

2024 Project Selection Update

Equity Advisory Committee

July 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

Background

- PSRC conducts a competitive project selection process every two years for federal transportation funding
 - 2024 process underway – project recommendations to board in July
- To launch the process, a Policy Framework was adopted
 - Identifies board priorities, key policies
 - Adopted in January, heavily influenced by EAC recommendations from Equity Pilot



Project Evaluation Criteria

Criteria address key policy areas:

- Development of Centers
- Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility
- Equity
- Safety
- Air Quality / Climate Change

2024 updates:

- Equity woven throughout all criteria
 - Outreach and displacement a stand-alone criterion
- Safety criterion strengthened and point values increased



Background

- A total of 169 projects submitted across all competitions
- 136 ultimately being recommended for funding
- Mix of:

Transit investments	Intersection improvements	Roadway preservation
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities	Zero emission vehicles	Transportation demand management
Signal / technology improvements	Multimodal investments	Freight improvements



Key Equity Related Sections

- Identification of the **existing disparities** for the EFAs and most marginalized
- Description of public **outreach** process reflected in PSRC's **Equitable Engagement Guidance**
- Identification of **anti-displacement strategies** reflected in the Housing Opportunities by Place (HOP) tool



Equity Focus Areas (EFAs)

Based on foundational work in

VISION 2050 & the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Six demographics used to measure and track disparities

People of
Color

People with
Low Incomes

People with
Disabilities

Youth
(Ages 5-17)

Older Adults
(Age 65+)

People with
limited English
proficiency
(LEP)

Equity Focus Areas (EFAs)

have higher proportions of members of these groups



Key Takeaways

- Low scores do not reflect something fundamentally wrong with projects.
- Nothing fundamentally wrong with the process.
 - Saw wide range in the quality of responses, suggesting variance in understanding.
- Seems as if some sponsors are not participating in Equity Pilot, attending our trainings, reading guidance, or using our examples.
 - Makes it challenging to get a full sense of how they are serving communities.
 - Pertinent information is being left out and points are being left on the table.



Next Steps

- Project sponsors can improve scores overall if take advantage of PSRC resources.
 - Need more sponsors to attend trainings.
- PSRC will debrief with sponsors to identify barriers and points of confusion.
 - Continue to improve guidance documents.
- Significant changes in 2024; staff recommend allowing more time for these changes to take hold.
 - Takes time for sponsors to get familiar with a process.
Anticipate seeing better scores moving forward.



Thank You!

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