

Project Selection Process Updates

Transit Operators Committee

June 24, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

Improvements and Updates for 2027

- Align process with current state and **federal requirements**
 - *Develop innovative ways to assess how transportation projects are addressing the needs of underserved communities*
- Review for updates to reflect new **Regional Safety Action Plan** and newly adopted **Regional Transportation Plan**



Aligning with current requirements

- Develop innovative ways to assess how transportation projects are addressing the needs of underserved communities
- Identify locations with barriers and challenges experienced by underserved communities
 - Focus on outcomes and transportation disparities rather than individual characteristics
 - New Opportunity Index developed in collaboration with the Equity Advisory Committee



Recommended Final Indicators



Transportation System

- ▶ Access to Living Wage Jobs via Transit
- ▶ Access to a vehicle
- ▶ Sidewalk Completeness
- ▶ Historic Transportation Investments
- ▶ Access to Paratransit and ADA service



Amenities

- ▶ Proximity to Healthy Food
- ▶ Proximity to Parks
- ▶ Proximity to Medical Care
- ▶ Proximity to Libraries



Housing

- ▶ Homeownership
- ▶ Renter Cost Burden
- ▶ Housing Vouchers
- ▶ SNAP or Public Assistance Income

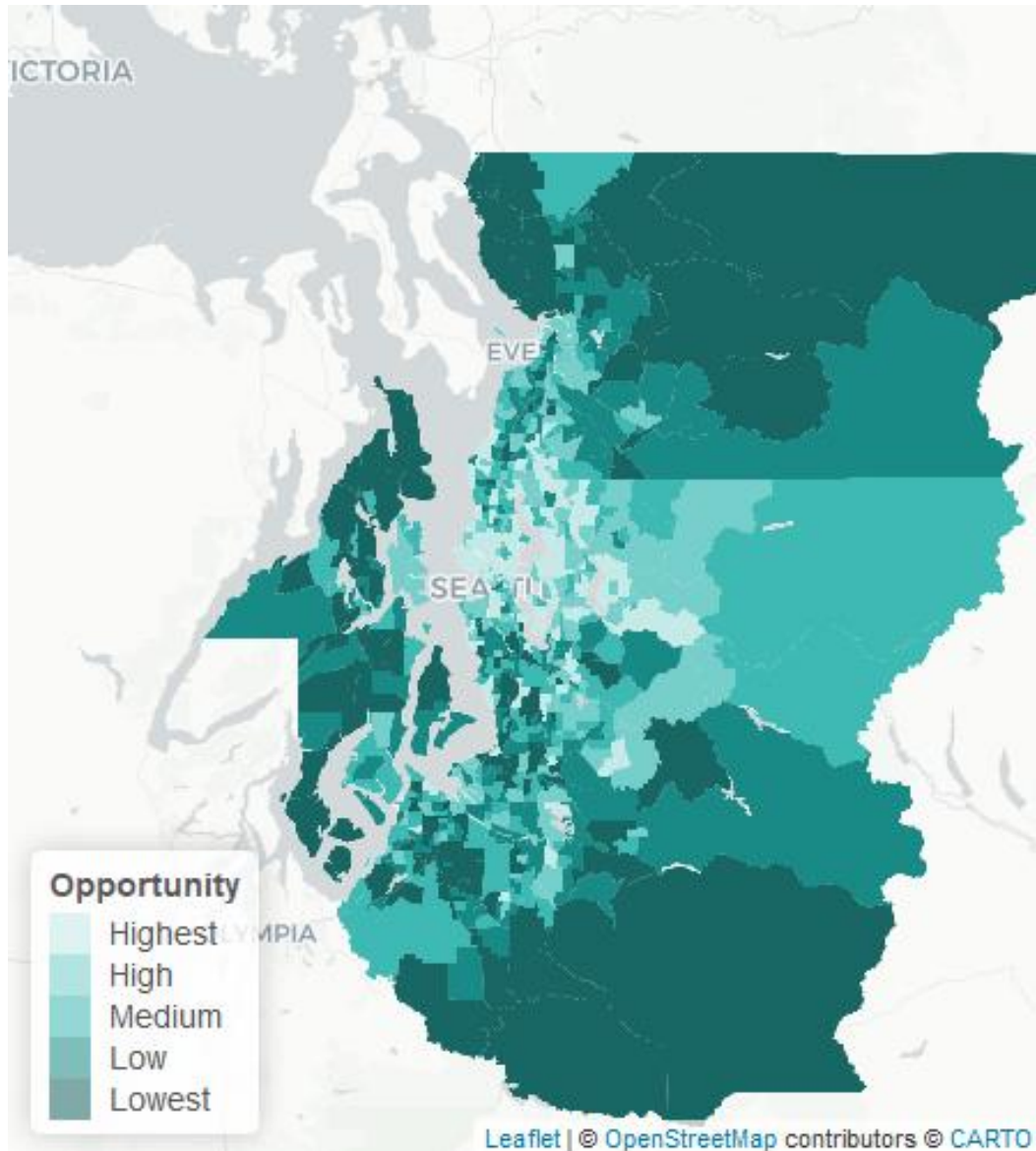


Economic

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Unemployment Rate
- ▶ High School Graduation Rate
- ▶ Access to the Internet
- ▶ Transportation Revenue Potential



Recommended Final Opportunity Index



The summation of the recommended eighteen (18) indicators combined into one value. **The darker the color in the map, the higher the need**

[Draft Opportunity Index Web Map](#)



Incorporating into Project Selection

- Further collaborated with the Equity Advisory Committee on incorporating the Opportunity Index into the project evaluation criteria for PSRC's FHWA funds
 - *Will be woven throughout all criteria, similar to 2024 process*
- Will also need to revise the formula for distribution of regional FTA funds
 - *Will use Opportunity Index instead of demographic data and updated criteria*



Guidance from Regional Plans

- **Regional Safety Action Plan** and newly adopted **Regional Transportation Plan** will also inform project evaluation criteria
- For example –
 - *Addressing regional and/or local high injury networks*
 - *Considering inventories, typologies and level of stress indicators from the Active Transportation Plan*



Next Steps

- Introductory discussions with PSRC advisory committees in June
- More detailed discussions and revisions anticipated July – September
- Board briefings in the Fall on the next Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds
 - Adoption in January 2027

