

Casey Moreau

From: Matthew Sutherland <Matthew@Transportationchoices.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:54 PM
To: Casey Moreau
Cc: Mayor@KentWA.gov; Ryan Mello
Subject: Public Comments for the Transportation Policy Board 1.11.2024

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Dear Chair Ralph, Vice Chair Mello, and members of the Puget Sound Regional Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on today's discussion and possible action on project selection and the Equity Pilot Project recommendations. Transportation Choices Coalition is a nonprofit organization that brings people together to advocate for safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation across Washington.

We are excited by the opportunity to further align PSRC's transportation funding processes with stated regional priorities of equity, safety, and climate. Given that, we offer the following comments.

On project selection generally:

- We support changes to project evaluation criteria that use updated distribution of points to further emphasize and prioritize climate, safety, and equity (deferring to the Equity Advisory Committee on how equity points are distributed and evaluated throughout the criteria)*
- To that end, we should only move forward on projects that score well on these criteria:*
 - Create a "floor" of some kind that would prevent poorly scored projects that do not meet our vision and priorities from a spot on the contingency list*
 - Not allowing projects applying for general purpose lane capacity to be eligible for FHWA and CMAQ competitions.*
- For safety in particular, we encourage all jurisdictions to adopt a safe systems approach as they develop transportation plans and design projects.*

Equity Pilot Project

- This pilot project is an innovative idea that moves PSRC in a critical direction of prioritizing funding projects that benefit populations that have long been excluded from public processes and investment. The root idea of this pilot project is to proactively reduce harm and improve outcomes for neighborhoods that have been scarred by previously racist policies. We are so excited and proud of PSRC for centering equity through this work.*
- We support the Equity Advisory Committee's decision to fund the current list of projects while creating better guidance and resources and even higher expectations for this program in the future, such as a "floor" as described above.*

Thank you for your innovation and leadership on making substantive changes to reflect our processes and funding with our values.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Sutherland (he/him) on behalf of Transportation Choices Coalition
Advocacy Director

Transportation Choices

1402 3rd Ave #310
Seattle, WA 98101

Cell/Signal: 253-282-3000
Call or Text!

www.transportationchoices.org

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