

Preparation for the 2027 Project Selection Process

Transportation Policy Board
September 10, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

Today's Briefing

- Introduction to PSRC's project selection process
- Overview of *Policy Framework* and evaluation criteria
- Highlights from previous process
- New 2026 direction
- Schedule of activities



Project Selection Process

PSRC has project selection authority over specific sources of funds from the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** and the **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

- ~\$90 million of FHWA funds per year
 - Competitive distributions – regional and countywide
- ~\$280 million of FTA funds per year
 - Formula distributions based on regional policies and criteria
- Specific eligibilities across multiple funding sources



Policy Framework

- Policy direction from Board adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Based on VISION 2050 policies and consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan
 - Adopted policy focus = *support for centers and the corridors that serve them*
- Projects must be consistent with local comprehensive plans
- Process conducted every two-three years



Policy Framework



Project Selection Process

Prioritized investments based on VISION 2050 direction, consistency with Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Economic Strategy



Key Process Details – FHWA Funding

- Funds split between a **Regional** competition and **Countywide** competitions
- Set-Asides:
 - Preservation
 - Bicycle / Pedestrian
 - Kitsap County adjustment
 - Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program
- Future funding estimates
- Project tracking policies
- Caps on number of applications / funding requests



Key Process Details – FTA Funding

- Funds split between an **Earned Share** distribution and a **Regional** distribution
 - “Unpacking” of federal formula
 - Earned Share based on transit agency operations
 - Regional funds based on regional attributes, distributed via key policy parameters
- Future funding estimates
- Project tracking policies



Project Evaluation Criteria Categories

- Based on VISION 2050 policies, board priorities
- Point values vary depending on funding source, competition
 - Development of Centers
 - Mobility and Accessibility
 - Outreach and Displacement
 - Safety and Security
 - Air Quality / Climate Change



Highlights from 2024 Process

Types of projects funded =

- ✓ Transit network expansions
- ✓ Transportation Demand Management Programs
- ✓ Zero Emission Vehicles
- ✓ Multimodal Roadway Improvements
- ✓ Sidewalks, Bicycle Lanes, Trails
- ✓ Maintenance and Preservation
- ✓ Signal Improvements
- ✓ Roundabouts

- *27% improve a freight route*
- *56% include 1 or more proven safety countermeasures*
- *68% include bike/ped elements*
- *Projects cumulatively reduce over 100 metric tons per day of greenhouse gas emissions*



2026 Direction for Project Selection

Board direction on elements to inform project selection --

- *the **Regional Safety Action Plan** and prioritizing regional and local high injury networks*
- *the **Active Transportation Plan** and incorporating facility typologies and level of traffic stress*
- *Alignment with current state and **federal requirements** and developing new ways to address the needs of underserved communities*



Aligning with Current Requirements

- Goal = 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



Opportunity Index – 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

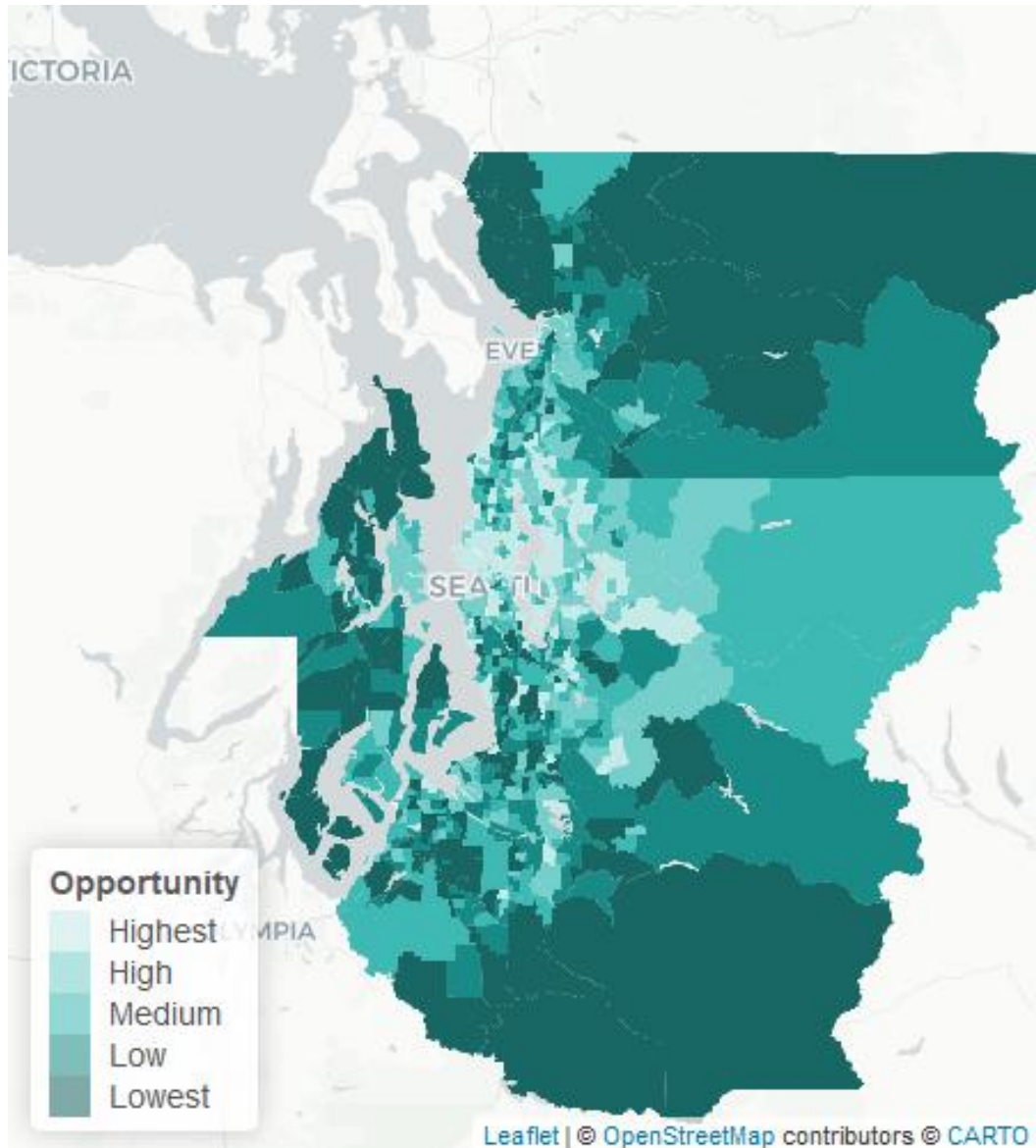


Economic

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



Opportunity Index

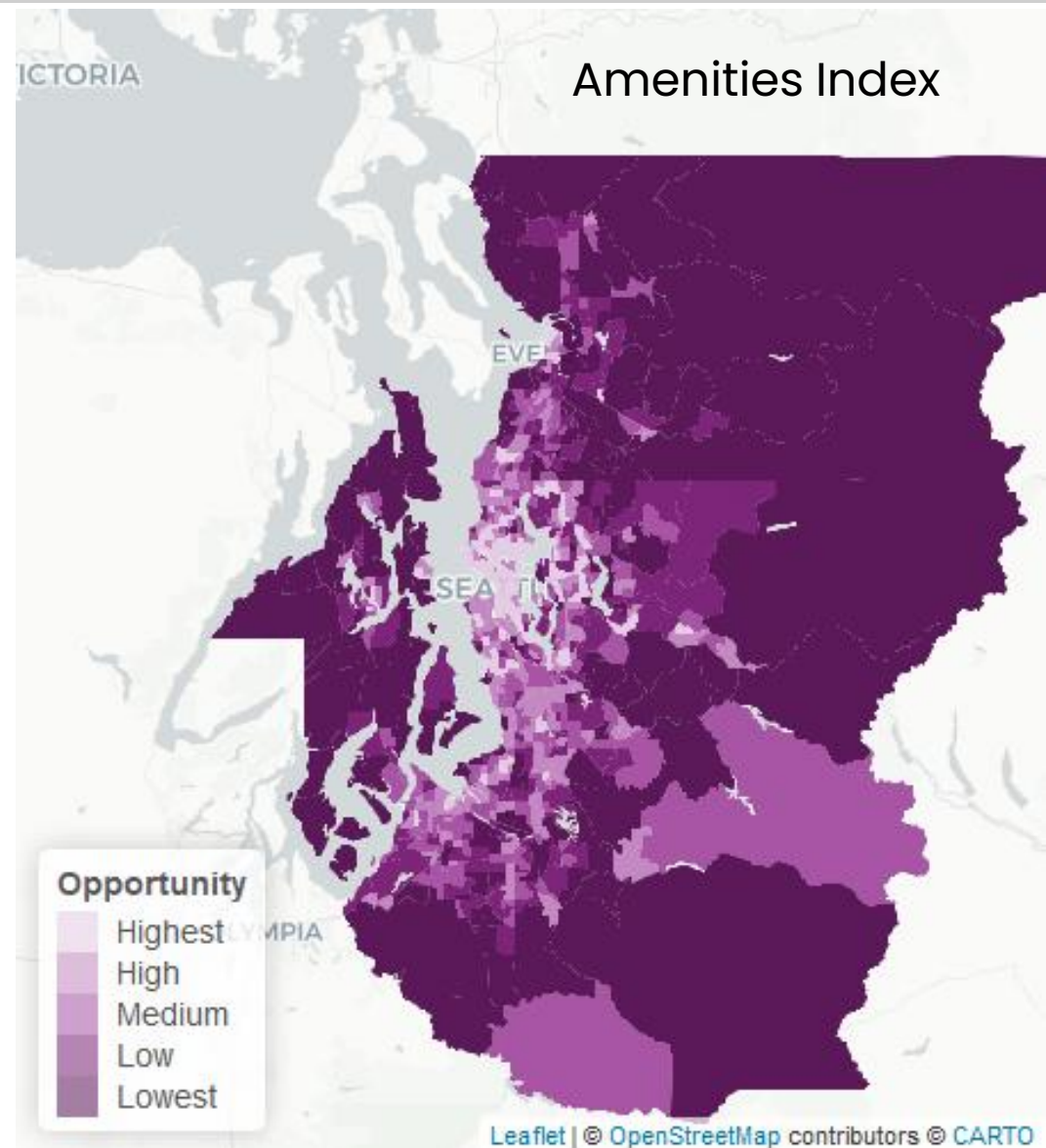
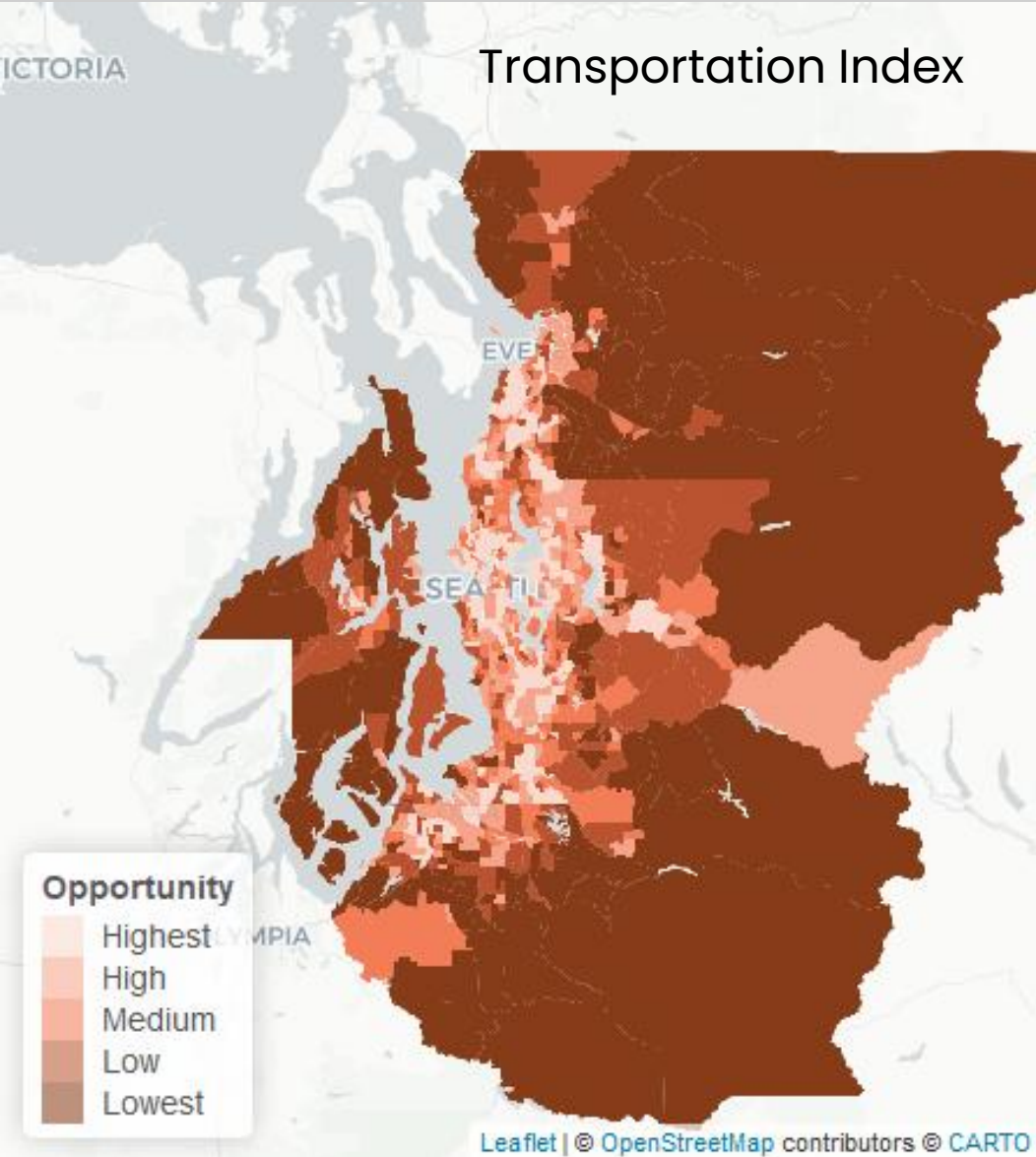


Combined Opportunity Index = summation of the recommended eighteen (18) indicators combined into one value.

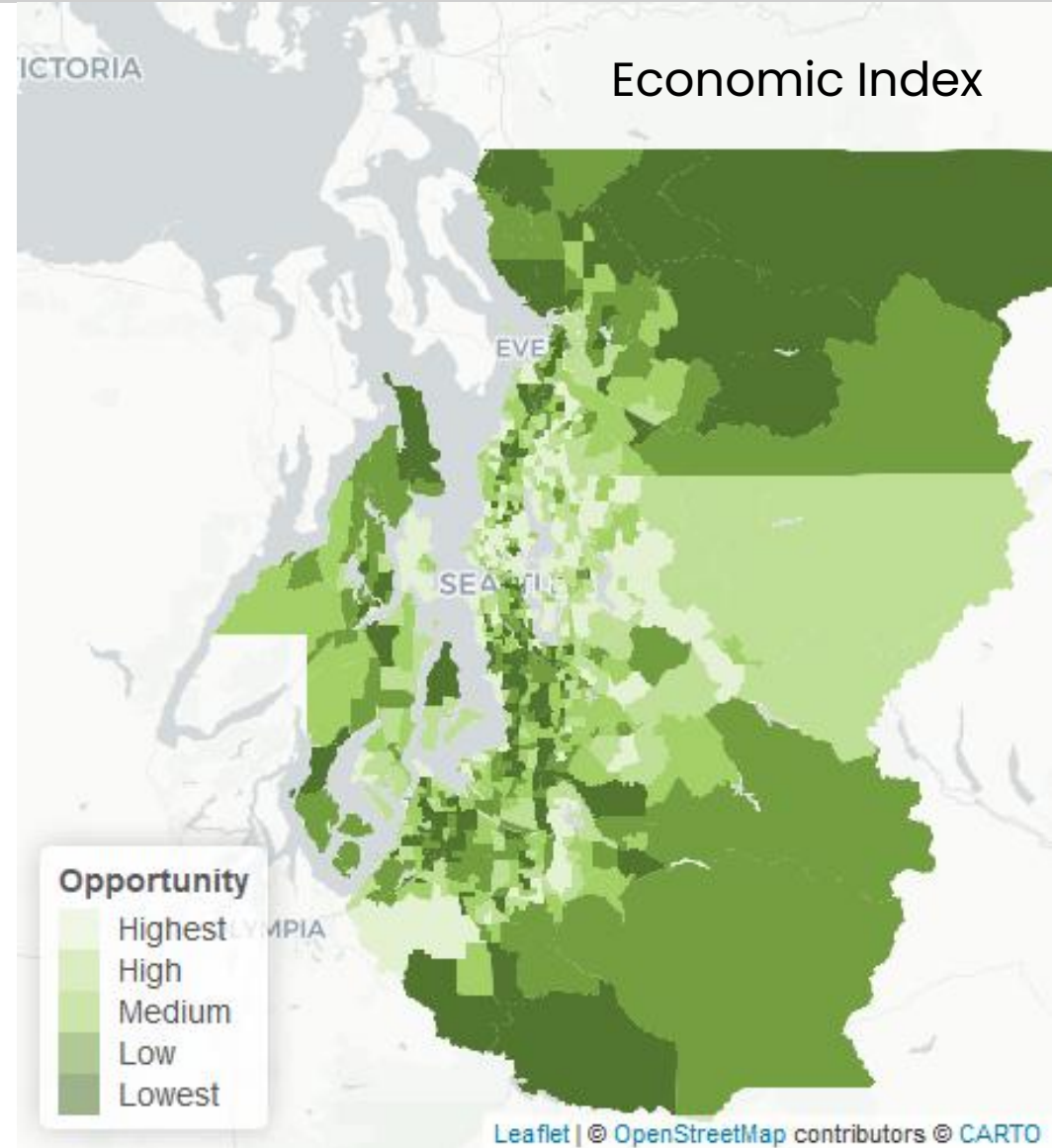
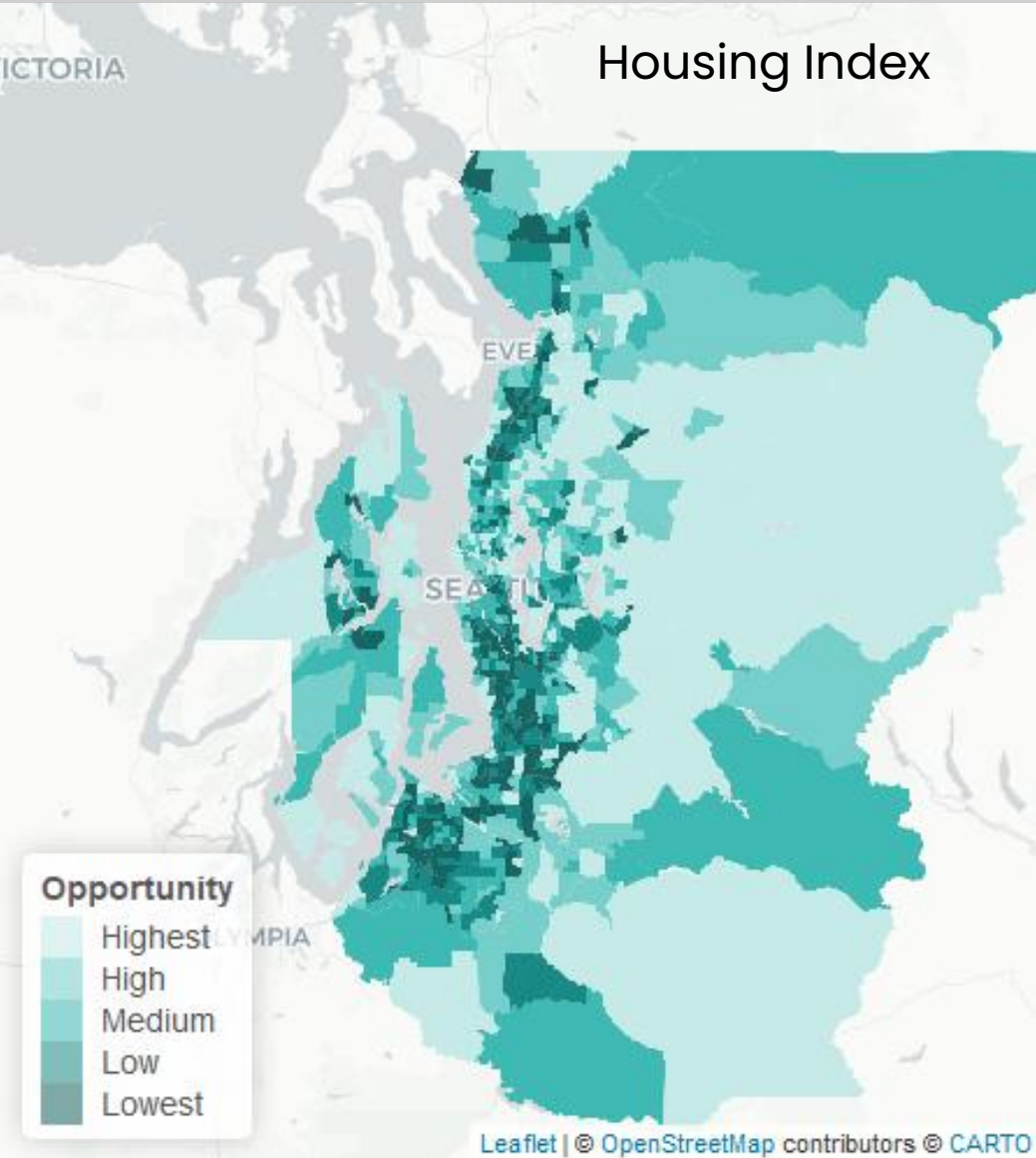
The darker the color in the map, the higher the need – *or the Lowest Opportunity*



Individual Opportunity Index Categories



Individual Opportunity Index Categories



Incorporating the Opportunity Index

- 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 assess how projects are addressing needs / providing improvements in areas of Low/Lowest Opportunity*



Schedule and Next Steps

- Staff finalizing updates to criteria and guidance resources
- Continued briefings with PSRC Advisory Committees and countywide forums through Fall 2026
- Further board briefings through Fall 2026 on the next *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
 - Adoption in January 2027
 - Call for Projects February 2027
- *New web application system also under development*



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Seattle, showing a large shipyard with several large ships and cranes. A ferry is visible in the water in the foreground. The city is surrounded by dense forest, and snow-capped mountains are visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

Questions and Feedback?

