

Preparing for PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process

Transportation Policy Board | December 14, 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

Today's Agenda

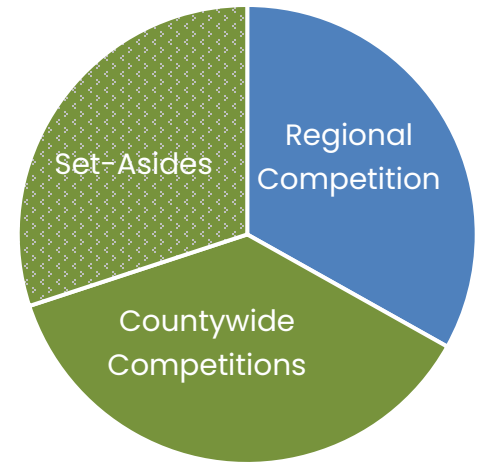
- Continuing discussion of 2024 Policy Framework and potential revisions
 - Funding distributions
 - Emphasis areas of safety, climate, equity
- Goal = consensus to move forward for action in January



Funding Distributions

- No changes yet proposed to the set-asides or the distribution splits between the Regional and Countywide competitions – *request to revisit after criteria and scoring options reviewed*

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



Project Evaluation Criteria and Point Values

- From 2022 regional process:

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



Safety Options

1. Consensus to update scoring values

- Draft option to increase to 20 points total (Attachment A, Option 2)
 - *Option 2 also reflects EAC and RPEC recommendations on other criteria; per next slide, additional language and questions are also proposed*
- Is there board consensus to increase the Safety criterion to 20 points?



Safety Options

2. Consensus to update safety criteria & language to more concretely tie to the Safe System Approach and FHWA proven safety countermeasures

➤ *Staff will refine exact language prior to Call for Projects*

- Criteria will describe and provide resources on the Safe System Approach
 - *Humans make mistakes, humans are vulnerable*
 - *Plan and design for Safer People, Safer Roads, Safer Speeds*



USDOT,
<https://www.transportation.gov/NR/SS/SafeSystem>



Safety Options

- Applicants will describe how the project improves safety, particularly for vulnerable users
- Applicants will identify if any of the FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures are being utilized
 - *For example, addressing:*
 - *Speeds*
 - *Pedestrian / Bicycle*
 - *Roadway departure*
 - *Intersections*



➤ Is there board consensus to update the criteria as described?



Safety Options

3. Consensus to incorporate a commitment to develop a safety plan / policies based on a Safe System Approach

- *PSRC is developing a Regional Safety Action Plan due in early 2025 under the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program*
- *Up to 25 jurisdictions will also develop local safety action plans under SS4A, in coordination with the regional program or through individual grants*



USDOT,
<https://www.transportation.gov/NR/SS/SafeSystem>



Safety Options

- Currently, 31% of all agencies in the region have stand-alone safety plans, and another 65% include safety policies and/or additional safety programs in their comprehensive plans
 - *Larger jurisdictions are more likely to have stand-alone plans – only 13% of agencies below 20k in population currently have these plans*
- *After current SS4A grants, 57% of all agencies will have a safety plan – including 24% of smaller cities throughout the region*
- *Additional support planned for tribes and small cities within PSRC's regional grant*



Safety Options

- The current safety criterion asks about adopted safety policies that informed the project. Additional proposed question:
 - *USDOT is developing a framework for assessing how projects align with the Safe System Approach, and PSRC is developing a Regional Safety Action Plan due in early 2025. Does your agency commit to adhering to the forthcoming guidance and continuing to work towards planning and implementation actions under a Safe System Approach, to reduce fatalities and serious injuries?*
 - *PSRC would propose to continue to monitor local safety action plans and revisit prior to the 2026 project selection process*
 - **Is there board consensus to incorporate this language in the 2024 process?**



Climate Options Under Consideration

1. Update scoring values (currently 20–50 points depending on funding source)
 - Two draft options (Attachment A)
 - Option 2 – no change
 - Option 3 – STP points increased to 35



Background

- Background on Air Quality / Climate scoring process
 - Technical project-level tool used by PSRC
 - Developed by ICF International, currently being updated
 - Every project evaluated for potential emission reductions, based on specific parameters of each project – scope, scale, timing
 - All pollutants analyzed – greenhouse gases and fine particulates prioritized in scoring



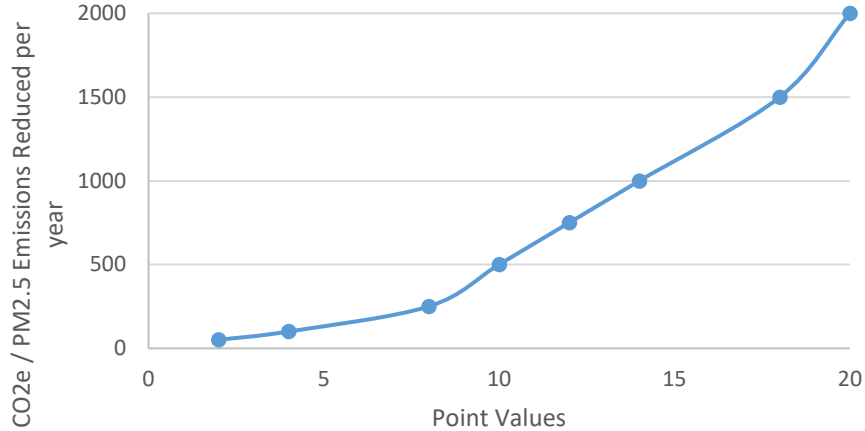
Background

- Highest scoring projects demonstrate significant emission reduction potential, from:
 - Reducing vehicle miles traveled
 - Reducing trips
 - Converting facilities / vehicles to alternative fuels
 - Reducing heavy duty diesel truck trips, miles or idling
- **Points allocated based on scale of emissions reduced**
 - *CMAQ points based on emissions and cost-effectiveness, per federal legislation*



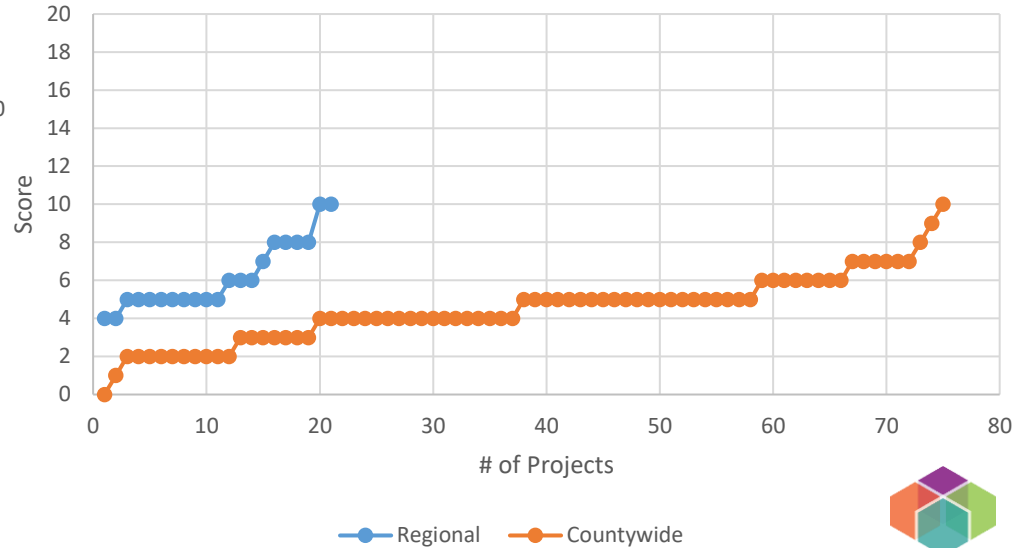
Background

STP Air Quality / Climate Scoring Framework



Projects that increase emissions, or do not result in any emission reductions, do not receive any points

Distribution of Air Quality / Climate Scores to All 2022 STP Regional and Countywide Project Applications



Climate Options Under Consideration

1. Update scoring values (currently 20–50 points depending on funding source)
 - Two draft options (Attachment A)
 - Both options incorporate the Safety, Equity and Delivery changes already discussed
 - Option 2 – no change to Air Quality / Climate
 - Option 3 – STP points increased to 35
- Is there board consensus to increase the Air Quality / Climate point values or retain as is?



Climate Options Under Consideration

2. Set parameters around types of projects eligible for funding
 - From board feedback:
 - Interest in doing more on climate, however diversity of multimodal improvements needed around the region, supporting *Centers, Freight, Transit*
 - *Draft proposal – do not allow projects on limited access highways that add general purpose capacity to compete for PSRC's federal funds*
 - *Attachment B, map of limited access facilities*

➤ Is there board consensus to limit these projects in the competition?



Additional Options Under Consideration

- An additional proposal would set a scoring threshold, below which projects would not be considered for funding
 - Sets a priority to fund only projects that best meet criteria and regional policy
 - Concerns specifically raised with funding low-scoring “immediately ready to go” projects on the contingency list – after competition – to meet the annual delivery target
 - *Mitigated with project tracking revisions under recommendation*



Additional Options Under Consideration

- No RPEC consensus on the proposal
 - Logistical details of 5 competitions with independent scoring processes – regional and 4 countywides
 - Concerns about smaller, less resourced agencies
- Is there board consensus to set a scoring threshold or retain the existing process?



Equity Options for Consideration

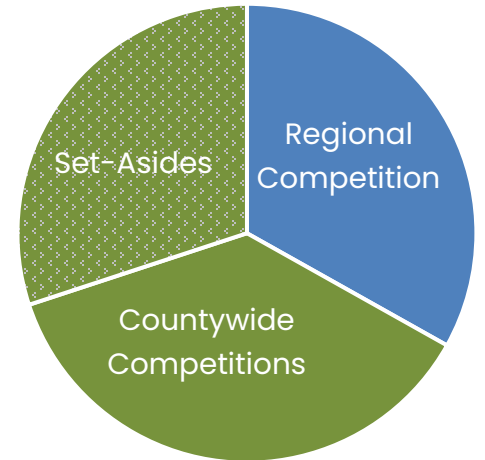
- Equity Advisory Committee has finalized their recommendations from the Equity Pilot
 - Improvements to the existing Equity criterion and point values
 - Incorporating equity throughout each criterion vs. a separate Equity criterion
- Is there board consensus to incorporate the EAC recommendations?



Funding Distributions

- Is there board consensus to retain the funding distributions as they currently exist?*

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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

