



Puget Sound Regional Council

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

November 9, 2023

To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to:
<https://www.psrc.org/watch-meetings>.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Mayor Dana Ralph, Chair. Chair Ralph announced that the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting would be hybrid, allowing for remote and in-person attendance. The meeting will be live streamed, and a call-in number was provided for members of the public to listen. Chair Ralph acknowledged and thanked the number of members attending in person.

A quorum was established by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ralph shared her thanks to Mayor Mary Lou Pauly for chairing the October meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reported that there are many state plans out for public comment and review: Transportation Electrification Strategy, the 2024 Draft State Highway System Plan and the Washington Broadband Equity Access and Development Program.

Ms. McGourty noted an information item in the packet regarding an upcoming meeting related to Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program Phase 2 funding. She also shared that the third Sunday in November is the annual day of remembrance for road traffic victims.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Transportation Policy Board Meeting held October 12, 2023

ACTION: The motion was made by Councilmember Jennifer Robertson and seconded by Mayor Mary Lou Pauly to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.

RELEASE 2025-2026 FTA FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, provided a high-level overview of PSRC's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding programs. She also shared the background of how the FTA funding distribution methodology was updated for 2025-2026 funds.

The changes to the methodology maintained the earned share distribution process but made significant changes to the distribution of regional funds. Regional funds are now distributed solely based on an equity formula. The equity formula uses a focused and intentional methodology which looks at all the transit services provided to the region's equity focused populations and then distributes those funds accordingly.

The Transportation Operations Committee (TOC) developed procedures for implementing the new equity formula. The call for projects was then released in July 2023. Ms. Gutschow reviewed the total funds available for distribution for both the earned share and equity formula. PSRC staff reviewed all project submissions for eligibility and consistency with regional policies. She also gave an in-depth overview of the equity formula allocation and the adopted criterion by which project submittals were evaluated. She then noted the types of projects included in the recommended project list.

Ms. McGourty noted a minor change in the agenda packet that related to a project moving funds. She shared lessons learned from implementing the new equity formula allocation and described the robust discussions at the TOC regarding the various project types and how they conform to the purpose of the equity pilot.

Ms. Gutschow noted that the TPB is being asked to release the projects for public comment. Public comment will be open through December 15. At its January 11 meeting, the TPB will be asked to review and recommend Executive Board approval. At its January 25 meeting, the Executive Board will take action for final approval of funding recommendations.

Members discussed the purpose and intent of the new equity formula and the nuances across project types, particularly preventive maintenance activities.

Action: It was moved by Councilmember Kate Kruller and seconded by Councilmember Jan Schuette that the Transportation Policy Board release for public comment the lists of projects recommended for:

- \$506.9 M in 2025-2026 FTA earned share funds, as identified in Attachment A.
- \$99.7 M of 2023-2026 FTA equity formula funding as identified in attachment B.

The motion passed.

STATUS REPORT ON PSRC'S FHWA EQUITY PILOT

Dr. Charles Patton, PSRC, shared that the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) has been working with staff on the Equity Pilot created as part of the 2022 project selection process with \$6 million in PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds.

Dr. Patton reviewed the Equity Pilot schedule. The deadline for projects has been extended until November 15. At the end of the year, the EAC will review the outcomes of the pilot program. The goal is to develop strategies that improve how PSRC integrates equity into PSRC's project selection process. At its December meeting, TPB will hear EAC recommendations on the projects to receive funding and improvements to future project selection processes. TPB is then scheduled to adopt the full Policy Framework in January.

Dr. Patton shared initial feedback from the EAC on the pilot, which is evaluating two pathways. One pathway updates the criteria and point values within the existing structure, keeping equity as a standalone criterion. The second pathway incorporates those same updates but transitions equity to be woven throughout all of the criteria. Dr. Patton gave an in-depth overview of each pathway for the pilot.

Members discussed the additions to the criteria and it was clarified that only one pathway will be moved forward for consideration, with potential revisions.

PREPARING FOR THE 2024 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Ms. McGourty noted that the board has discussed the project selection process at its previous meetings. PSRC's Executive Board and the Regional Project Evaluation Committee have also been briefed and their feedback will be presented for TPB review.

Ms. McGourty first reviewed the current funding distribution processes. To date, there have been no suggestions to revise existing distribution splits. Ms. McGourty then reviewed the options for consideration related to safety, climate and equity. Ms. McGourty noted that the agenda packet had information on the criteria and how these policy emphasis areas are incorporated. The packet also had information about how the projects scored with criteria.

Members discussed the changes implemented in the previous project selection cycle and allowing time to determine if they resulted in the desired outcomes. Staff shared that it can take time for projects to pivot in response to policy changes. Ms. McGourty noted that the Equity Pilot demonstrated that more pointed questions do return better responses from projects. Per a board member question, Ms. McGourty noted the challenges to collecting data after project implementation.

Ms. McGourty reviewed options for changes for safety. Feedback to date has been a consensus to increase the point values to demonstrate the importance of safety. There has also been consensus to update the criteria and language for safety to tie more closely to the Safe System Approach and FHWA proven safety countermeasures. Staff can provide more specific language in December. Lastly, the board has discussed asking for a commitment from agencies to have or commit to developing a safety plan based on a Safe System Approach. She noted feedback to date has included support for this concept but also concerns that it could be challenging for a smaller agency, and it would be difficult for PSRC to enforce. Members shared that a checklist for a Safe System Approach could be considered. Members also noted that a phased approach may be beneficial, leading up to the 2026 competition. Ms. McGourty shared that a phased time frame could work as the Regional Safety Action Plan is currently in development.

Ms. McGourty next reviewed the options for consideration for climate, including updating scoring values. She shared feedback received to date, including the suggestion to exclude projects adding general purpose capacity. Members shared concerns about not funding projects that meet concurrency requirements, such as capital projects. Members also shared that increased capacity doesn't necessarily equate to more greenhouse gases if more streets support transit, connectivity, and density. Members also shared that climate emphasis may change over time as fleets electrify. Clarification was provided that active transportation considerations are included throughout the criteria, including elements of comfort and planning for all ages and abilities.

Ms. McGourty shared that members are welcome to send feedback before the next meeting. The topic will be discussed again at the December 14 meeting.

Chair Ralph thanked members for attending and participating in the meeting. The next two meetings will be remote only for members due to PSRC relocating offices.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM.

TPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT

Attachment A - Attendance Roster.

GUESTS and PSRC STAFF ATTENDING

(As determined by staff)

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC
Josh Brown, PSRC
Nancy Buonanno Grennan, PSRC
Doug Cox, PSRC
Heather Culver, PSRC
Sara Gutschow, PSRC
Craig Helmann, PSRC
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Piset Khuon, PSRC
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Casey Moreau, PSRC
Dr. Charles Patton, PSRC

Attachments:

A – Transportation Policy Board November 9, 2023, Attendance Roster

Transportation Policy Board - November 9, 2023				5.a - Att. A	
Voting Members			✓	Non-voting Members	✓
King County	2	CM Girmay Zahilay	1	Associate Members	
		CM Dave Upthegrove	1	Island County	1
		Vacant Alt			1
		Vacant Alt		Thurston Regional Planning Council	1
Seattle	2	CM Dan Strauss			1
		CM Alex Pedersen	1	Public Agency Members	
		CP Debora Juarez Alt		Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	1
Bellevue	1	CM Jennifer Robertson	1		1
		CM Janice Zahn Alt	1	Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board	1
Cities/Towns	3	CM Kate Kruller, Tukwila	1		1
		MYR Dana Ralph, Kent, Chair	1	WA Transportation Improvement Board	1
		MYR Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah	1		1
		CM Peter Kwon, SeaTac Alt	1	PSRC Committees	
		CM Wendy Weiker Mercer Isl Alt		Regional Staff Cmte.	1
		DEP MYR Jay Arnold, Kirkland Alt	1		1
Local Transit	1	CM Rod Dembowski		Regional Project Evaluation Cmte.	1
		Vacant Alt			1
Kitsap County	1	COM Christine Rolfes		Transportation Operators Cmte.	1
		COM Charlotte Garrido Alt			1
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1	Private/Civic Members-Business/Labor	
		CP Jeff Coughlin Alt	1	WA Trucking Associations exp. 12/31/25	1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Leslie Schneider, Bainbridge Isl	1		1
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt		Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1
Local Transit	1	MYR Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard	1		1
		CM John Clauson, Port Orchard Alt		Seattle Met. Chamber of Commerce exp. 12/31/25	1
Pierce County	1	CM Ryan Mello, Vice Chair	1	Master Builders of Pierce County exp. 12/31/23	1
		CM Dave Morell Alt			1
Tacoma	1	DEP MYR Kristina Walker	1	Private/Civic Members-Community/Environment	
		CM Olgy Diaz Alt		Seattle Aging & Disability Services exp. 12/31/23	1
Cities & Towns	1	CM Tim Ceder, Milton	1		1
		MYR Josh Penner, Orting Alt		Vacant exp. 12/31/25	1
Local Transit	1	CM Marty Campbell, Pierce County			1
		MYR Daryl Eidinger, Edgewood Alt			1
Snohomish County	1	CM Jared Mead		Public Health Seattle/ King County exp.12/31/23	1
		CM Strom Peterson Alt			1
Everett	1	CM Ben Zarlingo	1	Vacant exp. 12/31/23	1
		MYR Cassie Franklin Alt			1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Jan Schuette, Arlington	1	Non-voting	16
		MYR Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, Mill Creek Alt		Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members	
Local Transit	1	CM Kim Daughtry, Lake Stevens		State Legislators	87
		CM Jan Schuette, Arlington Alt		Districts within PSRC's boundary	
Regional Transit	1	CM Ed Prince, Renton	1		
		MYR Kim Roscoe, Fife Alt			
Federally Recognized Tribes					
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	1	CM John Daniels, Jr.			
		Vacant Alt			
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1	Andrew Strobel			
		Robert Barandon Alt			
Suquamish Tribe	1	CM Luther (Jay) Mills			
		CHRMN Leonard Forsman Alt			
Statutory Members					
Ports	1	COM Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle	1		
		COM Cary Bozeman, Bremerton Alt	1		
WA Trans. Commission	1	COM Jim Restucci	1		
		COM Nicole Grant Alt	1		
WSDOT	1	Robin Mayhew			
		Todd Lamphere Alt	1		
Legislative Transportation Cmte. (Not Counted for Quorum)					
House Transportation Cmte.	2	Vacant			
		REP Jake Fey, D Alt			
		REP Dan Griffey, R			
		REP Andrew Barkis, R Alt			
Senate Transportation Cmte.	2	SEN Marko Lias, D			
		SEN Emily Randall, D Alt			
		Vacant, R			
		Vacant, R Alt			
Voting	32	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	19		
		Total Voting members present	25		
				Abbreviations	
				CHRMN Chairman	
				CM Councilmember	
				CP Council President	
				COM Commissioner	
				MYR Mayor	
				DEP MYR Mayor	
				SEC Secretary	
				ASST SEC Assistant Secretary	
				REP Representative	
				SEN Senator	