



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 5:30-7:30 pm

Optional: Post-Meeting Q&A from 7:30-8:00 pm

1. Welcome (5:30) – *Shannon Turner & Julius Moss, Co-Chairs*

2. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary for January 4, 2024*
- b. EAC Member Announcements
- c. Staff Announcements*
- d. GMPB and TPB Meeting Summaries*

2. Discussion Item (6:00)

- a. Icebreakers and Quarterly Engagement Activity* – *Noah Boggess, PSRC*

3. Discussion Item (6:15)

- a. Equity Pilot Status Report & 2024 Transportation Updates* – *Charles Patton & Kelly McGourty, PSRC*

4. Break (6:30)

5. Discussion Item (6:40)

- a. 2023 Housing Monitoring Report* – *Eric Clute, PSRC*

6. Zoom Poll (7:25)

7. Next meeting: March 7, 2024

8. Adjourn (7:30)

Optional Post-Meeting Q&A (7:30) – *Charles Patton, PSRC*

*Supporting materials attached.

Members can access the attendance sheet [here](#) to complete and submit to finance@psrc.org for compensation.

Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join the webinar, please click the following link: <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/83849458400?pwd=oXigb6yGEHNolhCd3hj9TxM3luFyg.PQVQG7YtyLjyVlfs> and enter Passcode: 343633.

- To join by phone, call 833 548 0276 US Toll Free or 833 548 0282 US Toll Free and enter Webinar ID: 838 4945 8400 and Passcode: 343633.
- For TTY-based telecommunications relay service dial 711.
- العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact/language-assistance>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: January 4, 2024

Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the [Equity Advisory Committee webpage](#). Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

Welcome

Shannon Turner, from Kitsap County, and Julius Moss, from Pierce County, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chairs welcomed everyone and asked Mikayla to begin the roll call for attendance. Julius Moss shared that four new members of the EAC were joining, with the new members as follows:

- Amarlin Lily Distelhorst (Snohomish County)
- Keshreeyaji Oswal (Pierce County)
- Corey Orvold (Pierce County)
- Maria Fergus (Kitsap County).

Staff Announcements

Charles Patton clarified for new members that there is an anonymous slide, where members can add questions and comments for presenters, and reminded the committee to select “Everyone” when responding via the chat. He also shared that PSRC finance staff asked that members submit their compensation forms within one month of the meeting in question, whenever possible.

Discussion Item: Icebreakers and Quarterly Engagement Activity

In last year’s annual survey, several EAC members expressed a desire to have the opportunity to get to know one another a little more. To address this, throughout 2024, EAC members will join breakout sessions, which will serve as loosely structured times for the EAC to meet in groups of five and get to know one another better. Noah Boggess shared the structure and purpose of these breakouts with the committee.

Noah then hosted an ice breaker for the committee, with each member asked to respond to the following prompts:

- Name
- Pronouns
- County
- Communities you represent
- What is your biggest achievement?
- What is the best concert/performance you have ever attended?
If you could choose anyone, who would be the three guests at your dinner table?

Questions? Contact Noah Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, at nboggess@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: PSRC State Legislative Agenda

Robin Koskey briefed members on the recommendations and changes that were made as the PSRC Executive Board adopted the 2024 Recommendations to the Washington State Legislature in December 2023.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Robin Koskey, Director of Communications and Government Relations, at rkoskey@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Kelly McGourty provided an overview of planning efforts for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, including upcoming milestones, and funds available from this program for implementation activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at kmcgourty@psrc.org.

Adjourn

At the close of the meeting, members participated in a poll to evaluate the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Members Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Charles Patton, PSRC
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Noah Boggess, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 1, 2024

TO: Equity Advisory Committee

FROM: Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

SUBJECT: EAC Co-chairs

IN BRIEF

During its meeting on February 1, 2024, Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) members will learn about the roles and responsibilities of committee co-chairs and about how they will select co-chairs.

DISCUSSION

During its meeting on February 1, 2024, EAC members will learn about the roles and responsibilities of committee co-chairs and about how they will select co-chairs. Members will also be asked about their interest in serving a one-year term as a co-chair for the committee. Responsibilities for the position include:

- Meeting preparation (e.g., participating in meeting dry runs)
- Facilitating discussions (e.g., monitoring the chat for questions)
- Providing leadership (e.g., representing the committee at one to two Executive Board meetings)

Members who express interest in this position will be asked to submit a brief questionnaire (see Attachment A). This will be used to provide some additional information about each candidate, so EAC members can make an informed decision about who they would like to serve as their co-chairs. The responses to this questionnaire will be included in the meeting packet for the March meeting.

Next Steps

The election will be held during the March 7, 2024, EAC meeting using an online polling platform. All votes will be anonymous.

Lead Staff

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager, at cpatton@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Example Co-chair Candidate Form – Stearns



Chris Stearns

(he/him)

King County



Chris serves as a councilmember for the City of Auburn. He’s been committed to fighting for racial equity and justice as a lawyer representing Indian tribes across the nation and has also served in positions within the federal government devoted to upholding treaty rights and improving services to Indian tribes.

Why do you want to serve as a co-chair (75-word limit)?

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What experiences and/or skills do you have that will help you serve as an effective co-chair (75-word limit)?

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Why are you interested in advancing racial equity and what have you done to help reduce racial inequities (75-word limit)?

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Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 1, 2024

TO: Equity Advisory Committee

FROM: Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

SUBJECT: GMPB and TPB Meeting Summaries



January 4, 2024

Black Home Initiative

Marty Kooistra, former Executive Director of the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County and former Growth Management Policy Board member, briefed the board on the Black Home Initiative, a new regional program that seeks to target the racial inequities in the housing market to increase homeownership among Black residents. Short-term goals for the BHI include creating opportunities for 1500 new low-and-moderate income Black households to own a home in South Seattle, South King County and North Pierce County within the next five years. The Black Home Initiative includes [seven focus areas](#) to address housing production, lending, purchasing and exiting. These focus areas include pre-/post- purchase counseling, purchase supports and tools, credit and lending, housing production, policies and practices, marketing and outreach and sustaining existing owners. PSRC will continue to monitor housing ownership metrics and coordinate with the BHI and Civic Commons. [View video](#) or [presentation](#).

For more information, contact Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org.

Covenant Homeownership Act

The board was briefed on the work of the state Housing Finance Commission to support access to homeownership and affordable housing through the Covenant Homeownership Act. The Covenant Homeownership Act addresses the role of government institutions in housing-related racial discrimination. To implement the Act, the Housing Finance Commission will oversee a research study prepared by the National Fair Housing Alliance. The new law has two implementation points- a research study to investigate housing discrimination against marginalized communities in Washington States, the impact of the discrimination and potential remedies and a new source of funding from homebuyer assistance. PSRC will continue to coordinate with the Commission and local jurisdictions during plan updates.

For more information, contact Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org.

2024 Regional Transit-Oriented Development Committee Work Plan

The board heard from the Regional Transit Oriented Development Committee (RTODC) on their 2023 work and their plans for 2024. Last year, RTODC held four quarterly meetings and a TOD event providing direction on regional planning work, learning from others about promising practices and convening TOD stakeholders for information sharing and networking. RTODC 2024 work plan includes restructuring discussions to increase engagement and interaction among members as well as including a work session at each meeting. The committee will begin implementing the work plan at its next meeting on March 15, 2024. [View presentation](#).

For more information, contact Liz Underwood-Bultmann at Lunderwood-Bultmann@psrc.org.

Regional Safety Plan Draft Scope of Work

The board provided feedback on the draft scope of work outline for PSRC's Regional Safety Plan. Sections of the draft work outline include Overview; Safety and Equity Analyses; Engagement and Collaboration; Strategies, Countermeasures and Actions; and Implementation and Next Steps. PSRC will work with a consultant team to advance the development of the Regional Safety Plan, with a target completion date by Q1 of 2025. [View presentation](#).

For more information, contact Gary Simonson at gsimonson@psrc.org

Next Meeting: February 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting at new office! February 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Hybrid Meeting at new office!

New location: 1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, 98101

Major Topics for February:

- Equity Advisory Committee Update
- Regional Centers Monitoring Scope of Work



January 11, 2024

2025-2026 FTA Funding Allocations

The Transportation Policy Board recommended the Executive Board approve the list of projects for PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Earned Share and Equity Formula funds. The projects were released for public review and comment on October 12; no comments were received. The Executive Board will review and take final action at their January meeting. [View video](#) and [presentation](#).

For more information, please contact Sarah Gutschow at (206) 587-4822 or sgutschow@psrc.org.

Equity Pilot Project Recommendations

The board recommended the Executive Board approve the list of projects to receive funding from PSRC's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Equity Pilot Program. Eight projects were submitted for the \$6.01 million available from the pilot and are being recommended by the Equity Advisory Committee along with a suite of improvements for the 2024 project selection process. The projects were released for public review and comment in December, and the board reviewed the twelve public comments received. The Executive Board will review and take final action at their January meeting. [View presentation.](#)

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives, at cpatton@psrc.org or Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation, at kmcgourty@psrc.org.

Preparing for the 2024 Project Selection Process / Recommendation of 2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds

The Transportation Policy Board recommended the Executive Board approve the 2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds. The board has been discussing improvements to the 2024 project selection process and a suite of revisions is recommended for improvements with a focus on safety, climate and equity. [View presentation.](#)

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at 206-971-3601 or kmcgourty@psrc.org.

Next Meeting: February 8, 2024, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Major Topics for February:

- Regional Transportation Plan (2026-2050) Scoping Process
- Current Regional Transportation Plan Mid-Cycle Project Update



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 1, 2024

TO: Equity Advisory Committee

FROM: Noah Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist

SUBJECT: Quarterly Engagement Activity

IN BRIEF

Throughout 2024, EAC members will join breakout sessions, which will serve as loosely structured times for the EAC to meet in groups of five and get to know one another better. These sessions will last about 20 minutes.

Each member will have the opportunity to serve as a facilitator and will be responsible for moving the conversation along. Facilitators will have their choice to:

- Introduce themselves to the group in more detail, sharing about their career and journey to the EAC.
- Discuss the EAC workplan, bouncing ideas off of fellow members about topics in the year to come.
- Discuss issues the region is facing (e.g. affordable housing crisis).
- Get to know the small group better and continue to break the ice with the new cohort.

Since the committee did not have time to join these sessions in January, Mindy Woods, Debbie Lacy, Autrina Martindale, and Michelle Stewart will have the opportunity to facilitate discussions during the February meeting.

February Leads
Mindy Woods Debbie Lacy Autrina Martindale Noah Boggess

March Leads
Lisa Espinosa Shannon Turner Corey Orvold Hien 'Elly' Trinh

May Leads
Jewel Shepherd-Sampson Megan Espinoza Thanh Nguyen Lily Distelhorst

July Leads
Maria Fergus
Julius Moss
Lupe Valtierra-Prieto
Annie Tran

October Leads
Laurenne Sayles
Keshreeyaji Oswal
Ben Sung Henry
Julia Jannon-Shields

Staff want this lift to be as light as possible and members are not expected to spend too much time or energy preparing for it. Staff will have some questions for facilitators in the event they are unable to prepare to facilitate a meeting.

Lead Staff

Contact Noah Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, at nboggess@psrc.org with questions or comments.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 1, 2024

TO: Equity Advisory Committee

FROM: Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy & Initiatives

SUBJECT: Equity Pilot Status Report and 2024 Transportation Updates

IN BRIEF

The Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) worked with PSRC staff throughout 2023 to review PSRC's current project selection process as it relates to equity and develop an equity pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The EAC finalized their recommendations to the board at their meeting on December 7 for both the projects to receive funding as well as further equity improvements in PSRC's 2024 project selection process.

At their January 11 meeting, the Transportation Policy Board took action on a final recommendation on the suite of improvements to be incorporated into the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*. The Executive Board is scheduled to take action at their meeting on January 25.

DISCUSSION

In addition to substantial improvements to how equity was incorporated into the existing project selection process, as part of the *2022 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds* approximately \$6 million of PSRC's FHWA funds were set aside for an Equity Pilot Program. The EAC was asked to co-create this program and develop the parameters by which projects would be selected for funding, with an overarching focus on improving equity with transportation investments.

The EAC worked with staff to develop the parameters of the pilot which was released in September 2023. The pilot was designed to evaluate several areas of improvements within the project evaluation criteria and guidance related to equity, most notably within the topics of community engagement and displacement. In addition, the pilot explored the potential impacts from weaving equity throughout the full suite of criteria, rather than as a separate, stand-alone criterion.

Eight project applications were submitted into the pilot program, requesting just under \$6.4 million. Applicants assisted with the pilot by responding to criteria changes under

two pathways, both of which increased the overall point values for equity-related criteria. Based on the pilot evaluation, at their meeting on December 7, the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) finalized recommendations for improvements to the equity criterion, which included improvements both to the criteria and scoring values for equity in the upcoming project selection process. Specific criteria improvements include updates to how community outreach and engagement and displacement risk is evaluated, and incorporating equity throughout all criteria.

A summary of the recommended projects is included in Attachment A, and a summary of criteria changes is included in Attachment B. The eight projects were released for public review, and 12 comments were received. The comments and the staff response are included in Attachment C.

The Transportation Policy Board reviewed the public comments received and recommended approval of the projects and the process changes at their meeting on January 11. The Executive Board is scheduled to take final action at their meeting on January 25.

Once the Executive Board adopts the *2024 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*, the call for projects to launch the project selection will be released in early to mid-February. All project recommendations will be presented to the boards in July, and a public comment period will be conducted in the fall. The EAC will be briefed at key milestones throughout the process.

At the February 1 EAC meeting, staff will also report on various other transportation work program items to be conducted in 2024. This includes the ongoing work to develop a Regional Safety Action Plan, for which consultant support for outreach and engagement is currently being pursued. The four-year required update to the Regional Transportation Plan will also begin in 2024. The plan will be adopted in 2026, and over the next two years key work will include discussion of policy priorities, technical analyses, and extensive outreach and engagement. The development of a comprehensive climate action plan in partnership with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will also continue throughout 2024.

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives, at cpatton@psrc.org or Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation, at kmcgourty@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Summary of Recommended Projects
- B. EAC Equity Pilot Recommendations
- C. Public Comments Received

ATTACHMENT A: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED EQUITY PILOT PROJECTS

Sponsor	Project	Phase	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Federal Way	BPA Trail	Preliminary Engineering /Design	\$600,000	\$567,491
Kent	Benson Corridor	Planning	\$750,000	\$709,364
Pierce Transit	Equitable Bus Shelter Program	Construction	\$1,000,000	\$945,819
Seattle	Beacon Ave S	Preliminary Engineering /Design	\$865,000	\$818,133
Snohomish Co.	Center Rd (Revised Application)	Preliminary Engineering /Design	\$485,000	\$458,722
Tacoma	S 38th & S Cedar Sts	Construction	\$1,000,000	\$945,819
Tulalip Tribes	Marine Drive / Hermosa Heights Safety Improvements	Construction	\$654,283	\$618,833
WSDOT	SR 99	Planning	\$1,000,000	\$945,819
		TOTAL:*	\$6,354,283	\$6,010,000

* The EAC recommended all eight projects be funded; as such staff reached out to sponsors who agreed to take proportional reductions in their request to pare back to the amount of available funding.

Attachment B

Summary of Equity Pilot Pathways and Improvements

1. Updating existing structure (Pathway 1)

- Update criteria
- Update guidance
- Increase equity criterion point values

2. Equity woven throughout all criteria (Pathway 2)

- Same criteria updates
- Same guidance updates
- Equity incorporated throughout



Equity Pilot Framework – Pathway 1

1. Updating existing structure

- Update criteria and guidance – Circulation, mobility & accessibility:
 - Address transit improvements for all services and times of day, not just commuter lines and periods
 - Is there a way to incorporate **resilience of the system** into the criterion?
 - Emphasize access to **opportunities and destinations**
 - Connect to existing PSRC resources such as the new **Housing Opportunities by Place (HOP)** typology



Equity Pilot Framework – Pathway 1

- Update criteria and guidance – **Equity:**
 - Assist sponsors in identifying the most marginalized communities impacted / improved by the project
 - Start with PSRC’s 6 **equity focus population areas (EFAs)**, support identification and understanding of data
 - Incorporate the **intersection of two or more EFAs** in the project area (e.g., in an area of higher percentages of both people of color and people with low incomes)
 - Include other datasets on disparities – e.g., WA Environmental Health Disparities map, Coordinated Mobility Plan
 - Improve assessment of addressing impacts and providing benefits
 - **Provide best practices and examples**



Equity Pilot Framework – Pathway 1

- Update criteria and guidance – Equity:
 - Address under Community Outreach and Engagement:
 - Provide **best practices and examples**, setting expectations
 - **Compensation, language, partnership practices** included in the project / agency outreach to the extent feasible
 - Include the variety of outreach strategies that could / should be conducted
 - Increase **point values** for this subsection



Equity Pilot Framework – Pathway 1

- Update criteria and guidance – Equity:
 - Address the quality of Displacement policies
 - Connect to **Housing Opportunities by Place (HOP)** resources
 - Provide improved guidance and examples



Equity Pilot Framework – Pathway 2

1. Equity woven throughout all criteria

- Include the same criteria and guidance updates
- Identify equity populations **upfront, before all criteria**
- Include **addressing impacts / benefits to EFA populations within all applicable criteria**
- Additional questions related to **access to jobs and improved safety, specifically for Equity Focus Areas (EFAs)**
- Equity criterion becomes Community Outreach and Displacement
- Identification and impacts questions now throughout all criteria



ATTACHMENT C: PSRC'S EQUITY PILOT - PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

Note: PSRC responds to every comment, and where appropriate forwards the comment to any affected jurisdictions.

Comment 1:

Please consider allocating some of these funds to small business owners in the transportation industry. People such as independent operators, semi truck drivers, freight haulers, and last mile delivery services. These people are often forgotten and are struggling to stay in business because freight rates are < \$1 per mile and diesel is >\$5 a gallon. Meanwhile insurance is > \$2500 per month for 1 truck. Independent drivers need newer trucks to stay in business.

Nancy

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific request to allocate some of the funds to small business owners in the transportation industry, please be aware that the funds come from the federal surface transportation program which stipulates what the funds can be used for. The funds are limited to transportation infrastructure projects and equipment purchases by state and local governments. Unfortunately, it is not permitted to use the funds to support individual businesses.

Comment 2:

It's too bad Kitsap got shut out of funding. Be great if you could look at Bremerton for these programs. 54% of Bremerton Public School students are students of color, 69% are low income. Several schools don't even have sidewalks around them. We could use some help.

Thx
Travis Merrigan
Street Smart Bremerton

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific concern about Kitsap County and Bremerton, please be aware that Kitsap County and all cities within it were eligible to apply for this program, as were all of PSRC's member jurisdictions. PSRC did not receive an application from any Kitsap County jurisdiction for this competition. However, you will be pleased to know that Bremerton's Naval Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Enhancements Project did receive an \$899,600 award in PSRC's recent Transportation Alternatives Program Competition. Additionally, Kitsap County received a \$449,800 award for the Suquamish/Augusta – South to Winfred project through PSRC's recent Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program Competition.

Comment 3:

the entire premise is racist. there should be no such program, this is simply affirmative action.

most taxpayers
people

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific concern, the Equity Pilot is funded with federal transportation dollars and the U.S. Department of Transportation has centered equity as a strategic goal throughout their programs. This is driven by several federal directives, like the Justice40 Initiative, to address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities, reducing disparities and inequities in the transportation system.

Consistent with federal policies like these, our boards have directed PSRC to make targeted investments to reduce disparities and prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and other historically underserved groups, including people with disabilities (please see policies such as MPP-RC-2, MPP-DP-2, and MPP-T-9 in **VISION 2050** for more details).

Research has shown that equitable cities that expand access to resources like public transportation also experience an expansion of opportunities, such as new jobs from innovative ideas developed by those who were previously marginalized. Our hope is that the Equity Pilot and future work will connect communities to opportunities, reduce disparities and help raise our ceiling as a region.

Comment 4:

I support the capital investment of bus shelters for Pierce Transit as they are highly underserved in safety and security.

In addition I support the construction project for Tacoma at 38th.

I support the WsDOT SR 99 planning study.

I recommend that Kent planning be overlooked unless the equity scores (need) is higher than Tacoma's.

Planning studies tend to be a loss of federal dollars when not comprehensive, funding should prioritize shovel ready projects in highest community of needs. This recommendation tends to require cities to invest in their own planning studies for underserved areas before applying.

Lindsey Sehmel

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Comment 5:

bad idea. this is affirmative action and is a racist policy.

Jay Stonehouse
retired

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific concern, the Equity Pilot is funded with federal transportation dollars and the U.S. Department of Transportation has centered equity as a strategic goal throughout their programs. This is driven by several federal directives, like the Justice40 Initiative, to address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities, reducing disparities and inequities in the transportation system.

Consistent with federal policies like these, our boards have directed PSRC to make targeted investments to reduce disparities and prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and other historically underserved groups, including people with disabilities (please see policies such as MPP-RC-2, MPP-DP-2, and MPP-T-9 in **VISION 2050** for more details).

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innovative ideas developed by those who were previously marginalized. Our hope is that the Equity Pilot and future work will connect communities to opportunities, reduce disparities and help raise our ceiling as a region.

Comment 6:

We just want the most qualified firms with the low bid doing the work. Why do we need to bring race into this? Will this exclude successful Asians and Whites? Just don't understand why there is a reason to spend money on an exclusion program, this is akin to the Boston Mayor lunch for "people of color: - this is what politicians and their laptop class of workers do these days - divide the population into groups, create division all in an attempt "to level the playing field" it is disgusting and wrong.

Leslie Board

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific concern, the Equity Pilot is funded with federal transportation dollars and the U.S. Department of Transportation has centered equity as a strategic goal throughout their programs. This is driven by several federal directives, like the Justice40 Initiative, to address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities, reducing disparities and inequities in the transportation system.

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Comment 7:

Select based on qualifications, not race. The sooner we stop with these well intended but completely wrong programs the sooner we can all move on. This type of program just continues that DEI industrial complex.

Rasheed Washington
student

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

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Research has shown that equitable cities that expand access to resources like public transportation also experience an expansion of opportunities, such as new jobs from innovative ideas developed by those who were previously marginalized. Our hope is that the Equity Pilot and future work will connect communities to opportunities, reduce disparities and help raise our ceiling as a region.

Comment 8:

The recommended projects on the list all seem worthy, though, in truth, it is hard to make informed comments without additional information about how they were ranked/scored. We do appreciate that an equity-focused committee reviewed the projects and have trust in their work. It would be helpful to know more about how the projects were nominated/solicited and the committee's ranking process (including which projects were not selected and why). Aside, it might be helpful to see more information about EAC members on the committee webpage such as any organization/agency they are connected with (not that lived experience isn't significant and sufficiently qualifying).

We appreciate the EAC's work and look forward to learning more about this, including a debrief of the process, and the potential for this important funding opportunity to become a permanent one for PSRC. Thank you.

Larry Leveen
FOREVERGREEN TRAILS

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific concern about the how the projects were nominated/solicited and the ranking process, please see the Equity Advisory Committee's **December 7, 2023 meeting resources** which includes detailed information about the evaluation criteria and project rankings. There is also a **powerpoint presentation** with more information about the eight (8) projects submitted beginning on slide 12. For more information about the committee members, please see the **current membership roster** which includes a short biography of each member.

Comment 9:

You people are ridiculous. Transportation isn't racist. You waste our money and you perpetuate racism. Shame on you.

Renay

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Regarding your specific concern, the Equity Pilot is funded with federal transportation dollars and the U.S. Department of Transportation has centered equity as a strategic goal throughout their programs. This is driven by several federal directives, like the Justice40 Initiative, to address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities, reducing disparities and inequities in the transportation system.

Consistent with federal policies like these, our boards have directed PSRC to make targeted investments to reduce disparities and prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and other historically underserved groups, including people with disabilities (please see policies such as MPP-RC-2, MPP-DP-2, and MPP-T-9 in **VISION 2050** for more details).

Research has shown that equitable cities that expand access to resources like public transportation also experience an expansion of opportunities, such as new jobs from innovative ideas developed by those who were previously marginalized. Our hope is that the Equity Pilot and future work will connect communities to opportunities, reduce disparities and help raise our ceiling as a region.

Comment 10:

It has come to my attention that Pierce Transit was selected to receive a Puget Sound Regional Council Equity Pilot Program project for \$1,000,000 to replace approximately 40 shelters, which are decades old, with upgraded shelters which are safer and illuminated and are now being asked to reduce this award to replace only 25 of those 40 shelters.

The installation of bus shelters plays a pivotal role in fostering equity and accessibility for all residents who rely on public transportation. These shelters serve as vital amenities, offering protection from inclement weather and ensuring the safety and convenience of individuals relying on public transit. Within the overall project for which PSRC is asked to provide funding for 40 of 132 locations, 42 stops slated for upgraded shelters are in Lakewood.

The original plan to establish 40 bus shelters was developed with a deliberate focus on equity, considering the diverse needs and demands of our community. A reduction in the number of shelters would not only compromise the convenience of commuters but also creates disparities in access to essential transit infrastructure, thereby undermining our city's commitment to fostering equity and inclusivity.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed reduction in funding and advocate for upholding the initial commitment to install 40 bus shelters. Maintaining the original allocation of funds will ensure a more equitable distribution of these facilities, benefiting a broader spectrum of our community and addressing the disparities in access to public transportation infrastructure.

The City of Lakewood remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting equity and inclusivity for all residents. I implore you to consider the profound impact of preserving the funding for these vital public amenities on the equitable access to transportation services for our diverse population. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I encourage the Board to provide full funding to Pierce Transit to completely fund this project.

Jason Whalen, Mayor, City of Lakewood c/o Briana Schumacher, City Clerk

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board.

Please note that the 2023 Equity Pilot Program has \$6,010,000 available to award. PSRC received a total of eight (8) applications requesting a total of \$6,354,283. Preliminary board direction is to award funds to all of the projects within the amount available. In order to do this, \$344,283 must be trimmed. PSRC is asking each of the

project sponsors if they would be able to accept a reduced award proportional to their request and still advance their project. We are in the process of confirming this with each project sponsor.

Comment 11:

We desperately need bus service on 176th St between Meridian, Canyon, and Pacific Ave. Service on Canyon as well from about 112th to 176th. Bike lanes and signage would be great too!

Michael Berry

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board, as well as to Pierce Transit and Pierce County's Public Works Department.

Comment 12:

Regarding the Pierce Transit Equitable Bus Shelter Program: it is important that we choose bus shelter design that reflects our local environmental conditions. Rarely are the shelters made with enough room for more than 4 riders to be under a covered awning & outside of the rain. At the most heavily used and especially downtown shelters; we should be choosing shelter designs that protect more than just 3 riders from the rain/snow/elements. I would like to see larger awnings/coverings which can accommodate more riders keeping them out of the rain and under well-lit conditions. Take for instance the bus shelter designed used in Curitiba, Brazil.

Christiano Martinez

PSRC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment related to PSRC's Equity Pilot Program. Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board, as well as to Pierce Transit.



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

February 1, 2024

TO: Equity Advisory Committee
FROM: Eric Clute, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: **2023 Housing Monitoring Report**

IN BRIEF

The Equity Advisory Committee will be briefed on the 2023 Housing Monitoring Report. As directed by the [Regional Housing Strategy](#), the Housing Monitoring Report details the status of the housing landscape in 2023. This includes data and case studies to track the Strategy's implementation and identify gaps and opportunities for future work.

DISCUSSION

The Regional Housing Strategy is a playbook of regional and local actions to preserve, improve and expand housing stock in the region. The aim is to make a range of affordable, accessible, healthy and safe housing choices available to every resident and to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people.

The strategy calls for PSRC to track performance and outcomes over time and identify challenges or barriers in consultation with jurisdictions and other stakeholders. Performance measures support the housing goal in VISION 2050 to meet the region's housing and affordability needs.

Monitoring provides a snapshot of key housing measures in the region and captures long-term trends. It helps focus regional housing assistance and local work, with an emphasis on eliminating racial disparities in access to housing.

The [2023 Housing Monitoring Report](#) follows the [2022 Housing Monitoring Report](#) and the [2021 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#). PSRC will continue to review these measures annually and periodically, depending on data type and source.

Data Measures & Key Findings

Data analysis shows that more is being done to address housing access and affordability than past decades, but given the scale and scope of the housing crisis, the region needs to do even more. Historic investments and changes are needed to see

significant improvements and get the region closer to the VISION 2050 goal of providing a range of affordable, accessible, healthy and safe housing choices to every resident.

Key findings are centered around general affordability measures and the three “S” of the Regional Housing Strategy – Supply, Stability and Subsidy.

Housing affordability

General affordability measures include median rent and home price, cost burden, average mortgage rates/payments and racial disparities in renter income. The most recent data for these measures provide more information on the impacts of the pandemic, rising mortgage rates and the continued supply shortage on housing costs and production.

Supply: Build more housing of different types.

Supply measures include housing production in relation to population growth, housing production near transit and job centers, production of middle density housing and the availability of rental and ownership units.

Stability: Provide opportunities for residents to live in housing that meets their needs.

Stability measures include the production of income-restricted housing and access to homeownership for BIPOC households, specifically home loan denials by race/ethnicity.

Subsidy: Create and sustain long-term funding sources to create and preserve housing for very low-income households and unhoused residents.

Subsidy measures will highlight historic investments made by the State Legislature, as well as a case study exploring the Maureen Howard Affordable Housing Act, passed by Pierce County Council earlier this year.

Next Steps

As stated in the Regional Housing Strategy, PSRC will publish an annual update on housing data monitoring efforts. The [finalized 2023 report is available on our website](#). Looking ahead, some data measures may be updated more or less frequently based on data availability.

Lead Staff

For more information, please contact Eric Clute, Associate Planner, at eclute@psrc.org.