

2027 Project Selection Process

Regional Project Evaluation Committee
September 25, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

Continued Discussion Items

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 -- **Opportunity Index***



Regional Safety Action Plan – Criteria Updates

- How does the project improve current or anticipated safety issues
 - Incorporation of FHWA proven safety countermeasures
- How does the project help protect vulnerable users of the system
- Does the project reduce reliance on enforcement or design for decreased speeds
- *Is the project addressing a location on the regional, state or a local High Injury Network*
- *Is the project addressing a location on the regional, state or a local Pedestrian / Bicycle High Injury Network*



Active Transportation Plan – Criteria Updates

- The Mobility and Accessibility criterion addresses network gaps, multiple modes, barriers, bottlenecks, etc.
- Specific to pedestrian / bicycle modes, it addresses enhancing opportunities for active transportation -- *Modification:*
 - *Does the project provide active transportation improvements that are appropriate for the speed and volume of adjacent roadway facilities throughout the entire project's length, per the **Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Typology**.*
 - *If the project is adding bicycle facilities or bicycle facilities already exist within the project's limits, identify the current **Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress** if available (using PSRC's tool or local tools) and describe how the project will impact users' comfort.*



Opportunity Index – Reminders

- Aligning with current federal requirements
- Built in collaboration with the Equity Advisory Committee
- Focused on outcomes / needs rather than individual characteristics
- Tool for evaluation of projects in support of residents living in areas of Low Opportunity
 - *Same criteria, new tool*
- Combined Index built from four Index Categories – Transportation, Amenities, Housing, Economy



Opportunity Index – Criteria Updates

- Support for Centers: How will the project expand access to high, middle and/or living wage jobs for residents living in areas of Low / Lowest Opportunity from the Combined Index or one of the four Index Categories.
- Mobility and Accessibility: How does the project address disparities or gaps in the transportation system for residents living in areas of Low / Lowest Opportunity from the Combined Index or one of the four Index Categories.



Opportunity Index – Criteria Updates

- Outreach: Describe the outreach with residents living in areas of Low / Lowest Opportunity from the Combined Index or one of the four Index Categories, including best practice activities identified in PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance.
- Safety: How will the project address safety issues and improve conditions for residents living in areas of Low or Lowest Opportunity in the Combined Index or in one of the four Index Categories.



Opportunity Index – Criteria Updates

- Points earned from the **clear demonstration** of benefits to **residents living in areas of Low or Lowest Opportunity**
- Highest points if this is demonstrated for residents living in areas of Low or Lowest Opportunity in the **Combined Opportunity Index**
- Medium points if this is demonstrated for residents living in areas of Low or Lowest Opportunity in **one or more of the four Opportunity Index categories**
- Low points if this is not clearly demonstrated and/or does not impact residents living in any area of Low or Lowest Opportunity



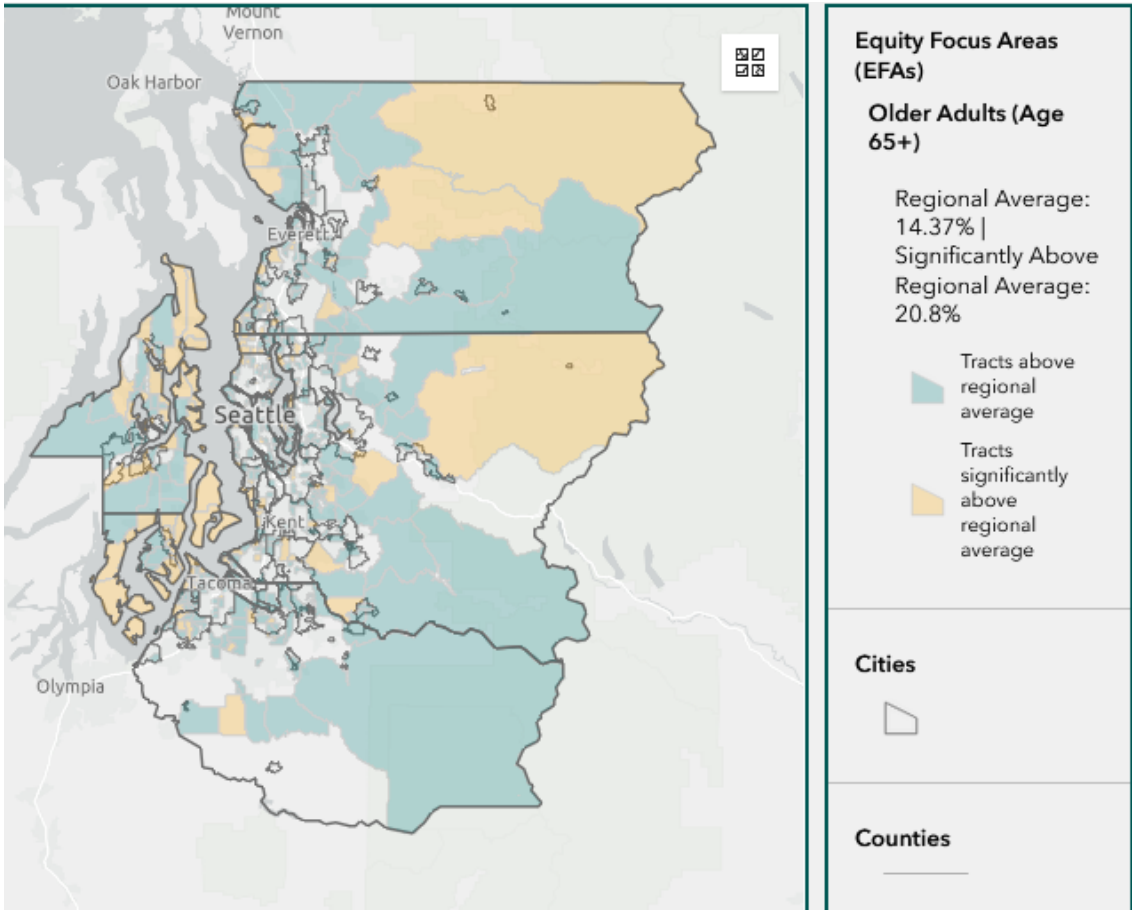
Opportunity Index – Reminders & Additional Info

- **Support for centers** is still the overarching policy foundation
- Previous process used demographic data to address the needs of underserved communities – 6 distinct population groups above the regional average at the Census tract level
 - Widespread coverage around the region
 - Within each criterion, applicants addressed benefits to one or more of these areas

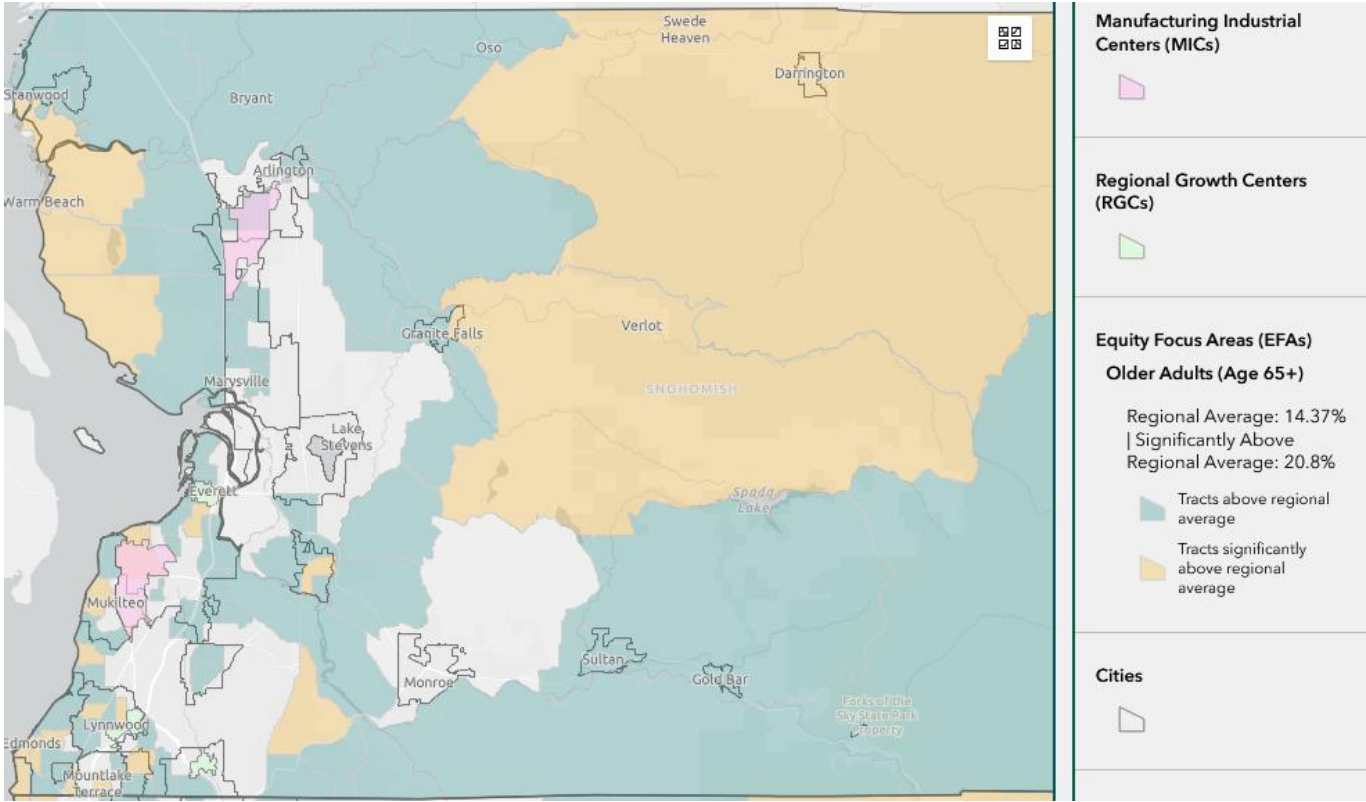


Opportunity Index – Reminders & Additional Info

For example, Older Adults demographic group



With Regional Centers lens



Opportunity Index – Reminders & Additional Info

- High level review of 2024 regional applications:
 - The top scoring projects (total ranked scores) received mostly Medium points for these particular questions
 - *Reminder, one question within each criteria category*
 - Only one of the top scoring projects received High points for each of these questions
 - *The rest were a mix of High, Medium and Low values*
 - A scan of the top scoring projects suggests they would all have been within or adjacent to an area of Low Opportunity for one of the four Index Categories



Resyncing Future Cycles

- Normally a 2-year project selection cycle for 2 years of federal funding
 - *E.g., 2024 process distributed FFY 2027-2028 funds*
- Process postponed one year – now conducted in 2027
- Options to get back on a 2-year cycle
 - *Also need to meet state and federal requirement for a fully programmed 4-year TIP*



Resyncing Future Cycles

- Option 1 = program 3 years of funding in 2027, back to regular schedule and process in 2029

Competition Year	Award Years	TIP Timeframe
2024	2027, 2028	2025-2028
2027	2029, 2030, 2031	2028-2031
2029	2032, 2033	2030-2033
2031	2034, 2035	2032-2035

- New 2-year cycle would now occur in odd years



Resyncing Future Cycles

- Option 2 = program 3 years of funding in 2027 and in 2030, back to regular schedule and process in 2032

Competition Year	Award Years	TIP Timeframe
2024	2027, 2028	2025-2028
2027	2029, 2030, 2031	2028-2031
2030	2032, 2033, 2034	2031-2034
2032	2035, 2036	2033-2036

- Returns 2-year cycle back to even years by 2032
- *Note: Awarding 2 years of funding in 2027 does not meet the 4-year TIP requirement*



Next Steps

- Finalizing language, guidance documents, supporting materials
- Briefings to countywides October – November
- Board discussions through end of year
- January 2027 – Adoption of *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Call for Projects anticipated February 2027
- *New web application system under development; volunteers to be solicited for testing in Fall*

