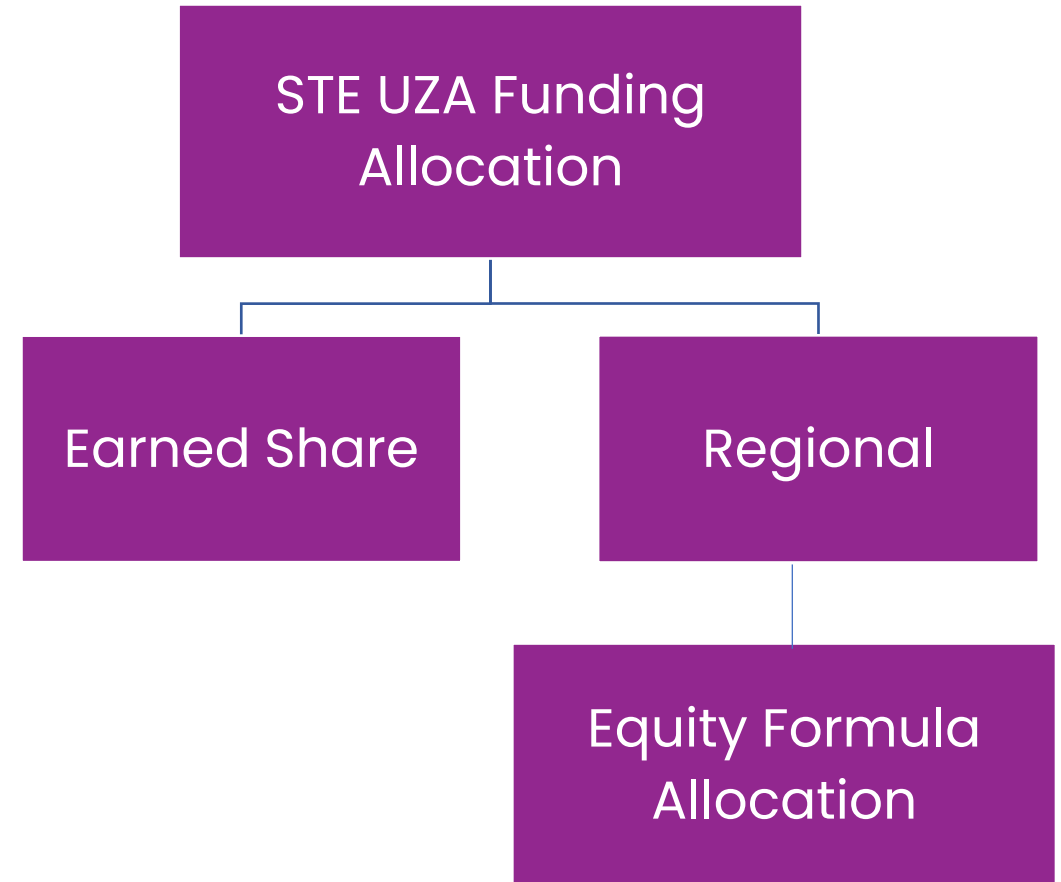


# Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA FTA Process Update

## Historic STE UZA FTA Process



## Updated Process for 2025-2026 funds





# 2025–2026 FTA Funding Distributions

- Distributing \$507 M in 2025–2026 FTA **earned share funds** per adopted methodology for all three UZAs (**Attachment B**).
- July 2023 – Released Call for Projects for almost \$80 M in 2025–2026 **equity formula** funds within the STE UZA, as well as \$7 M in 2023–2024 funds.
  - STE UZA transit agencies submitted 12 projects for funds.
  - PSRC staff worked with each sponsor on project submissions (summarized in **Attachment A**).



# FTA Equity Formula Allocation



- FTA equity formula uses **focused and intentional methodology** to distribute funds to improve transit services for equity focus populations:
  - People of color
  - People with low incomes
  - Seniors
  - Youth
  - People with disabilities
  - People with limited English proficiency





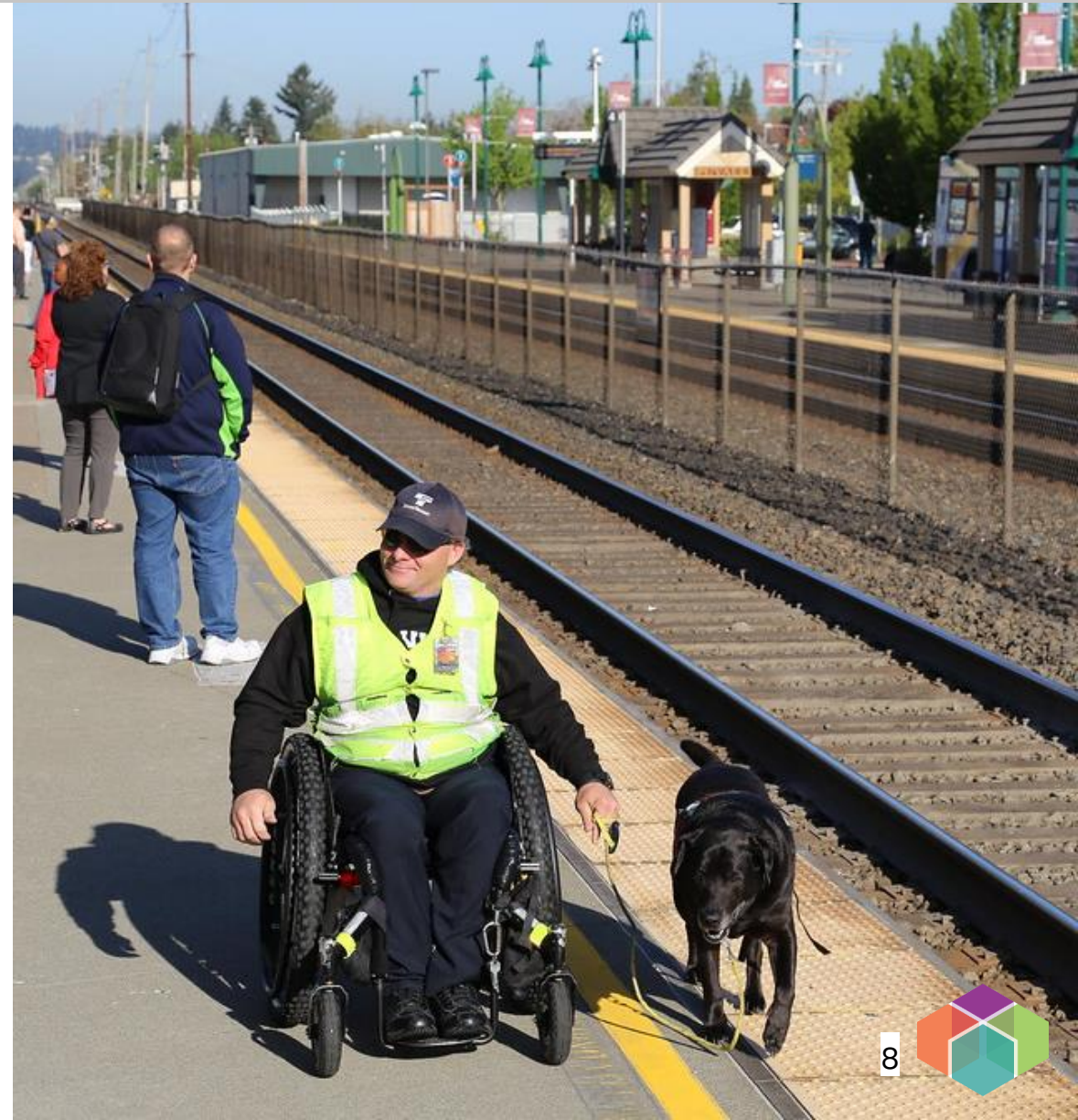
# TOC Review of Equity Formula Projects

- Agencies provided descriptions of how each project will support and improve equity, per the adopted **Equity Criterion**:
  - Addressing disparities and gaps for identified equity focus area (EFA) populations
  - Engaging community
  - Mitigation of displacement



# Equity Formula Discussion

- Evaluate whether the project submissions are consistent with the purpose and intent of the equity formula distribution
- Distinct difference from the earned share formula funds in both focus and distribution methodology
- Specific focus to *support and improve equity with PSRC's FTA funds*





# Equity Formula Discussion

- There are 12 project submittals for the Equity Formula funding:
  - a) 4 projects expanding high-capacity transit lines, including purchase of buses for those lines
  - b) 1 planning study for access to transit improvements
  - c) 1 project providing ADA improvements
  - d) 3 projects replacing paratransit vehicles
  - e) 3 projects providing vehicle and/or facility preventive maintenance

<https://www.psrc.org/fta-applications>

# Equity Formula Discussion

*PSRC staff assessment that the project submittals summarized below provided sufficient responses to the Equity criterion to establish a connection to the overall purpose and intent of the Equity Formula funding*

- a) 4 projects expanding high-capacity transit lines, including buses for those lines
- b) 1 planning study for access to transit improvements
- c) 1 project providing ADA improvements
- d) 3 projects replacing paratransit vehicles

*The remaining submittals require additional discussion by the TOC*

- e) 3 projects providing vehicle and/or facility preventive maintenance



# Equity Formula Discussion

## Preventive Maintenance Project Submittals:

- Everett Station Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation
  - *Initial staff assessment that the identified repairs to the station elevators provide direct improvement to equity focus populations accessing WorkSource.*
- Everett Transit Vehicle Preventive Maintenance & Seattle First Hill Streetcar Maintenance
  - *Initial staff assessment that these are routine maintenance activities for existing transit services. As background all routes in the system provide service to areas of the region with equity focus populations.*

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

# Equity Formula Discussion

- *Does routine maintenance of an existing service meet the purpose and intent of the equity formula distribution?*
- *How are these projects improving equity and distinct from the earned share formula distribution?*
- *What additional information might strengthen the connection to improvements for equity focus populations for these investments?*
  - *E.g., additional background information from Everett Transit expected regarding loss of opportunity and impacts to service*
- *Any other comments or questions on any of the 12 projects or the staff assessment?*
- *Is there anything else staff can share in the guidance to provide more clarity regarding expectations for project selection responses?*





# Next Steps

## Transportation Operators Committee

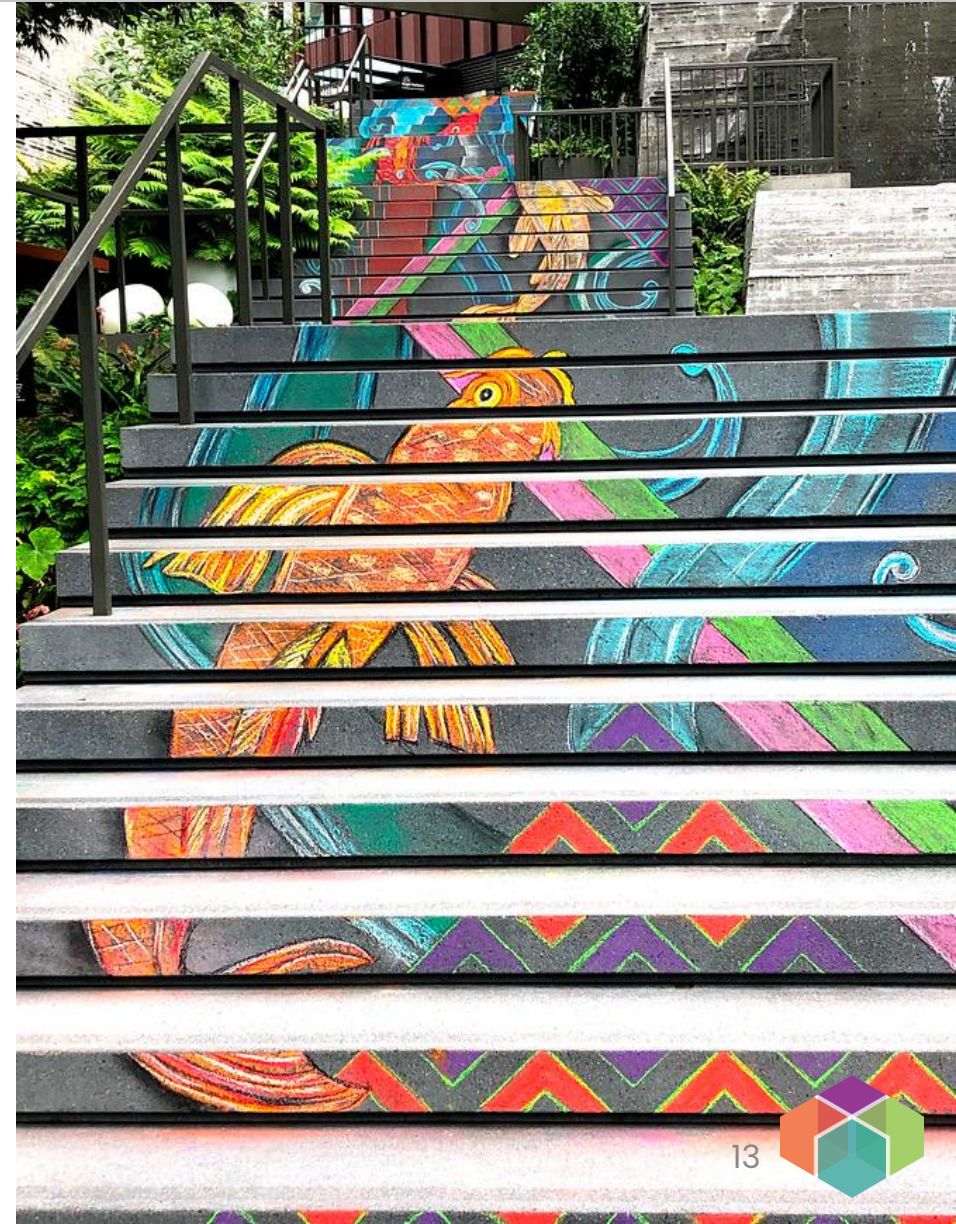
- ✓ **October 25** – Recommends Earned Share and Equity Formula projects.

## Transportation Policy Board

- ✓ **November 9** – Releases projects for public review.
- ✓ **December 14** – Reviews public comments and recommends Executive Board approval of project funding.

## Executive Board

- ✓ **January 25** – Final approval of project funding recommendations.
- ✓ **Mid-February** – STIP approval.







# *Thank You!*

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