

Bridge Funding Pilot Program

Regional Project Evaluation Committee
February 27, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

Pilot Program Concept

Request to consider how PSRC can support bridge funding needs:

- Recognizing recent bridge closures impacting communities
- From the draft RTP:
 - 88 bridges rated in poor condition
 - 64 bridges needing replacement



Pilot Program Concept

Key considerations for development of a pilot:

- 1) Limit the impact to other project needs – e.g. funding through PSRC's regular project selection process
- 2) Be impactful and strategic



Pilot Program Proposal

Structure:

- Begin with the four counties
- 2-year pilot program
- Strategic maintenance / preservation projects to extend the life of a bridge
 - Must complete a phase of the project
- If successful, opened to cities after the pilot



Pilot Program Proposal

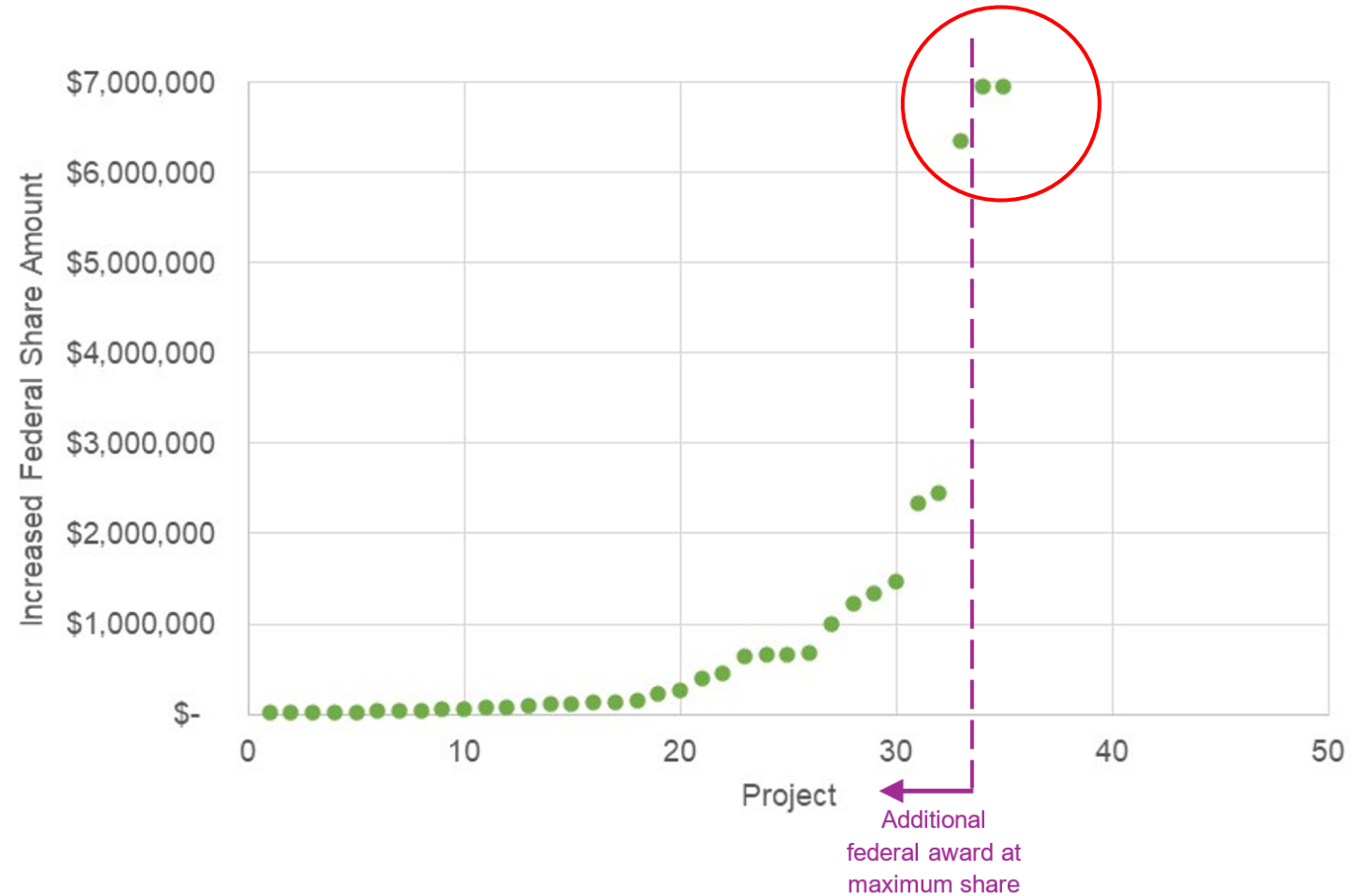
Funding Parameters:

- Include as part of annual rebalancing to achieve FHWA delivery target – i.e., supplemental funding action
- Project phase must be immediately ready to go
 - *Obligate funds by July 15 of that fiscal year*
- Funding “source” identified from the amount necessary to achieve the target *after* increasing federal shares of current projects



Pilot Program Proposal

- After majority of projects have received their maximum federal share, remaining gap to target has been distributed to a few larger scale projects with more capacity to accept funding



Pilot Program Proposal

- Still awarding increased federal shares – as needed – to all existing projects that year
- Pilot funding program sourced from the remaining gap necessary to achieve the target
- Will vary each year – from past cycles, could be ~\$10 to \$20 million
- Only available depending on gap to achieving delivery target



Preliminary Feedback

Regional Project Evaluation Committee preliminary feedback:

- Consider relationship to WSDOT Bridge Program
 - Both in terms of overlapping efforts but also an opportunity to fill a gap – e.g. short span bridges
- Program could be useful for local bridges and needed maintenance projects
- Questions on type of bridges eligible – mentioned related culvert work, RR crossings and bike/ped bridges



Preliminary Feedback

- If / when expanding to cities, interest in potentially expanding beyond bridges to other key maintenance activities
- Questions about relationship to emergency / hardship provision in adopted project tracking policies
- Some support for anchoring concept with a pilot program and working through details over the 2-year period



Additional Details

- In addition to the pilot funding program, propose a PSRC work program to delve further into bridge needs and data
- The two combined efforts could –
 - ✓ Highlight bridge preservation and maintenance needs
 - ✓ Assist in leveraging other funding sources for priority bridge projects
 - ✓ Advance a few key bridge projects each year



Transportation Policy Board Feedback

- Widespread support for pilot program, appreciation of “creative” funding source
- Interest in seeing the impact / how many and what type of bridge projects can be funded
- Suggested benefit from peer-to-peer sharing of information
- Suggestion to identify most vulnerable bridges, biggest impact
- Suggestion to review project selection criteria to better support maintenance needs



Next Steps

- ❑ Any further feedback from RPEC will be brought to the board in March
- ❑ Board action requested in March as part of the 2026 delivery actions
 - Immediately ready county projects could potentially be advanced this year (one per county), depending on delivery target data
 - Development of the more detailed future work program would begin later this year
 - *Many of the questions to date would be addressed over the next two years*

