



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026 from 5:30-7:30 pm

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

1. Welcome (5:30) – *Julia Jannon-Shields, Co-chair*

2. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary for February 5, 2026*
- b. EAC Member Announcements & Check In
- c. Staff Announcements

3. Discussion Item (5:50)

- a. Tacoma Art Museum Date Selection – *Noah Boggess, PSRC*

4. Discussion Item (6:05)

- a. Project Selection Process* – *Craig Helmann & Kelly McGourty, PSRC*

5. Break (6:30)

6. Discussion Item (6:40)

- a. Project Selection Process Cont.* – *Craig Helmann & Kelly McGourty, PSRC*

7. Information Item

- a. 2026 PSRC General Assembly Save the Date Flyer*
- b. VISION 2050 Awards: Call for Nominations Flyer*
- c. Summer Planning Academy (SPA) Flyer*
- d. TOOLBOX Series – Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks Flyer*

8. Zoom Poll (7:25)

9. Next meeting: April 2, 2026

The EAC regularly meets on the first Thursday of the month, from 5:30-7:30 pm, unless otherwise specified. See below for the upcoming 2026 meeting dates:

- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- July 9 - Held on the second Thursday
- No meeting in August
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5

- December 3

10. 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/81581154386?pwd=8ke9Tk2m4RCYaGcBfQ5YA7qw6FjKCj.1> and enter Passcode:055525.
- To join by phone, call 877 853 5257 US Toll Free and enter Webinar ID: 815 8115 4386 and Passcode: 055525.
- 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: February 5, 2026

Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the [Equity Advisory Committee webpage](#).

Welcome

Shannon Turner, from Kitsap County, and Julia Jannon-Shields, from King 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.

Shannon Turner invited members to attend the [Bremerton Black Market](#) on May 2 at Quincy Square, for a new quarterly market focused on local Black-owned businesses.

Jewel Sheperd-Samson shared that the Kitsap Black Student Union will be receiving the City of Bainbridge Island Black History Month Proclamation on February 10 during the city council meeting, where the organization will be highlighted.

Staff Announcements

Charles shared that the [2026 PSRC General Assembly](#) will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 10 am at the Seattle Convention Center – Summit Building, and he encouraged members to attend.

Next, he mentioned the PSRC published report titled, "[Economic Update: Puget Sound Region Loses 12,900 jobs in 2025.](#)"

Charles encouraged members to share the [Summer Planning Academy](#), or SPA, application with young people in their communities and circles. The application will close on May 15.

He shared that [registration](#) for the next TOOLBOX webinar, Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks, just opened. The webinar will be on March 20, at 10 am on Zoom, and will explore how improving access to parks and green spaces can support equity and community well-being.

Charles and EAC representatives briefed the committee on the work of the Growth Management Policy Board and Transportation Policy Board.

Discussion: Co-chair Background and Selection Process

Charles briefed members on the roles and responsibilities of committee co-chairs and about how they will select co-chairs. Members then responded to a poll asking if they would be interested in serving as a co-chair.

The EAC Co-chairs for April 2026 through October 2026 will be:

- Julia Jannon-Shields
- Jewel Sheperd-Sampson

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

Questions? Contact Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives, at cpatton@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Federal and State Policy Updates & PSRC 2026 Recommendations to the State Legislature

Robin Koskey and Alyssa Quinn briefed the Equity Advisory Committee on current state and federal budget and policy developments and provided an update on the PSRC 2026 recommendations to the Washington State Legislature.

Questions posed to committee members included:

1. What policy updates feel most relevant to your communities?
2. How are your organizations staying nimble in this current climate?
3. Are there any topics you would like us to pay close attention to for updates we share with you in the future?

Members shared feedback primarily focused on housing, including:

- Permanent housing initiatives to assist unhoused community members
- Concern over how multiple housing bills will work in tandem to address the housing crisis
- Highlighting permanent housing that includes access to health facilities and commercial spaces

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

Questions? Contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org, or Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, at aquinn@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

Charles Patton, PSRC
Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Noah Boggess, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Alyssa Quinn, PSRC
Gillian Marshall

ATTACHMENT:

A. EAC Member Attendance for the February 5, 2026, Meeting



Puget Sound Regional Council

March 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation, Craig Helmann, Director of Data, and Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy & Initiatives

Subject: **PSRC’s Project Selection Process**

IN BRIEF

PSRC has project selection authority for several sources of funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). A project selection process is conducted every two to three years to distribute PSRC’s federal funds via a competitive process detailed in the [Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds](#). This includes a set of evaluation criteria based on regional policies and priorities in VISION 2050, the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy.

Throughout 2026, PSRC will work with the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) to explore opportunities to improve the project evaluation criteria. In particular, the EAC will be asked for input and guidance on addressing historically underserved and marginalized communities and potential transportation disparities.

DISCUSSION

Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds

PSRC is required under federal legislation to have a documented process that provides the policies and guidance for how PSRC will approve, manage, and administer transportation projects to be selected to receive PSRC’s federal funds. Prior to each funding cycle, the policies and procedures for the project selection process are reviewed and updated to reflect current regional priorities and requirements and are documented in the *Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds*. The project selection process, as directed by the *Policy Framework*, is based on the regional policies and priorities as detailed in [VISION 2050](#), the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) and the [Regional Economic Strategy](#).

The criteria used to evaluate every project is based on these policies and priorities. They include elements such as accessibility, multimodal mobility, safety, equity and climate, as well as financial and readiness considerations.

Additional materials about the current project selection process – including the Policy Framework, project evaluation criteria, project applications, and other resources – may be found on PSRC’s website at <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/projectselection/fhwa-and-fta-regional-funding>.

In the upcoming months, members of the Equity Advisory Committee will learn more about the project selection process and work with staff to explore opportunities to improve how transportation projects are evaluated. The first meeting will focus on the data that should be used to identify historically underserved and marginalized communities throughout the region and potential transportation disparities.

Potential relevant indicators could include:

- **Economic**
 - Poverty, high school graduation, unemployment
- **Housing**
 - Homeownership, renter cost burden, home value
- **Access**
 - Disability, proximity to all-day transit, jobs within a 30-minute drive and 45-minute transit trip.
- **Health**
 - Access to healthy food, open space

During the March meeting, staff will provide an overview of the current project selection process and potential improvements to the evaluation criteria as described above. The EAC will be asked for input on the following questions:

1. Which indicators are most relevant to addressing transportation disparities?
2. Are there any indicators not listed that we should consider?

NEXT STEPS

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on April 2, 2026. Members will discuss how equity can be elevated in the Regional Economic Strategy.

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

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Save the Date



Thursday, May 28, 2026

10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Seattle Convention
Center – Summit
900 Pine St,
Seattle, WA 98101



Puget Sound Regional Council

This annual meeting is a key opportunity for members to vote on major decisions, including the adoption of PSRC's budget and the election of officers. **All mayors, county executives, commissioners, and councilmembers from PSRC member jurisdictions and tribes are eligible to vote** and are strongly encouraged to attend. We ask that at least one elected official from your jurisdiction participate to help establish a quorum.

We look forward to gathering with you—please save the date!

Registration will open in early April.

VISION 2050 AWARDS



Puget Sound Regional Council

Call for Nominations 2026

The Puget Sound Regional Council is seeking nominations for the VISION 2050 Awards Program through **March 27, 2026**.

The VISION 2050 Awards celebrate progress to enhance the region's communities and natural environment while advancing equity and opportunity for all. The awards recognize innovative work to create a better future for central Puget Sound.

Eligibility

PSRC will only be accepting nominations directly from its [membership](#). Others seeking to nominate projects can do so through the member jurisdiction in which the project is located. PSRC will help connect potential nominees with local governments to help with the nomination process. Please contact [Michele Leslie](#) with questions.

Nominations must be for projects, programs, plans or partnerships within the four-county region of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties that help achieve VISION 2050. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at psrc.org/vision.

All nominated projects must be completed and open, plans must be adopted by their jurisdictions, programs must be in operation and partnerships must be formally working together.

Submit a Nomination!

Nominations must be submitted online through the [VISION 2050 Awards Nomination Form](#)

Learn more at: www.psrc.org

Scan the code for the nomination form



The region's VISION for 2050

is to provide exceptional quality of life, opportunity for all, connected communities, a spectacular natural environment, and an innovative, thriving economy. More information about the goals and themes of VISION 2050 can be found at www.psrc.org

Summer Planning Academy (SPA) for High School Students

Are you curious about how cities grow, change, and develop? Have you ever wondered how governments decide where train lines should go? Do you have ideas about how to make our communities better places for everyone? If so, you should apply for the Summer Planning Academy (SPA)!



Puget Sound Regional Council



The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is looking for high school students from King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties who want to learn about urban planning in our region and share ideas about how to make the central Puget Sound region a better place to live, work, and play.

SPA is a leadership development opportunity offered free of charge to students interested in planning a better future for our region. The program encourages students to think creatively about how better planning can help people lead better lives.

Upon successful completion of SPA, students are eligible to receive a **\$500** scholarship. SPA sessions will take place in Downtown Seattle on July 29, 31, August 5, and 7.

Applications are due **May 18**.

To learn more about PSRC, SPA, and to apply, go to www.psrc.org/our-work/summer-planning-academy or scan the QR code.

Questions? Email us at spa@psrc.org.





TOOLBOX SERIES

Greener for All: Reimagining Access to Parks



Date: March 20, 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Format: Zoom

Mark your calendars for our first TOOLBOX webinar of the year! Join us on **March 20** for a conversation on expanding access to parks and green spaces as a way to advance equity, strengthen communities, and support vibrant places. Speakers from the **Trust for Public Land** will share national perspectives on improving access to green spaces, followed by local examples from **Parks Tacoma** and the **City of Renton** highlighting how these ideas are coming to life in communities across the region.

Participants will be eligible to claim one AICP CM credit.

Sessions are open to the public. Materials and video from past sessions can be found on PSRC's website.



Learn more about the TOOLBOX Series
or register to attend at
<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/toolbox>



Puget Sound Regional Council