



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 2, 2026 • 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Attend

- Join the webinar at <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/85129791763?pwd=EKBzbEAjsY0gtVbZA0cWzxYOwrTtzS.1> and enter Passcode: 054359
 - Listen by phone 833 548 0282 US Toll Free, Webinar ID: 851 2979 1763, Passcode: 054359
-

1. Welcome and Introductions (5:30)

2. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary for March 5, 2026*
- b. EAC Member Announcements & Check In
- c. Staff Announcements – EAC Meeting Calendar Review
- d. Policy Board Meeting Summaries*

3. Discussion Item (5:50)

- a. Summer Planning Academy Outreach* – Noah Boggess, PSRC

4. Discussion Item (6:00)

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

5. Break (6:30)

6. Discussion Item (6:40)

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

7. Discussion Item (7:10)

- a. Quarterly Engagement Activity* – Noah Boggess, PSRC

8. Information Items

- a. 2026 PSRC General Assembly Save the Date Flyer*
- b. Summer Planning Academy (SPA) Flyer*

9. Zoom Poll (7:25)

10. Next Meeting: May 7, 2026, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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:

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

11. Adjourn (7:30)

***Supporting materials attached**

For more information, contact Mikayla Svob at msvob@psrc.org.

Sign language, and communication material in alternative formats, can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090, TTY Relay 711.

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: March 5, 2026

Location: Remote Only

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

Welcome

Julia Jannon-Shields, from King County, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chair welcomed everyone and asked Mikayla to begin the roll call for attendance.

She noted that members interested in the professional work of their peers may reach out to one another on LinkedIn. Though not associated with PSRC or the work of the committee, this would be an optional path to support the work of other committee members.

Staff Announcements

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

Discussion: Tacoma Art Museum Date Selection

Noah shared that the Equity Advisory Committee may attend an optional outing to the Tacoma Art Museum – to network with other EAC members and explore art in the region. He conducted a poll to assess member availability.

Questions? Contact Noah Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, at nboggess@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Project Selection Process

Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, and Craig Helmann, Director of Data, briefed the committee on the presentation for [Project Selection Process and Next Steps](#). The Project Selection Process includes a set of evaluation criteria based on regional policies and priorities in VISION 2050, the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy.

At the March 2026 meeting, PSRC began work with the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) to explore opportunities to improve the project evaluation criteria. Committee members were asked to provide input and guidance on addressing historically underserved communities and potential transportation disparities.

Members responded to the question, “Which indicators are most relevant to addressing transportation disparities?” with the following feedback:

- Homeownership and the burden of high rent costs
- Disability should be woven into each index and weighted more heavily
- Current anti-displacement efforts may not address communities displaced long ago
- Access to all-day transit available is of high importance
- Access to healthy food; people often have access to convenience stores, but not healthy foods
- Access section should perhaps be renamed to “Transportation”
- Access to jobs should be well-paying, living-wage jobs (key distinction)
- Graduation is linked to long-term employment and economic mobility
- Historic Transportation Investments – members asked for more clarity on how this indicator is used, i.e. remedying past injustices and lack of investments

Members responded to the question, “Are there any indicators not listed that we should consider?” with the following feedback:

- Distinguishing when people who are housed, but the housing is unstable, i.e. shelters, temporary housing, student housing
- Access to financial systems, banks, etc.
- Workforce development, especially newer members of our community who often settle for jobs they are overqualified for.
- Language
- Social Services, i.e. SNAP, etc.
- Digital literacy, broadband, and tech infrastructure
- Access to libraries and other free community resources
- Rename “access to open space” to “access to parks” for more clear language
- Age, especially relevant when referencing access to healthcare or tax assistance
- Identify the intersections of these indicators
- Rural areas, with longer wait times for emergency services
- Access to a vehicle
- Walkability, and safe routes to schools

Questions? Contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at kmcgourty@psrc.org, or Craig Helmann, Director of Data, at chelmann@psrc.org.

Adjourn

At the close of the meeting, members participated in a poll to evaluate the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 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
Kelly McGourty, PSRC
Craig Helmann, PSRC

ATTACHMENT:

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



Transportation Policy Board | At Work



Transportation Policy Board At Work

A video of this meeting is available on the [Watch Board Meetings webpage](#).

March 12, 2026

Legislative Updates

The board was briefed on federal and state activities by Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications. This included information on the reauthorization process for the next federal transportation act and a summary of the 2025 state legislative session.

2026 Project Tracking and Delivery: Supplemental Funding Action

Staff briefed the board on delivery of PSRC's 2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding. Final federal allocation amounts have not yet been received, but staff provided an overview of ongoing activities to achieve the required annual delivery target and the procedures in place under the adopted project tracking policies to address any gap. The Transportation Policy Board recommended that the Executive Board approve a supplemental funding action to increase the federal shares for projects awarded PSRC's 2026 FHWA funds. This action will streamline the process and approval timeframes and expedite the use of these funds to support the 2026 delivery target. Once the final delivery target and gap is determined, staff will report back to the board with information on the level of increase each project has received. View video and presentation.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Barnes, Program Manager, at jbarnes@psrc.org or 206-389-2876.

Regional Transportation Plan: Public Comments and Plan Refinements

Staff provided a summary of the public comments received on the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as well as the categorization and staff response for each comment. Staff described the types of technical and administrative corrections proposed to be made for the final plan, and the three comment themes elevated for board input – rural transportation issues, transportation technology and performance measures and monitoring. Each of these are proposed for future PSRC work program development. In April, the board will recommend adoption of the final RTP, leading to General Assembly adoption in May. View video and presentation.

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at kmcgourty@psrc.org or 206-971-3601, or Ben Bakkenta, Director of Regional Planning, at bbakkenta@psrc.org or 206-971-3286.

Regional Transportation Plan Performance Dashboard

The board was briefed on the current update of the RTP Performance Dashboard. The online dashboard contains data trends related to several key RTP performance measures such as climate, safety, travel and transit metrics. The dashboard has been updated to reflect current data as well as accessibility improvements and mobile design updates. View video and presentation.

For more information, please contact Craig Helmann, Director of Data, at chelmann@psrc.org or 206-389-2889.



Growth Management Policy Board | At Work



Growth Management Policy Board At Work

A video of this meeting is available on the [Watch Board Meetings webpage](#).

March 19, 2026

Government Relations Update

PSRC staff updated the board on federal and state legislation, revenue and budget. View the [legislative update video](#) and [legislative update presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org, or Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, at aquinn@psrc.org.

Recommend Certification of Comprehensive Plans

Staff shared a certification status update and the board recommended certification of the Bonney Lake, Pacific and Seattle comprehensive plans. View the [certification video](#) and [certification presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Paul Ingraham, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org, or Liz Underwood Bultmann, Principal Planner, at lunderwood-bultmann@psrc.org.

Regional Centers Redesignation

The board continued the discussion on regional growth center redesignation and recommended to redesignate centers and certify subarea plans. This included an amendment to Kirkland's Totem Lake redesignation to remove a condition

to review the boundaries, and directed staff to create a formal exception pathway. View the [centers video](#) and [centers presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Liz Underwood Bultmann, Principal Planner, at lunderwood-bultmann@psrc.org, or Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner, at nferber@psrc.org.

Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update

The board learned about the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan update and the proposed advisory committee members. The board also shared guidance to help shape the plan's update.

Any additional feedback on the scope of the plan or suggestions for advisory committee members can be sent to PSRC staff by March 27. View the [open space video](#) and [open space presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Erika Harris, Senior Planner, at eharris@psrc.org or 206-464-6360.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Noah P. Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist

Subject: **Summer Planning Academy Outreach**

IN BRIEF

PSRC staff are planning for the third year of the summer youth engagement program called Summer Planning Academy (SPA). The program has been revised for this second iteration. The application period is currently open through May 18.

DISCUSSION

In summer 2023, staff conducted a youth engagement program called PSRC Summer Planning Academy. Following the success of the first year, the program has been renewed indefinitely. This effort is an ongoing product of the Hiring and Retention working group of the Regional Equity Action Plan. The goals of a structured youth engagement program include:

- Introducing individuals to the planning process and profession at an early age.
- Engaging young people on a regular basis to provide input on PSRC's policies and programs.
- Promoting equity in the region by actively recruiting and engaging youth from diverse backgrounds including Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities, low-income residents, and people with disabilities.

Program Structure

The program is open to any rising high school student in the four-county region. SPA will begin on July 29 and run for two weeks on Wednesdays and Fridays. Each day will educate students on planning topics in the region, introduce them to panelists and speakers that are contributing to this work, and include site visits to relevant locations across the four counties.

The four curriculum topics being covered are Intro to Planning, Transportation, Environment, and Housing. Equity in Planning will be woven throughout the entire Academy. Additionally, students will work in small groups to complete a community assessment in one of Seattle's Regional Centers to showcase in future college and job applications.

Following successful completion of SPA students will be eligible for a \$500 scholarship.

Questions for the EAC

1. Are there groups or individuals we should contact to recruit more students that fit the program goals?
2. Do you have suggestions for session content or speakers?
3. Any other questions or points of feedback regarding SPA?

NEXT STEPS

The application for SPA is open through May 18, 2026. Please reference PSRC's [Summer Planning Academy webpage](#) for more information and the online application.

For additional information, please contact Noah P. Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, at nboggess@psrc.org or 206-464-6170.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 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 how the criteria can better address the needs of underserved communities and potential transportation disparities. This discussion was begun at the March EAC meeting with an introduction to a new mapping tool illustrating various outcomes related to economy, housing, access and health. Staff will bring back additional information for further discussion at the April meeting.

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. Historically these criteria have included 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 the PSRC [FHWA and FTA Project Selection Process webpage](#).

In the upcoming months, members of the Equity Advisory Committee will continue to learn more about the project selection process and work with staff to explore opportunities to improve how transportation projects are evaluated. The March meeting focused on a new mapping index tool that includes various indicators that may be relevant to addressing underserved communities throughout the region and potential transportation disparities being experienced.

Staff suggested the following indicators:

- **Economic**
 - Poverty, high school graduation, unemployment
- **Housing**
 - Homeownership, renter cost burden, home value
- **Access**
 - Proximity to all-day transit, access to jobs, historic transportation investments
- **Health**
 - Access to healthy food, access to parks, disability, access to medical care

After discussing and ranking these indicators, members of the EAC were asked to share additional indicators that should be considered for the index. Members suggested:

- **Economic**
 - Financial systems, workforce development, access to libraries
- **Housing**
 - Unstably housed
- **Access**
 - Rural areas, vehicle access, pedestrian infrastructure, safe routes to school
- **Demographics**
 - Older adults, linguistically isolated communities
- **Technology**
 - Digital access, digital literacy
- **Other**
 - Social services

During the April meeting, staff will provide additional details of each indicator. The pros and cons of each of the EACs recommended indicators will be reviewed, and staff will share their suggestions for the finalized list of indicators for the index. Following this discussion, the EAC will be asked the following questions:

1. Do the explanations of each indicator make sense?
2. What do you think of the staff recommendation of the final list of indicators?
3. Are there any indicators that are missing? Do you have any concerns?

NEXT STEPS

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on May 7, 2026. Members will discuss how the indicators will be used to assess and score transportation projects in the Project Selection process.

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.



Puget Sound Regional Council

April 2, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee
From: Noah P. Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist
Subject: **Quarterly Engagement Activity**

IN BRIEF

Throughout 2026, EAC meetings will feature engagement activities once per quarter to continue to build camaraderie among members. These activities are a continuation of the Quarterly Engagement Activities from previous years, with some adjustments to make them more engaging. The goal of these structured times is to allow EAC members to become more familiar with one another and the work they do outside of the monthly meetings with PSRC.

Each Quarterly Engagement Activity will feature interesting facts about several members of the EAC and allow space for them to share about this experience or piece of their background. EAC members will only share facts and statements with their approved consent prior to each meeting.

For additional information, please contact Noah P. Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, at nboggess@psrc.org or 206-464-6170.

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.**

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.

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.