

Preparing for PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process

Executive Board | October 26, 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

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

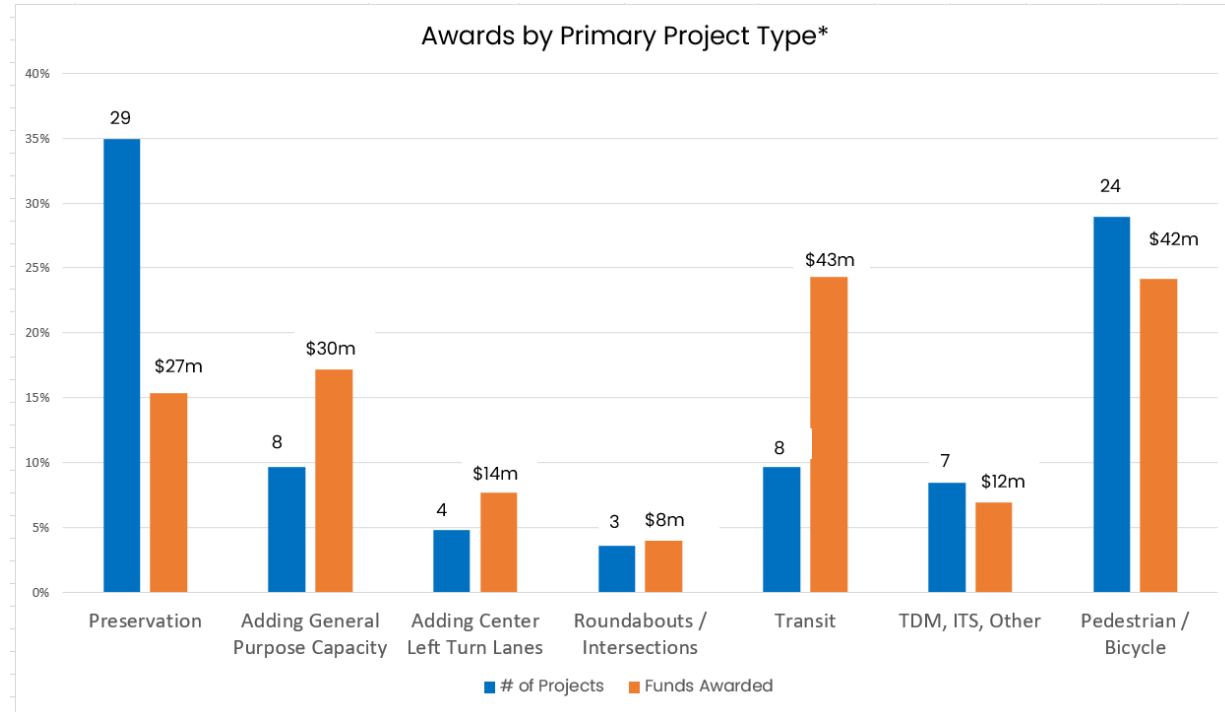
- 2022 process made significant revisions to Equity and Safety criteria
 - Including establishing a new Equity Pilot, currently in process
- Policy emphasis areas continue to be:
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ Climate
 - ✓ Equity



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

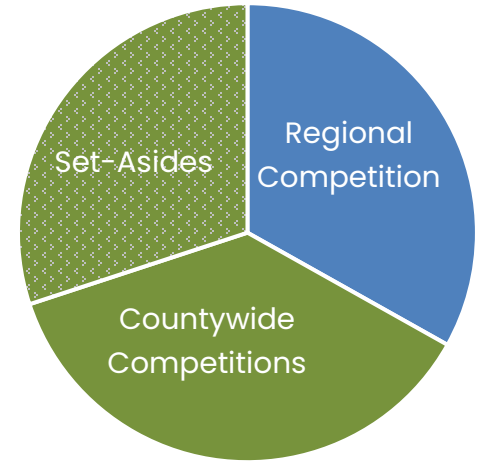
- There are two key levers in PSRC's funding competitions:
 - Funding distributions – splits between competitions, and identification of set-asides
 - Project scoring criteria and additional project evaluation requirements



Board Discussion

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

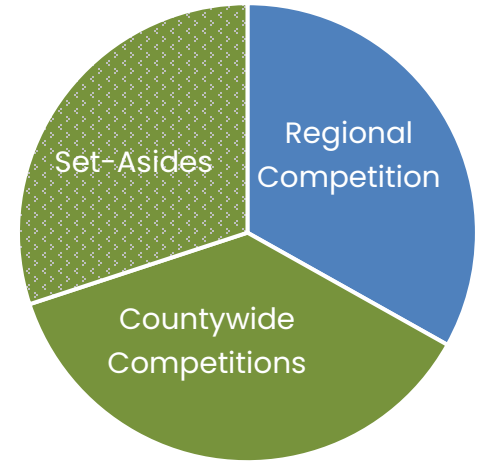
Set-Aside	Application
Preservation	20% of STBG Funds, distributed in countywide competitions
Bicycle / Pedestrian	10% of all Funds, distributed in countywide competitions
Kitsap County Adjustment	Population adjustment from STBG for Kitsap countywide process
Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program	10% 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?



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

