

Project Selection

Current Process and Next Steps

March 5, 2026

Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)



Puget Sound Regional Council

Today's Meeting

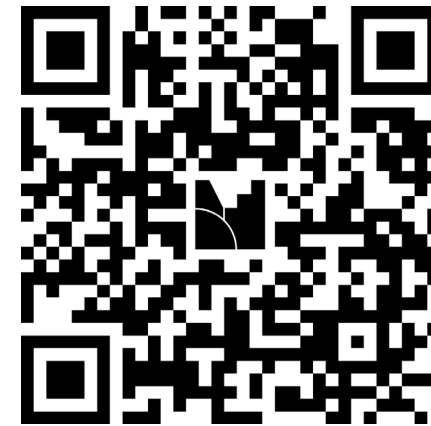
- Overview of current project selection process
- Overview of potential new approach
- Breakout room discussion



Icebreaker



What do you like most about your community (parks, school system, proximity to your job, affordable)?



Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter 2734 3266

Breakout Room Questions

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



Goals

- Develop innovative ways to assess how transportation projects are addressing the needs of historically underserved communities
- Align process with current federal and state requirements



Brief Review

- Project Selection:
 - PSRC distributes funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for priority transportation projects
 - Regional competitions support larger scale investments
 - Countywide competitions support more local improvements and community areas
 - Transit funding supports various transit agency capital needs, with a portion focused on supporting specific community areas
 - Projects must first come from a local planning process



Funding

PSRC receives ~\$370 Million annually in federal transportation funds:

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** ~\$90m
 - Two funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** ~\$280m
 - Four funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each



Funding Sources

Annual sources of transportation funding, on average

- PSRC's federal funds – ~4%



- State managed or nationally managed federal funds – ~6%



- State funding – ~16%

- Local funds – ~74%



and so on...



Funding Process

Step 1: Agency Planning

Cities, counties, ports, transit agencies, state agencies, tribal governments

-- develop projects as part of a comprehensive planning process

Step 2: Projects Submitted to PSRC

Projects meeting eligibilities for the federal funding programs -- and consistent with PSRC's policies and criteria -- are submitted into the competition

Wide variety of project types -- roadway, signals, freight, transit, bike/ped, alternative fuels, etc.

Step 3: PSRC's Competition

PSRC staff score projects based on the adopted criteria

PSRC funds matched with local, other funds -- projects must be able to use the federal funds within the specified time period



Policy Framework

Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds

- Funds distributed every 2–3 years
 - *Program funds into the future*
 - *2027 process will distribute FFY 2029–2030 funds*
- Based on VISION 2050 policies
 - *Support for centers (compact, planned places) and the corridors (roads, transit, trails, etc.) that serve them*
- Provides board direction for project selection
 - Detailed policies and procedures for conducting the process



Eligible & Ineligible Projects

- Eligible projects:
 - Capital transportation projects
 - Roadway improvements – paving, signals, lanes, guardrails, etc.
 - Bicycle lanes, sidewalks, trails
 - Transit stations, buses, etc.
- Not eligible:
 - Transit service or operational details (for example, hours, route details, etc.)
 - Enforcement, staffing, etc.



Previous Project Evaluation Criteria

- Equity woven throughout
 - Series of questions in each criteria that explored how projects serve historically underserved communities

CRITERIA
Development of Centers
Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility
Outreach and Displacement
Safety
Air Quality / Climate Change
Project Readiness / Financial Plan



A photograph of a modern building courtyard. The foreground features a wide set of concrete steps decorated with vibrant, abstract graffiti in shades of red, yellow, and purple. Several red and yellow patio umbrellas are open, providing shade. In the background, a multi-story building with large glass windows and a curved facade is visible. The overall scene is bright and colorful, suggesting a lively urban environment.

Proposed Approach



What is an Index?

An index is a way to combine multiple indicators into one output. It can:

- Include as many indicators as desired
- Be weighted or not depending on desired outcomes

When constructing an index, it is important to consider how the different indicators relate to one another to avoid being biased in the index results.



Potential Indicators

Below please find potential indicators that could be used to identify marginalized communities



Economic

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ High School Graduation
- ▶ Unemployment



Housing

- ▶ Homeownership
- ▶ Renter Cost Burden
- ▶ Home Value



Access

- ▶ Access to All-Day Transit
- ▶ Access to Jobs
- ▶ Historic Transportation Investments

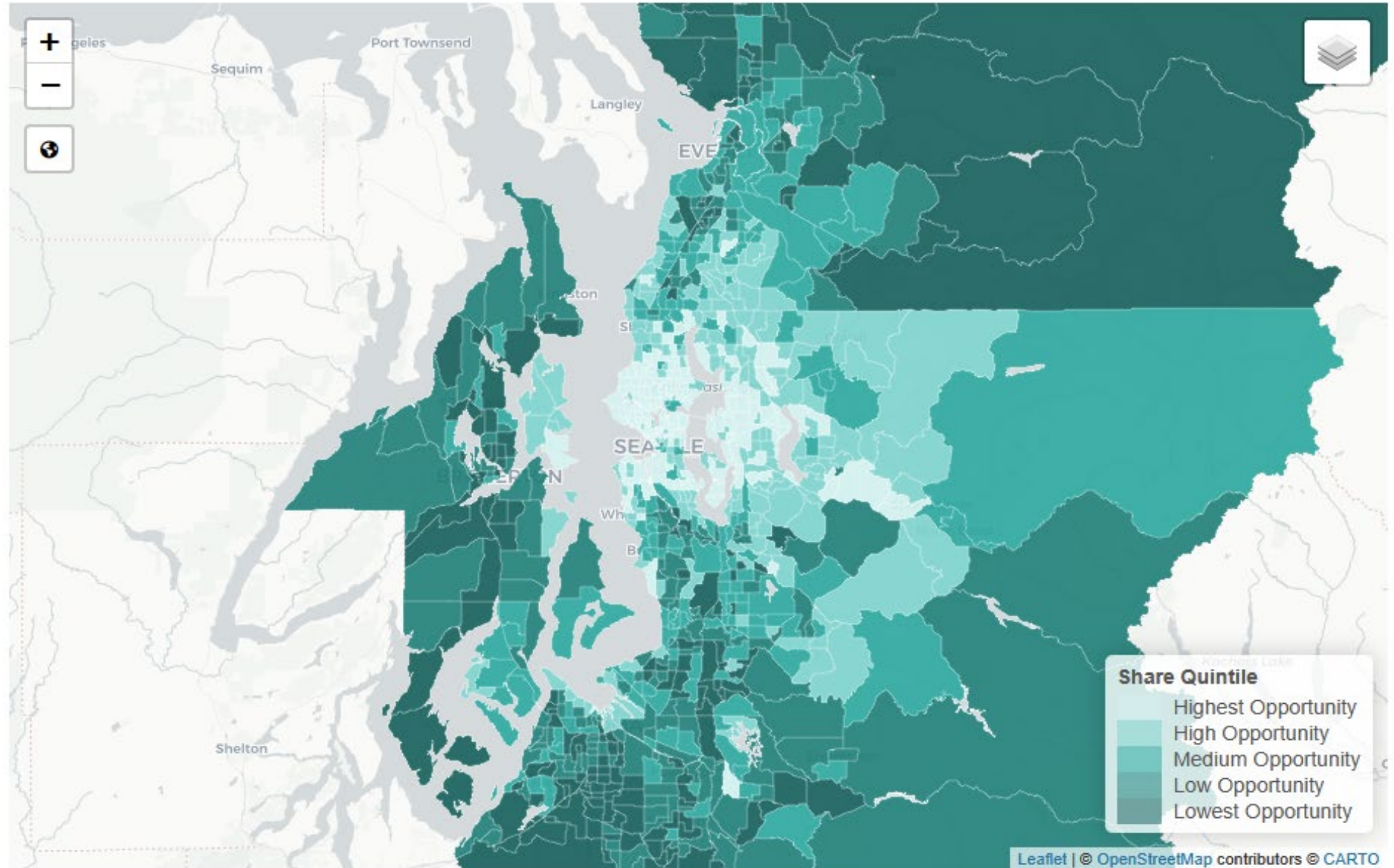


Health

- ▶ Access to Healthy Food
- ▶ Access to Open Space
- ▶ Disability
- ▶ Access to Medical Care

Example Index

Example Transportation Opportunity Index



Goals

- Develop innovative ways to assess how transportation projects are addressing the needs of historically underserved communities (e.g., questions and evaluation process)
- Align process with current federal and state requirements



Breakout Room Questions

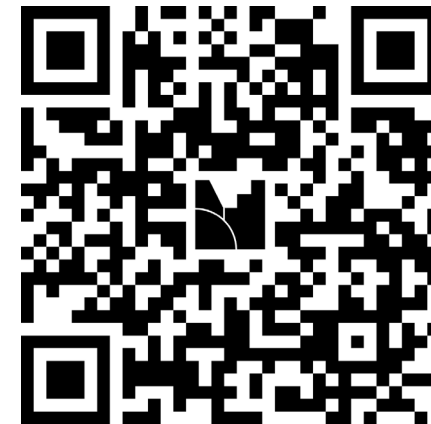
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Poll Question



Please rank the indicators you would like included in the index?



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Next Steps

- Next meetings: April and May
 - Share draft Opportunity Index
 - Explore how to use Opportunity Index in Project Selection Process
 - Distribution of points
 - Qualitative questions where applicants note how they're connecting communities to opportunity





Thank You!

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