



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 4, 2026 • 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Attend

- Join the webinar at <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/81811421280?pwd=a1sohES7IQMSuw8jnu7xaCNb6udIK3.1> and enter Passcode: 947394
 - Listen by phone 833 548 0276 US Toll Free, Webinar ID: 818 1142 1280, Passcode: 947394
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1. Welcome and Introductions (5:30)

2. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary for May 7, 2026*
- b. EAC Member Announcements & Check In
- c. Staff Announcements – Annual Survey
- d. Policy Board Meeting Summaries*

3. Discussion Item (5:50)

- a. Regional Centers Overview* – Liz Underwood-Bultmann & Nancy Ferber, PSRC

4. Break (6:30)

5. Discussion Item (6:40)

- a. Regional Centers Overview Cont.* – Liz Underwood-Bultmann & Nancy Ferber, PSRC

6. Discussion Item (7:10)

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

7. Information Items

- a. TOOLBOX Series: Local Approaches to Housing and Supportive Services Flyer*

8. Zoom Poll (7:25)

9. Next Meeting: July 9, 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:

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

- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

10. 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: May 7, 2026

Location: Remote Only

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

Welcome

Julia Jannon-Shields and Jewel Sheperd-Sampson, EAC co-chairs, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chairs welcomed everyone and asked Mikayla to begin the roll call for attendance.

Staff Announcements

Charles asked members to complete the EAC Annual Member Survey. The survey allows staff to learn the committee's thoughts on areas of improvement, if members are interested in extending their terms, suggestions for new EAC members, etc. He also encouraged members to attend the PSRC Annual General Assembly on May 28, 2026. EAC board representatives and staff provided a summary of Transportation Policy Board and Growth Management Policy Board meeting actions.

Discussion Item: Project Selection Process

Throughout 2026, PSRC staff have worked alongside the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) to explore opportunities to improve the project evaluation criteria. Robust discussion was held at the March and April EAC meetings on a new mapping tool illustrating various outcomes related to the economy, housing, amenities and health. Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, and Craig Helmann, Director of Data, brought back the final draft tool for review at the May meeting and discussed its use in the next project selection process.

Members responded to the question, "Are you comfortable with the final tool and set of indicators?" with the following feedback:

- Supports the concept of using both the aggregate and category indices
- The set reflects different perspectives and covers a wide variety of indicators
- Proximity to schools might be considered for the Amenities category
- Access to gasoline stations and EV charging stations, plus rising costs, may influence whether someone takes public transportation
- SNAP should be moved to the economic section

Members responded to the question, “Do you have a preference between embedding the Opportunity Index within existing criteria or creating a stand-alone criterion?” with the following feedback:

- Members that preferred a stand-alone approach felt that it may be easier to focus on specific elements, expressed concern that if woven into existing criteria some aspects might be left out, and believed it would be easier to evaluate benefits to areas of low opportunity with stand-alone criteria
- Members that preferred embedding the Opportunity Index felt this option would prevent these revisions from coming off like checking a box, would allow jurisdictions to address the topic in multiple ways, would encourage applicants to address how opportunity is related to the agency’s core priorities (i.e., centers, safety, etc.)
- Suggestion for a hybrid option where the opportunity-related questions that are relevant to the current criteria would be woven into those sections (i.e., safety) while questions not related to the current criteria could be added to a new Opportunity criterion.
- Some members expressed that embedding the Opportunity Index allows for this work to be foundational to the core of the process

Members responded to the question, “Are there other specific questions you think should be included, related to opportunity and transportation investments?” with the following feedback:

- Access to transit system
- Lighting for safety at stations

View the [Project Selection Process and Next Steps](#) presentation.

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 7:30 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
Erin Auzins, King County

ATTACHMENT:

A. EAC Member Attendance for the May 7, 2026, Meeting



Growth Management Policy Board At Work

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

May 21, 2026

Manufacturing/Industrial Centers Redesignation

The board recommended to redesignate Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs) and certify subarea plans. The Executive Board will consider the recommendation at their June meeting. 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.

Homelessness & Shelter Needs in our Region

Staff shared data on homelessness in our region and compared it to other regions across the country. The board discussed how this work can help jurisdictions meet the housing needs laid out in their comprehensive plans. View the [Housing video](#) and [Housing presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Eric Clute, Associate Planner, at eclute@psrc.org.

VISION 2050 Review & Update

Staff reviewed VISION 2050 progress and accomplishments from the last five years. To support preparation to update the plan, the board shared goals they continue to

prioritize in their communities and what they would like to see more of in VISION 2060 development. View the [VISION video](#) and [VISION presentation](#).

For additional information, please contact Paul Ingraham, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org.



Puget Sound Regional Council

June 4, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner, Growth Management
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Principal Planner, Growth Management

Subject: **Regional Centers Overview**

IN BRIEF

This discussion will provide background information on regional growth centers (RGCs), manufacturing/industrial centers (MICs), and subarea planning. Staff will also share updates on the current center monitoring and redesignation process in preparation for a more in-depth discussion in July.

DISCUSSION

Objectives

Today's discussion will build a shared understanding of regional growth centers (RGCs) and manufacturing/industrial centers (MICs), subarea planning, and the [Regional Centers Framework](#) (PDF), which guides their criteria and processes. In a follow-up conversation in July, PSRC staff look forward to gathering additional feedback on subarea planning for centers and incorporate feedback from the Equity Advisory Committee on centers work.

Centers Background

VISION 2050 focuses future housing/employment growth into dense, walkable, mixed-use areas referred to as [regional growth centers](#) (webpage) (RGCs) as well as dense concentrations of industrial jobs and land known as regional manufacturing/industrial centers (MICs). Both types of regional centers have served a critical role in the region's growth strategy.

Centers help guide where dense growth can be accommodated, encourage local planning efforts, inform transit service planning, and are priority areas for PSRC's federal transportation funding.

The region has 30 designated regional growth centers. These are places with major business, government, and cultural activity, and they are planned to accommodate significant future growth. There are also 10 designated manufacturing/industrial centers, which are focused on more intensive industrial activity. Together, these centers are the main places where the region plans for growth, economic development, and transportation investments.

Additional Types of Centers

PSRC formally designates RGCs and MICs to accommodate a significant share of the region's growth and employment. At the county level, there are also countywide centers, eligible for their own set of funding. Cities often designate their own downtowns, urban villages, or neighborhood centers, which also support strategic growth and development around transportation corridors. While these other centers all play an important role in creating spaces for jobs, housing and community to thrive, this discussion will focus on the regional level, and PSRC's role in supporting regional centers.

Guiding Documents for Regional Centers

In 2018, PSRC's Executive Board adopted the [Regional Centers Framework](#) (PDF) to identify

consistent criteria for regional centers. The framework includes performance measures to track outcomes of centers over time, guidance on planning for centers, and the process for reviewing existing regional centers and applications for new centers.

The [Regional Centers Framework](#) (PDF) (2018) sets expectations and criteria to help ensure centers grow into strong, connected places that can support new jobs and residents.

The center monitoring process is used to evaluate whether designated centers continue to meet regional expectations and goals over time. It helps track implementation progress, understand development challenges and growth trends within centers, and inform future planning, policy, and investment decisions related to growth and development in the region. The monitoring process currently includes quantitative performance measures, and review of the subarea plans utilizing a checklist-based assessment.

The [PSRC Regional Centers System Monitoring Report](#) (PDF) provides a snapshot of how designated centers are performing over time, including trends in housing, employment, development, and access to opportunity.

Regional Centers Framework - 2026 Potential Updates

Since the Regional Centers Framework was adopted in 2018, there have been a variety of changes that could inform potential policy updates. Regional centers have continued to grow and develop with changes to the economy. New state laws have changed how cities are planning for housing and transit-oriented development. Implementation of centers requirements have provided opportunities to evaluate and improve current

processes.

Through conversations with staff in jurisdictions working on centers/subarea plans, and board discussions, PSRC staff identified topical areas where potential updates to the framework could better reflect changes in recently adopted legislative policies. There are also areas where centers are consistently not meeting criteria, which calls for further reflection. The goal of this work is to identify focused updates that can support successful centers.

The Growth Management Policy Board and Executive Board will consider policy updates that should be incorporated into an updated Regional Centers Framework. As part of this work, PSRC staff are engaging with the Equity Advisory Committee to gather feedback on centers policy and guidance, particularly focused on subarea planning expectations.

Subarea Planning

A subarea plan is a focused planning document that guides growth, development, infrastructure, and community investments within a specific local boundary. PSRC reviews subarea plans for regional centers to ensure local planning aligns with regional goals established in VISION 2050. While some elements of center subarea planning may also be addressed through local comprehensive plan policies, PSRC looks for several key elements within subarea plans that demonstrate how communities intend to accommodate growth, support implementation, and advance regional priorities in their local center. Subarea plans are required to address:

- Policies and implementation strategies that support compact, walkable, mixed-use development;
- Planned housing and employment growth consistent with regional targets;
- Transportation projects that improve access, mobility, and connectivity for people walking, biking, and taking transit;
- Strategies to support equitable development, including anti-displacement measures and access to opportunities for historically underserved communities;
- Infrastructure, public services, and amenities needed to accommodate growth;
- Community engagement efforts that reflect meaningful participation

These plans are important because they help ensure regional centers develop in a way that supports sustainable growth, expands access to housing and jobs, and advances opportunities for all. The committee will discuss the planning consistency tools, also referred to as subarea planning checklists, for [regional growth centers](#) (PDF) and [manufacturing/industrial centers](#) (PDF) more in July.

Equity Advisory Committee Centers Input

The committee will be asked to review the checklists and tools used for [regional growth center](#) (PDF) and [manufacturing/industrial center](#) (PDF) subarea planning and provide feedback on potential opportunities for improvement. Discussion will focus on ways to strengthen equity-centered monitoring and reporting, identify gaps, as well as identify

opportunities to support more equitable outcomes and impacts through subarea planning requirements and implementation.

Topics for discussion include:

- Feedback on the checklist and tools used for subarea planning for regional centers; and
- Opportunities to strengthen monitoring, reporting, and equitable outcomes through subarea planning requirements and implementation.

Discussion Questions

Discussion questions for today will focus on building a shared understanding of regional centers and initial reactions to how the process reflects community outcomes and access to opportunity.

1. Based on your experience or knowledge of centers, what successes have you seen in centers in supporting more equitable opportunities for people?
2. Which communities or lived experiences are currently underrepresented in planning for centers?
3. What additional information do you need to better understand regional centers or the subarea planning process?

July EAC Conversation

The July EAC meeting will focus on discussion of subarea planning checklists. This input helps shape recommendations for updates to the centers framework. While planning for potential updates to the Regional Centers Framework continues, staff will compile and summarize feedback and ideas from the committee, highlighting the main themes and what we heard from you.

NEXT STEPS

In the coming months, the Growth Management Policy Board will be asked to provide recommendations to the Executive Board regarding potential updates to the Regional Centers Framework. Feedback from the Equity Advisory will be shared with the Growth Management Policy Board.

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

June 4, 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.



TOOLBOX SERIES

Local Approaches to Housing and Supportive Services



Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Date: June 26, 2026
Format: Zoom

This TOOLBOX session will explore how local jurisdictions of all sizes are responding to homelessness and expanding supporting services in their communities. Speakers from across the region will share local approaches and highlight strategies being implemented in our region.

SPEAKERS

Kimberly Hendrickson

Housing, Health, and Human Services Director, City of Poulsbo

Amanda Judd

Human Services Coordinator, City of Kirkland

Mary Jane Brell Vujovic

Human Services Director, Snohomish County

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](#).



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