

Updates to PSRC's FTA Project Tracking Policies

April 11, 2024



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

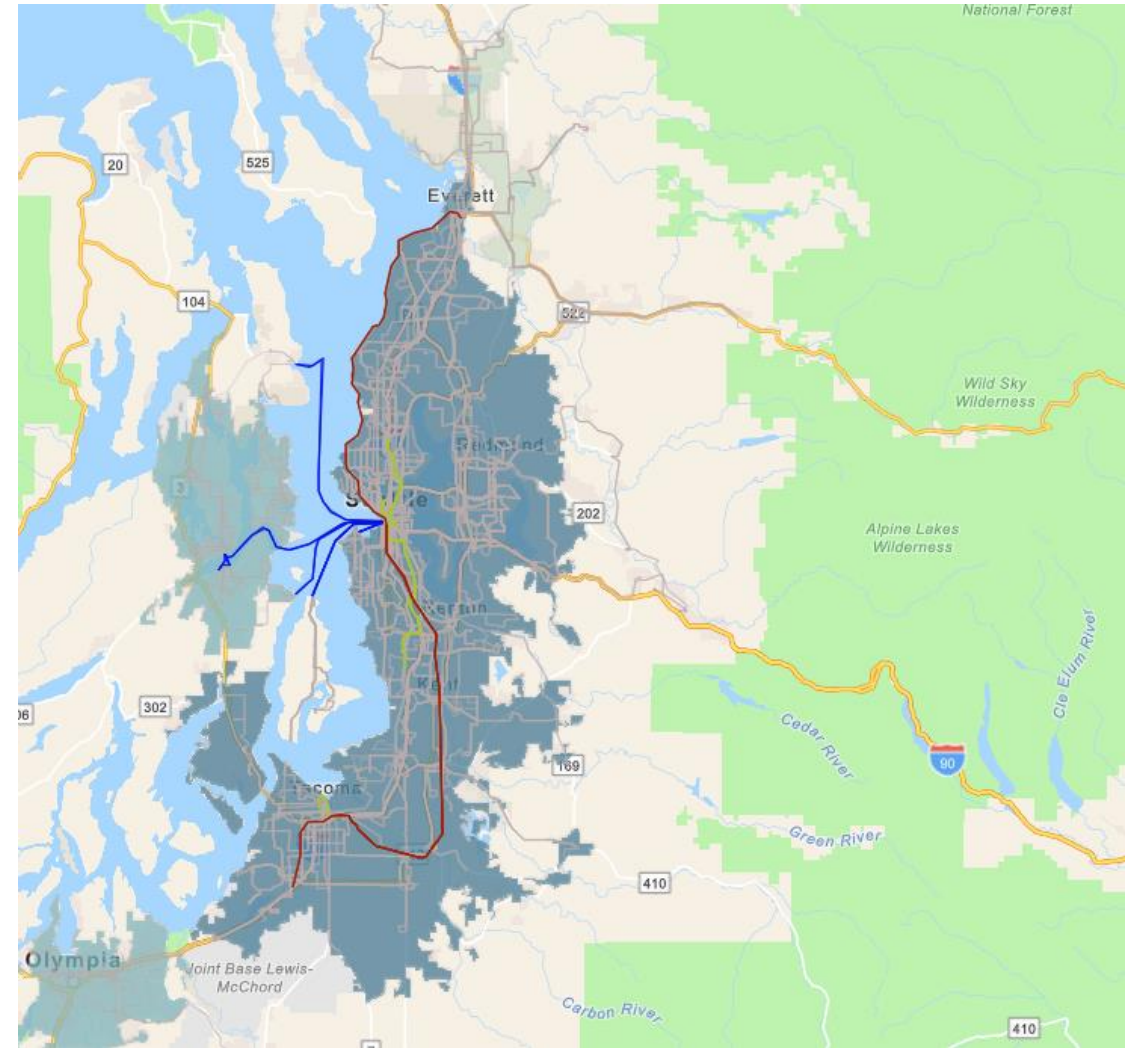
Overview

- Brief recap of PSRC's FTA distribution methodologies
- New FTA Equity Distribution procedures
 - Guidelines for project submittals
 - Proposed additional flexibility in project tracking policies



PSRC's FTA Funds

- PSRC's FTA funding is earned and allocated within three urbanized areas (UZAs):
 - Bremerton UZA – one transit agency
 - Marysville UZA – one transit agency
 - Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA – nine transit agencies



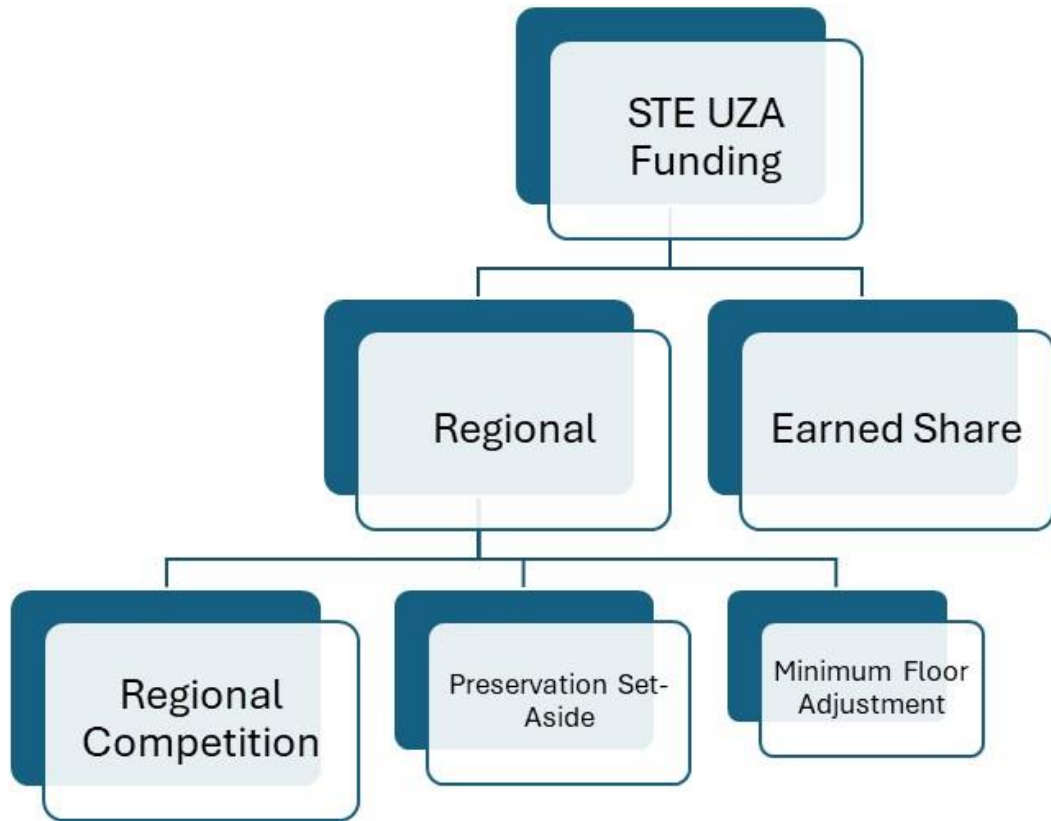
PSRC's FTA Funds

- Distribution methodology updated in 2023:
 - ❖ Earned Share distribution – *no change*
 - Majority of funds (~86%)
 - “Earned” from actual service and operations, equal amount allocated back to each agency
 - ❖ FTA Equity distribution – *new*
 - Regional funds (~14%)
 - Focused distribution to support equity populations
 - Proportional amount of funds allocated to each agency

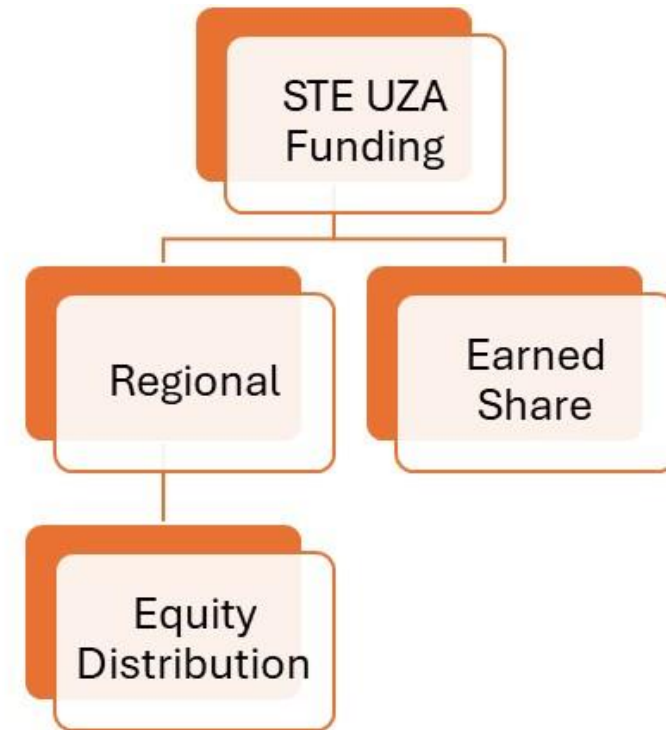


PSRC's FTA Funds

Previous Regional Process
(Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA)



New Regional Process
(Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA)



Guidance for Equity Funding Distribution

Based on 2023 TPB feedback and discussions with PSRC's Transportation Operators Committee

As directed in the 2024 Call for Projects, Equity projects will:

- Identify the Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) served by the project, and
- Respond to PSRC's regional Equity criteria

Figure 1. People of Color, 2019

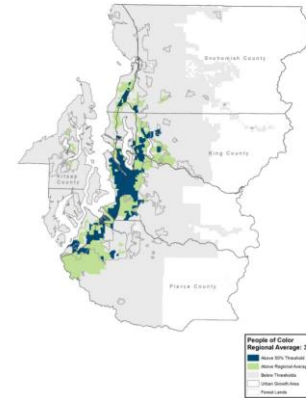


Figure 2. People with Low Incomes, 2019

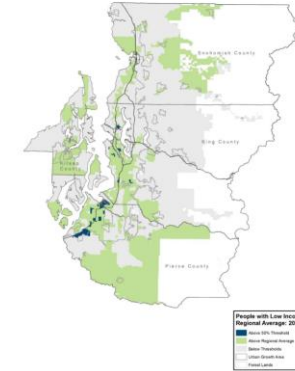


Figure 4. People with Disabilities, 2019

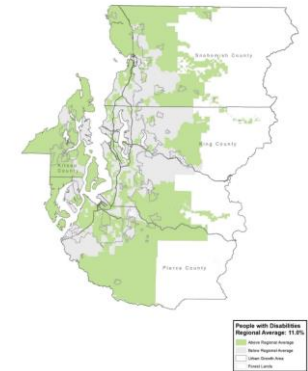


Figure 8. Youth, 2019

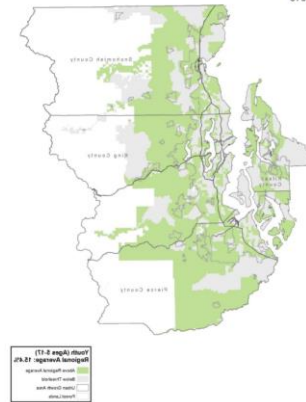


Figure 9. Older Adults, 2019

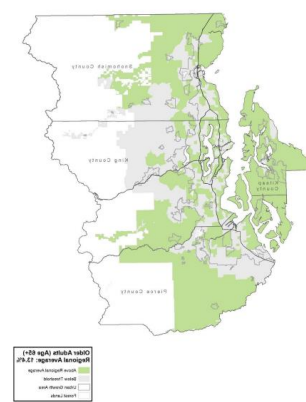
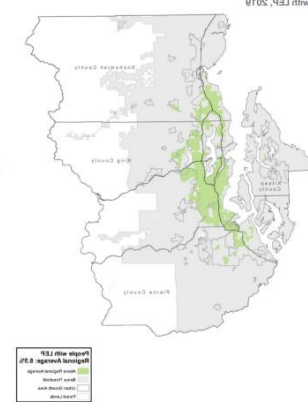


Figure 10. People with ELP, 2019



Guidance for Equity Funding Distribution

Additional guidance on project identification:

- Equity funds are *not* Earned Share funds
- Focused and intentional distribution to support EFAs through expanded or improved services and access
- Existing services or routine operations *may* be applicable under certain conditions – e.g.
 - Project goes above and beyond routine maintenance
 - Use of the Equity funds will prevent a loss of opportunity



Project Tracking Policies

Additional flexibility proposed for Equity funded projects:

Existing Regional Policy	Proposed Revision
Funds are awarded only once to any phase, unless additional scope will be added.	Exceptions may be considered to add Equity funds to a previously awarded phase if it results in faster or more efficient implementation, delivering Equity benefits sooner.
Awards have strict delivery deadlines, with limited extensions allowed based on reasonable delays.	Definition of “reasonable” is expanded to include delays due to community feedback.
Funds cannot be moved between phases or projects, nor substantive changes made to the scope of the project as awarded.	Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if a compelling need exists, including circumstances resulting in faster delivery or changes needed due to community feedback.
Increases in funding from the annual adjustments process or from returned funds should be awarded to new projects or new scope.	If increases are modest, an exception to allow an increase in the federal share of an existing phase may be considered.



Project Tracking Policies – Proposed Revision

Existing Regional Policy	Proposed Revision
Funds are awarded only once to any phase, unless additional scope will be added.	Exceptions may be considered to add Equity funds to a previously awarded phase if it results in faster or more efficient implementation, delivering Equity benefits sooner.
Awards have strict delivery deadlines, with limited extensions allowed based on reasonable delays.	Definition of “reasonable” is expanded to include delays due to community feedback.
Funds cannot be moved between phases or projects, nor substantive changes made to the scope of the project as awarded.	Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if a compelling need exists, including circumstances resulting in faster delivery or changes needed due to community feedback, as well as circumstances outside the agency’s control that require a change in project implementation, as long as those changes a) serve an equity focus population to the same degree and b) accomplish the project in the same timeframe as the original implementation.
Increases in funding from the annual adjustments process or from returned funds should be awarded to new projects or new scope.	If increases are modest, an exception to allow an increase in the federal share of an existing phase may be considered.



Requested Action

*The Transportation Policy Board recommends the Executive Board approve the revisions to PSRC's FTA Project Tracking Policies **as amended**.*

