



Puget Sound Regional Council

## Regional Project Evaluation Committee Recommendation Summary

**Date:** May 23, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Remote – Online Meeting Only (Zoom Connection)

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### Introductions and Review of Meeting Procedures

Kelly McGourty, PSRC, welcomed everyone at 9:30 a.m. Roll call of members was conducted and Kelly provided a brief overview of the agenda. She reminded the committee that if it was needed, the next meeting would be Friday, May 24, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. to conclude the project selection recommendations.

### Action: Project Recommendations - 2024 FHWA Regional Competition\*

Kelly provided an overview of the process the committee was to follow to prepare a funding recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board including a review of the meeting procedures. Kelly and Charles Patton, PSRC, shared some observations of the overall application review and scoring. Kelly reminded the committee that in the months leading up to this process the board held in-depth discussions to refine and improve the evaluation criteria, particularly equity, safety, and climate, and strengthened the questions and relative weights of equity and safety. She stressed the importance that projects awarded PSRC funds strongly adhere to the specific and focused criteria adopted by the board, and staff's efforts this year to update the guidance to make it more thorough and navigable. She noted that fewer applications than usual were submitted in this cycle, particularly for Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds, which is consistent with what has been observed on multiple fronts. This will be discussed in more depth at future meetings, but appears to reflect the limits of agencies' resources compared to the large amounts of federal funding available. Additionally, the scale of overall scores was lower than previous years. This may be due in part to a learning curve with the new criteria, but it was also clear that some of the sponsors made good use of the training, guidance, and resources provided, but others did not. Charles encouraged sponsors who did make use of these resources to note what worked well and where there were challenges, and provide that feedback to PSRC to help inform future improvements.

Kelly then provided an overview of the funds available to be distributed. In addition to the regular CMAQ and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds available for the 2027 and 2028 program years, there are also additional CMAQ, STBG, and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds available for 2025 and 2026. Originally it was anticipated that CMAQ requests would be ample enough to also be able to receive the CRP funds, as eligibility requirements are similar. However, since CMAQ requests

were fewer than expected, two options were presented to the committee: (1) recommend CRP funding to eligible projects – emphasizing emission reductions – regardless of which funding source was requested (CMAQ or STBG), or (2) recommend funding to CMAQ and STBG projects as usual, but set aside an amount of CMAQ / CRP funding for a separate, focused competition to be held later and solicit additional eligible projects. This option would distribute at a minimum the 2025 CRP funding to eligible emission reduction projects, to ensure delivery. The committee discussed and reached consensus to apply Option 1, in acknowledgement of the limits of agencies' capacity to seek out additional projects or submit to more competitions, as well as efficiencies and delivery needs that may be impacted with any delay in the process. With that option, Kelly reaffirmed that the committee should still award CRP or CMAQ funding only to projects that provide a demonstrated emissions benefit, and still funding the projects that best meet the adopted criteria.

The committee then proceeded with discussion of the additional factors to be used in the deliberations, above and beyond the scores. Consensus was reached to include potential consideration of geographic, agency, modal and phase balance; project completion / implementation; scalability; timing of delivery; and unique circumstances.

The committee proceeded to discuss the projects, beginning with CMAQ submittals. The committee made a preliminary recommendation on the top five ranked CMAQ projects. Upon deliberation, consensus was reached that the sixth project on the list, Community Transit's Zero Bus Emissions Bus Purchase, would have measurable air quality benefit and meets the intent of CRP. Community Transit confirmed that this project could be implemented earlier than 2027, and the committee determined that full award of this project would help support geographic balance, as all other CMAQ requests are located in King County. With those considerations, the committee recommended that this project also be fully funded with a combination of CMAQ and CRP funds. The Maple Valley project was moved to the contingency list.

The committee then moved on to discussion of STBG submittals, The committee made a preliminary recommendation on the top ranked seven projects that could be fully funded with available STBG funds, with partial funds available for the eighth project on the list. The committee then identified two of the seven top ranked projects with scopes that meet the intent of CRP, which were also confirmed by their sponsors to be able to deliver in 2025 or 2026. The committee recommended that both projects be awarded CRP funds and recommended the eighth ranked project for full funding. The next (ninth) ranked project had CRP-eligible scope and confirmed that they could deliver earlier than 2027, and was added to the recommended list.

Since the CRP funds are 2025-2026, the committee ran into complications with some of the eligible projects in the mix not necessarily being able to go that early. The suggestion was made that we look to our existing 2025-2026 STBG projects and potentially do an exchange with CRP-eligible projects – ensuring that CRP funds are going to the best projects for that source, and allowing more STBG funds to be used on the current submittals. Upon review of the current STBG projects, Kelly confirmed that

this would be feasible. This allowed the funding to move further down the list and the tenth ranked project was included in the recommendation.

The committee reviewed the geographic balance and determined that Snohomish County was at an imbalance. They recommended that Lynnwood's Poplar Way project, ranked 13<sup>th</sup> on the list, be added to the draft recommendations. The committee considered the two projects ranked higher than Lynnwood with a tied score (#11 and #12), Fife and Seattle's Aurora project. The committee acknowledged that in consideration of agency balance, Seattle already had two other higher-ranked projects recommended for full funding and the Fife project supported greater geographic balance for Pierce County. The addition of the Lynnwood and Fife projects achieved greater geographic balance but exceeded the total estimated funding by about \$4.8M.

The committee then had lengthy discussion about where a reduced award could be considered, or whether there was flexibility to increase the estimated amount of future funding. Some key points discussed were recent and ongoing delivery challenges that have led to larger gaps to be filled; the 2027-2028 funds are into the next act and the estimation process is uncertain; the overage is a small percentage of the total; and the unique challenges this cycle with new funding sources and earlier funds to distribute. It was also noted that recommending the last two projects, Fife and Lynnwood, would improve geographic balance and both have ability to deliver early. Based on these factors and with PSRC staff consensus, the committee decided to recommend the full funding of the projects as identified, exceeding the estimate by about \$4.8M. The remaining 11 projects with STBG requests were moved to the contingency list.

The committee then unanimously approved the recommendation list as described above, and recommended the contingency list projects in rank order by score. **The approved final recommendation is attached.**

All project applications, presentations and follow-up information may be found on PSRC's website at:

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/fhwa-and-fta-regional-funding>

*For more information, contact Kelly McGourty at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org).*

The additional materials can be found on the PSRC website [here](#) and the presentation can be found [here](#).

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

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### **\*Members and Alternates Present**

See attached attendance roster.

### **\*PSRC Staff, Alternates and Guests Present**

April Delchamps, WSDOT; David Paine, City of Kent; Eric Irelan, King County Metro; Glynda Steiner, Snohomish County; Gunnar Fridriksson, City of Bremerton; Ingrid Gaub, City of Auburn; Ivan Miller, King County; Janice Fahning, Snohomish County; Jennifer Keene, PSCAA; Jolena Missildine, WSDOT; Kathryn Rasmussen, Community Transit; Kimberly Scrivner, City of Kirkland; Kirste Johnson, Sound Transit; Matt Ojala, Snohomish County; Michael Kosa, City of Sumner; Ryan Medlen, Port of Tacoma

PSRC

Alexa Leach, Charles Patton, David Dixon, Doug Cox, Erin Hogan, Gil Cerise, Jean Kim, Jennifer Barnes, Kalon Thomas, Kelly McGourty, Miles Stepleton, Mitch Koch, Nick Johnson, Noal Leonetti, Olivia Ng

*\*All attendees were present via remote participation*

# RPEC Attendance Roster - Designated Members

Date: May 23, 2024 - 9:30-5:00 pm

Remote/Online Only

**NOTE: Members are invited to sit at the table and vote. Alternates may sit at the table and vote when the member is absent. Please coordinate representation in advance of the meeting.** All other Alternates and Guests are invited to attend and sit in the gallery. This roster is for attendance purposes only and should be marked by all members and alternates present at the table, regardless of voting status.

Jurisdiction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name	Jurisdiction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name	
King County (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Bourguignon	WSDOT-NW Region (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cameron Kukes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Heffernan			<i>Mehrdad Moini (Alt.)</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Vander Sluis	WSDOT-Oly Region (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JoAnn Schueler	
		<i>Ruth Harvey (Alt.)</i>			<i>John Ho (Alt.)</i>	
		<i>Sarah Green (Alt.)</i>	WSDOT-MoM (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matthew Kenna	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ivan Miller (Alt.)</i>			<i>April Delchamps (Alt.)</i>		
Seattle (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Strand	WSDOT-WS Ferries (1)		John Bernhard	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Storment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Krishan Aggarwal (Alt.)</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joanna Valencia			<i>Todd Lamphere (Alt.)</i>	
		<i>Bill LaBorde (Alt.)</i>	Kitsap Transit (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steffani Lillie	
		<i>Serena Lehman (Alt.)</i>			<i>Edward Coviello (Alt.)</i>	
	<i>Benjamin Smith (Alt.)</i>			<i>Lindsay Cook (Alt.)</i>		
Bellevue (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Miller	Pierce Transit (1)		Tina Lee	
		<i>Mia Waters (Alt.)</i>			<i>Wendi Gephart (Alt.)</i>	
Other Cities/Towns (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chad Bieren, Kent	Community Transit (1)		<i>Darin Stavish (Alt.)</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Mortenson, Issaquah		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Roach	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larissa Grundell, Duvall			<i>Kathryn Rasmussen (Alt.)</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Seitz, Renton	King County Metro (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chester Knapp	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nytasha Walters, Shoreline			<i>Hannah McIntosh (Alt.)</i>	
		<i>Ingrid Gaub, Auburn (Alt.)</i>			<i>Lisa Shafer (Alt.)</i>	
		<i>Jeff Hamlin, Snoqualmie (Alt.)</i>	Sound Transit (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wolterink	
		<i>Dan Marcinko, North Bend (Alt.)</i>			<i>Tyler Benson (Alt.)</i>	
		<i>Kimberly Scrivner, Kirkland (Alt.)</i>			<i>Kirste Johnson (Alt.)</i>	
	<i>Vangie Garcia, Redmond (Alt.)</i>			<i>Monica Overby (Alt.)</i>		
Kitsap County (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Forte	Port of Seattle (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geri Poor	
	<i>Joe Rutan (Alt.)</i>				<i>Robert Giacometti (Alt.)</i>	
Bremerton (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Weber, Vice Chair	Port of Tacoma (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deirdre Wilson	
		<i>Gunnar Fridriksson (Alt. 1)</i>			<i>Ryan Medlen (Alt.)</i>	
Other Cities/Towns (1)		<i>Vicki Grover (Alt. 2)</i>	Port of Everett (1)		Brandon Whitaker	
		Diane Lenius, Poulsbo		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Laura Gurley (Alt.)</i>	
Pierce County (2)		<i>Vacant (Alt.)</i>	Port of Bremerton (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arne Bakker	
		Leticia Neal			<i>James Goodman (Alt.)</i>	
		Melissa McFadden	PSCAA (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathy Strange	
Tacoma (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Peter Lewis-Miller (Alt.)</i>	Suquamish Tribe (1)		<i>Jennifer Keene (Alt.)</i>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Clint Ritter (Alt.)</i>			VACANT	
		Dan Hansen	Muckleshoot Tribal Cncl (1)		VACANT (Alt.)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brennan Kidd			VACANT	
Other Cities/Towns (1)		<i>Josh Diekmann (Alt.)</i>	Puyallup Tribe (1)		VACANT (Alt.)	
		<i>Darius Thompson (Alt.)</i>			VACANT	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Burlingame, Steilacoom	NON-VOTING		VACANT (Alt.)	
	<i>Jeremy Metzler, Edgewood (Alt.)</i>			VACANT - BPAC Member		
Snohomish County (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doug McCormick, Chair			VACANT - BPAC Alternate	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Snyder				
		<i>Janice Fahning (Alt.)</i>				
		<i>Glynda Steiner (Alt.)</i>				
		<i>Matt Ojala (Alt.)</i>				
Everett (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Hood, City Engineer				
	<i>Melinda Adams (Alt.)</i>					
Other Cities/Towns (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob English, Edmonds				
		VACANT				
		<i>Jim Kelly, Arlington (Alt.)</i>				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Steve Morikawa, Bothell (Alt.)</i>				