



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee

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

Zoom Webinar

Attend

- Join the webinar at <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/86084318153?pwd=ovs2KsIPA6dt1QfgDWBGEzWR5bk8Yr.1> and enter Passcode: 299809
 - Listen by phone 888 475 4499 US Toll Free, Webinar ID: 860 8431 8153, Passcode: 299809
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1. Welcome and Introductions (5:30)

2. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary for April 2, 2026*
- b. EAC Member Announcements & Check In
- c. Staff Announcements – Annual Survey
- d. Policy Board Meeting Summaries*

3. Discussion Item (5:50)

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

4. Break (6:30)

5. Discussion Item (6:40)

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

6. Information Items

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

7. Zoom Poll (7:25)

8. Next Meeting: June 4, 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:

- June 4
- July 9 - Held on the second Thursday
- No meeting in August
- September 3

- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

9. 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: April 2, 2026

Location: Remote Only

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

Welcome

Charles Patton, PSRC, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chair welcomed everyone and asked Mikayla to begin the roll call for attendance.

Staff Announcements

Noah updated the committee on the EAC excursion to the Tacoma Art Museum, sharing that the trip will be postponed until autumn of this year. Charles provided an overview of the upcoming EAC calendar, covering the different topics that will be brought to the committee in the coming months. Charles and EAC representatives briefed the committee on the work of the Growth Management Policy Board and Transportation Policy Board.

Discussion: Summer Planning Academy Outreach

Noah shared that the Summer Planning Academy, a PSRC summer program that encourages youth to engage in planning topics, is open to applicants. He asked EAC members, Rhea Biswas and Sophia Lana Castro, who are both SPA alumni, to speak more to their experience. Noah asked members to connect him with organizations or individuals he should reach out to in spreading the word about this opportunity. More information is available on the [Summer Planning Academy](#) webpage.

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 April 2026 meeting, PSRC continued 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, “What do you think of the staff recommendation of the final list of indicators?” with the following feedback:

- Move SNAP from the Housing category to the Economic category
- Helpful to have multidimensional data available
- Appreciate staff highlighting importance of access to internet
- Need to find ways to better capture linguistically isolated communities
- Suggestion to rename Transportation Investments indicator to Transportation Investments Over Time

Members responded to the questions, “Are there any indicators that are missing? Do you have any concerns?” with the following feedback:

- Underemployment data or data on types of jobs and salaries
- Travel times to work or school
- Higher education
- Access to paratransit
- Increase focus on disability and access resources, i.e. the APS/wheelchair signal data
- Specific about the type of housing development, i.e. multi-family housing vs. single family housing
- Historic transportation investments – difficult to compare across projects and time periods; would need to account for inflation, different cost factors (large, small, complex, simple, location)
- Home value as an indicator raises concerns and should be removed
- Add Access to Health Care, i.e. health insurance, as an indicator
- Consideration for adding access to Social Services to the amenities section
- Possible replacement of SNAP in the housing section with Section 8 housing data

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

Discussion Item: Quarterly Engagement Activity

The committee did not have time for the quarterly engagement activity and postponed the activity to a future meeting.

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

Kelly McGourty, PSRC

Craig Helmann, PSRC

ATTACHMENT:

A. EAC Member Attendance for the April 2, 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](#).

April 9, 2026

2026 Project Tracking and Delivery: Project Extensions and Exceptions

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) was briefed on PSRC's adopted Project Tracking Policies and the provisions by which projects may be granted extensions of time to deliver. The board recommended approval of 16 project extensions and three requests for exceptions to allow additional time beyond the normal one-year extension timeframe. [View video](#) and [presentation](#).

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

2026 Project Tracking and Delivery: Bridge Funding Pilot Program and Contingency

The board was briefed on the new bridge funding pilot program and a recommendation of funding for three county bridge projects in year one of the pilot. The bridge funding pilot project will span a two-year period and begin with the four counties, focusing on ready-to-go bridge replacement, rehabilitation or maintenance projects. The board was also briefed on the process to redistribute funds to projects on the adopted contingency lists through PSRC's project selection process. The board recommended the Executive Board approve a supplemental funding action for the three county bridge projects as part of the bridge funding pilot program and a redistribution of funding to one contingency project. [View video](#) and [presentation](#).

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

Regional Transportation Plan Recommendation

A summary of the development process for the Regional Transportation Plan was provided, including the incorporation of edits into the final draft plan from the public comment process. The board recommended approval of the 2026- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan to the Executive Board. The Executive Board is scheduled to recommend approval of the Regional Transportation Plan at its April 23 meeting. The General Assembly will adopt the final plan at its meeting on May 28, 2026. [View video](#) and [presentation](#).

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



Growth Management Policy Board At Work

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

April 16, 2026

Legislative Session Recap

PSRC staff were joined by Dave Andersen of WA State Department of Commerce to review housing and growth management-related bills passed during the 2026 state legislative session. Staff also reviewed federal budget updates. View the [legislative recap video](#) and view Commerce's rundown of new policies in the [Planners' Newsletter: Legislative Update 2026](#).

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.

Regional Implementation of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

PSRC is in partnership with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Sara Hetrick from PSCAA shared background information about the plan and led a board discussion on regional climate coordination. View the [PSCAA video](#) and [PSCAA presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Paul Ingraham, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org, or Sara Hetrick, PSCAA, at sarah@psccleanair.gov.

Manufacturing/Industrial Centers Redesignation

The board discussed the role, performance and criteria of manufacturing/industrial centers (MICs) and previewed criteria and certification reports. In May, the board will

consider a recommendation to the Executive Board on redesignating MICs. View the [MIC video](#) and [MIC 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.



Puget Sound Regional Council

May 7, 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](#) (PDF). 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. Robust discussion was held at the March and April EAC meetings on a new mapping tool illustrating various outcomes related to the economy, housing, access and health. Staff will bring back the final draft tool for review at the May meeting and discuss its use in the next project selection process.

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](#) (webpage), the [Regional Transportation Plan](#) (webpage) and the [Regional Economic Strategy](#) (webpage).

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](#).

Over the last several months the Equity Advisory Committee has been learning about the project selection process and working with staff to explore opportunities to improve how transportation projects are evaluated. The March and April meetings 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. After discussions with the EAC, the final proposed suite of indicators includes:

Economic

- Poverty, high school graduation, unemployment, internet access, transportation revenue potential

Housing

- Homeownership, renter cost burden, SNAP or Public Assistance Income

Transportation System

- Access to living wage jobs, access to a vehicle, sidewalk completeness, historic transportation investments, paratransit

Amenities

- Access to healthy food, access to parks, proximity to libraries, access to medical care

At the May meeting, staff will review the final draft set of indicators and provide options for how the tool may be used in the project evaluation criteria for PSRC's project selection process. These options will include embedding the tool – or Opportunity Index – within each individual criterion (e.g., mobility and accessibility, safety, support for housing and employment) or creating a new stand-alone criterion with all relevant opportunity questions.

Following this discussion, the EAC will be asked the following questions:

1. Are you comfortable with the final tool and set of indicators?
2. Do you have a preference between embedding the Opportunity Index within existing criteria or creating a stand-alone criterion?
3. Are there other specific questions you think should be included, related to opportunity and transportation investments?

NEXT STEPS

Staff will bring the culmination of work with the EAC over the last three months to PSRC's boards and other staff committees. The project evaluation criteria will be refined in advance of the next project selection process, anticipated to be conducted in early 2027. Staff will bring information on the process back to the EAC later in the Fall, before the process begins.

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.**

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.