

Preparation for 2024 PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Process

May 15, 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

Today

- **Overview**
 - PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Process
- **Committee Review & Discussion**
 - Regional Priority Ranking Factors
 - Incorporating Equity
- **Next Steps**

Goal: Reach consensus on the proposed Consolidated Grant regional priority ranking factors and other considerations.



2025–2027 Ranking Allocation for PSRC

- WSDOT manages and allocates the Consolidated grants.
- PSRC recommends priority projects for the state’s evaluation by assigning priority rankings (A, B, C, D) for projects.
 - For the 2025–27 biennium PSRC can distribute **3As, 3Bs, 5 Cs, and unlimited number of Ds.**
 - 4-year projects will receive the same ABC ranking they received from the 2023–25 process.

NOTE: Kitsap County participates through Peninsula RTPO’s regional priority ranking process.

Priority Ranking Process for PSRC Region

PSRC provides regional priority rankings to the WSDOT for specialized transportation projects seeking Consolidated Grant funds in the PSRC region.



★ **SNTC Deliberation:
November 20, 2024**

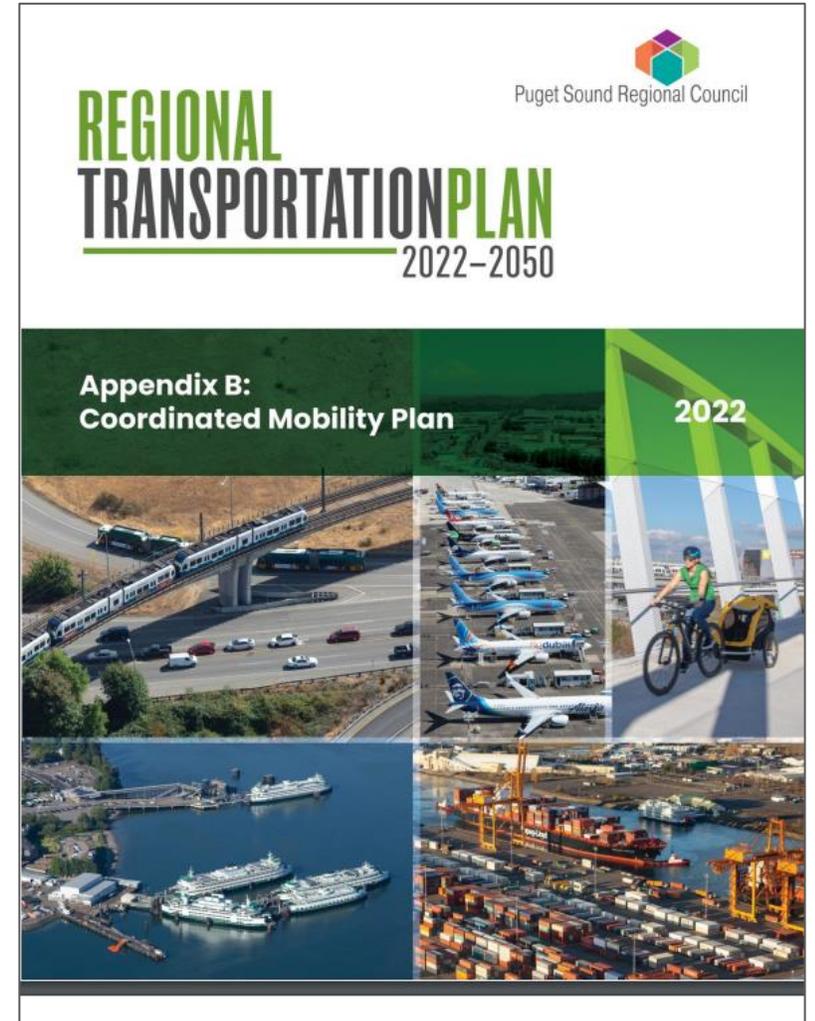
2024 PSRC's Priority Ranking Process Timeline

June 18, 2024	PSRC Call for Projects Release
July 31, 2024 (9:30–10:30am)	PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Training PSRC will provide virtual training on PSRC's process. The registration link will be shared on June 18, 2024.
September 17, 2024 (By 3:00pm)	Application Deadline Agencies must submit the same applications to both WSDOT and PSRC.
October 16, 2024 (Exact time TBD)	PSRC Sponsor Presentation Voting members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting for Q&A and more information about projects.
November 20, 2024 (SNTC meeting date)	SNTC 2025–2027 Consolidated Grant Regional Priority Ranking Recommendation At least one person from each voting membership (either a voting member or an alternative of the voting member) should attend the deliberation meeting.
December 4, 2024	PSRC Transportation Operators Committee Recommendation
January 9, 2025	PSRC Transportation Policy Board Recommendation
January 23, 2025	PSRC Executive Board Decision on Regional Priority Rankings
January 28, 2025	Regional Priority Rankings are submitted to WSDOT
May 2025	WSDOT Funded Project List Announced and Award Letters Sent
July 1, 2025	Project Begins



PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors

- Applicants are expected to **address both WSDOT's evaluation criteria and PSRC's Regional Priority Ranking Factors** in their applications.
- PSRC uses "factors" to review and **organize the applications in an initial sorting**, which is less intensive than scoring:
 - Projects receive a **"Yes"** or **"No"** answer for each factor.
 - Projects are then organized by the total number of "yes" responses.



Existing PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors

Regional Priority Ranking Factors used in 2022:

- Project Type (Preservation vs. New/Expansion)
- Support for PSRC's Coordinated Mobility Plan
- Uniqueness of Service
- Financial Sustainability (federal required minimum match)

Existing Deliberation Factors

Committee members can make adjustments to the deliberation factors at the November meeting. However, any factors that **require data and analysis must be determined before the deliberation.**

Deliberation factors used in the past include:

- Geographical distribution of regional priority rankings
- Project types
- Agency equity (# of projects per agency)
- Compelling cases for agencies with limited resources
- Strategic application of federal/state funds
- Coordination
- Acknowledge importance of the largest county service providers (safety net projects)

Staff Proposal

Rename the Uniqueness of Service to “Service Coordination.”

- Staff propose “Service Coordination” to better align the title with the purpose of this factor.
- Same evaluation method: Projects will receive a “yes,” if they adequately explain how they coordinate with other transportation programs, including public transportation, in the same geographic area serving similar priority populations.

Staff Proposal

Bring back the “Performance Measures and Goals” Factor.

- Past evaluation method: Assess whether the project is committed to tracking project-specific performance measures AND setting targets for those measures.
- **Proposed approach:**
 - Existing projects will receive a “yes,” if they improved program performance compared to the previous biennium AND achieved their goals. New projects will receive a “yes,” if they provide measures and goals.
 - Assessment for equity-focused metrics and goals can be combined with this factor (will discuss this in a later slide).



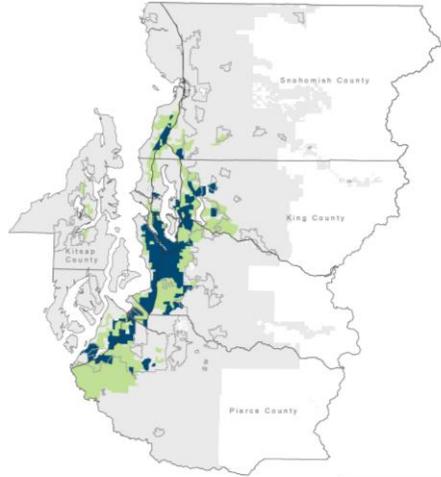
EAC's Recommendations

- PSRC engaged the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) in April. EAC was highly supportive of incorporating the below factors into the process:
 - **Inclusive Engagement and Communications:** Assess whether a project meaningfully engages members from EFAs when developing and maintaining programs.
 - **Equity Performance and Goals:** Determine if a project commits to tracking any equity-focused metrics to achieve equity goals.
- EAC also suggested **removing or revising the “Financial Sustainability” factor** to ensure applicants with fewer resources are not at a disadvantage in the ranking process.



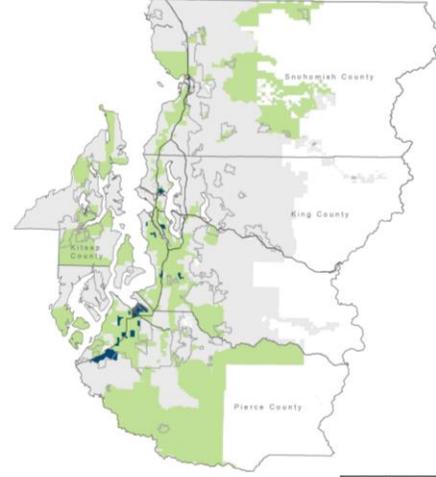
Equity Focus Areas (EFAs)

: EFAs have higher proportions of members of priority populations



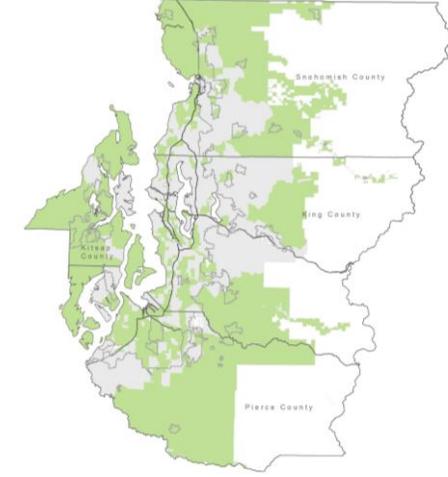
People of Color

People of Color
Regional Average: 35.9%
Above 50% Threshold
Above Regional Average
Below Threshold
Urban Growth Area
Forest Lands



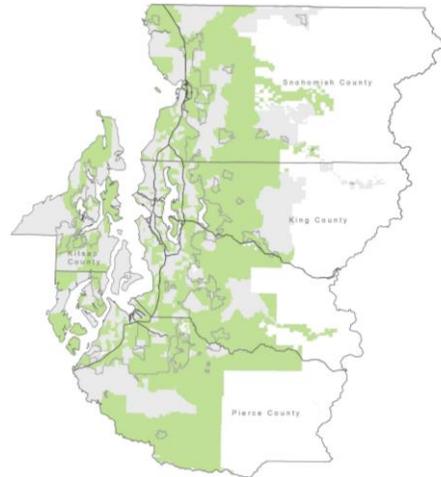
People with Low Incomes

People with Low Incomes
Regional Average: 20.7%
Above 50% Threshold
Above Regional Average
Below Threshold
Urban Growth Area
Forest Lands



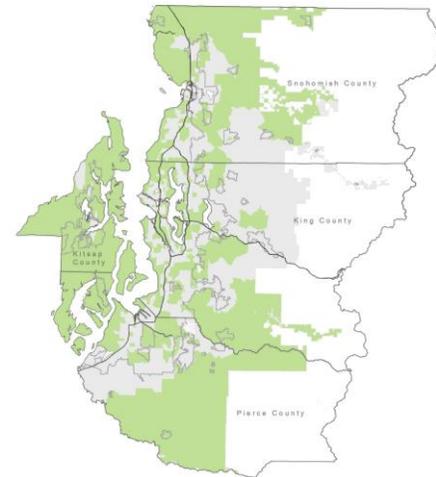
People with Disabilities

People with Disabilities
Regional Average: 11.0%
Above Regional Average
Below Regional Average
Urban Growth Area
Forest Lands



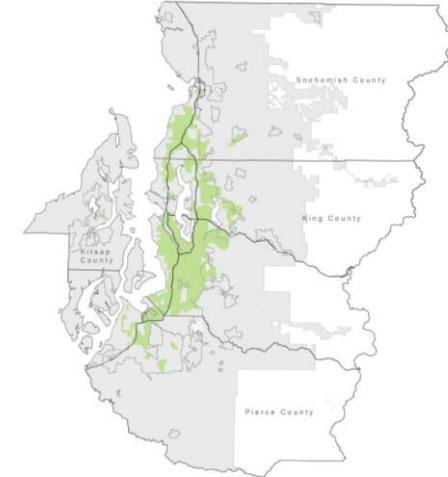
Youth (Ages 5-17)

Youth (Ages 5-17)
Regional Average: 15.4%
Above Regional Average
Below Threshold
Urban Growth Area
Forest Lands



Older Adults (Aged 65+)

Older Adults (Age 65+)
Regional Average: 13.4%
Above Regional Average
Below Threshold
Urban Growth Area
Forest Lands



People with Limited English Proficiency

People with LEP
Regional Average: 8.5%
Above Regional Average
Below Threshold
Urban Growth Area
Forest Lands



Inclusive Engagement & Communications

Assess whether a project engages members from EFAs when developing and maintaining programs.

PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance can help in conducting and planning inclusive engagement:

<https://www.psrc.org/media/5933>

Example strategies include:

- Compensating community members
- Addressing language barriers
- Partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs)



Proposed Approach: Inclusive Engagement & Communications

A project will receive a “yes” if it is shaped by feedback gathered using inclusive engagement strategies and clearly addresses the mobility need specifically identified by members of the EFAs.

Example: “The engagement process included reaching out to a group comprised of older adults and people with disabilities to identify their mobility needs and goals. The agency engaged in meaningful conversations with the group to understand their needs and center the project on issues they shared with staff. Engagement participants were compensated for their time and expertise. They were interested in on-demand shuttles that would address access to medical facilities and safety issues for older adults and people with disabilities. Many of the concerns raised by the group would be addressed by this project.”



Equity-focused Performance and Goals

Determine if a project commits to tracking any equity-focused metrics to achieve equity goals.

Potential metrics include:

- Ridership by equity populations
- Volunteer hours dedicated to serving equity populations
- Number of training provided to persons or organizations representing EFAs



Proposed Approach: Equity-focused Performance and Goals

A project will receive a “yes” if the project commits to tracking equity-focused performance measures and sets goals for those measures. Applications failing to address both equity-focused measures and goals will receive a “No.”

Example: (If the applicant is applying for an operating project)
“The project will track ridership of low-income clients. Currently, the program serves 580 riders per month. This includes rides provided within and through the “people with low incomes” EFAs. By 2027, the project will deliver 700 rides per month to those low-income EFAs to improve the mobility needs of low-income riders as identified from the outreach conducted in 2022.”

Summary of Proposed Changes

- Rename the “Uniqueness of Service” to “**Service Coordination**” to better align the title with the review purpose of this factor.
- Add the **Performance Measures and Goals** factor to prioritize the programs tracking performance to achieve goals.
- Incorporate **equity-focused factors** into the existing factors, as recommended by EAC:
 - Inclusive Engagement and Communications
 - Equity Performance and Goals



Summary of Proposed Changes

Proposed Regional Priority Ranking Factors for 2024:

- Project Type (Preservation vs. New/Expansion)
- Support for PSRC's Coordinated Mobility Plan
- **Service Coordination**
- **(New) Inclusive Engagement and Communications**
- **(New) Performance Measures and Goals**
 - Equity-focused performance and goals
- Financial Sustainability (TBD--depends on committee discussion)

Next Steps

June 18, 2024: PSRC Call for projects.

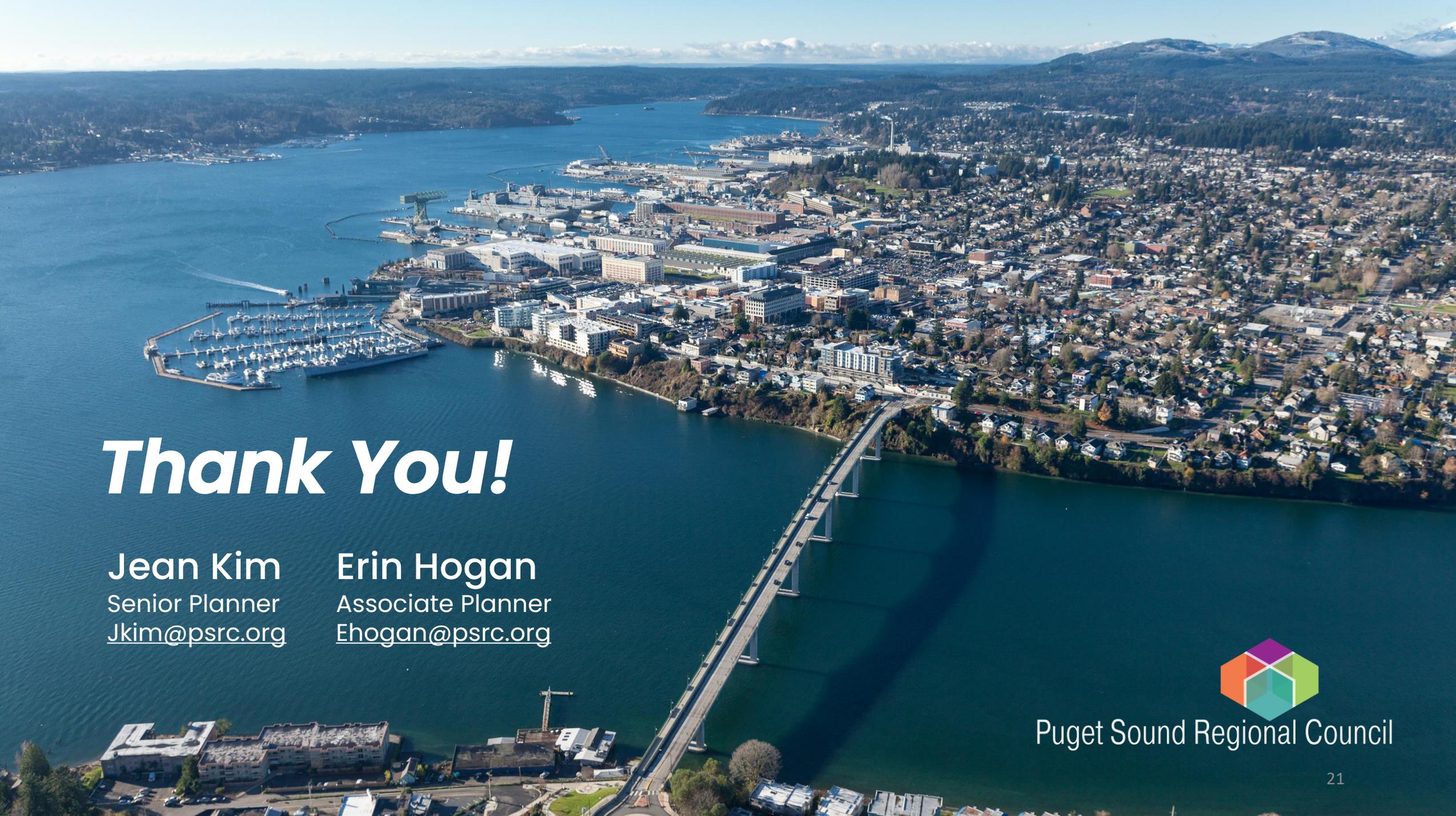
July 31, 2024: PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Training

Fall 2024–Early 2025: PSRC Regional priority ranking recommendation process.

- **October 16: Sponsor Presentation**
- **November 20: SNTC Deliberation Meeting**

July 1, 2025: Awarded projects begin



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Everett, Washington. A large bridge spans across a wide body of water, connecting the city to the mainland. The city features a mix of residential and commercial buildings, a marina with many boats, and a large industrial area with a shipyard. The background shows forested hills and mountains under a clear blue sky.

Thank You!

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Puget Sound Regional Council