

Agenda

- Introductions
- Announcements
- Approval of September Meeting Summary
- TPB Debrief



Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Project Evaluation Committee Agenda

Date: **October 22, 2021** from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – **Extended Meeting**

Online Meeting Only: Use Zoom Connection Information Provided Below

1. **Introductions and Announcements (9:30)**
2. **Approve Meeting Summary for September 24, 2021***
3. **Transportation Policy Board Debrief (9:40)**

The 'At Work' report for the Transportation Policy Board meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021 is available on the PSRC website at: <https://www.psrc.org/tpb-meetings>:
4. **Discussion: Project Selection Task Force – Debrief and Next Steps* (9:45)**

Staff will provide an overview of the Task Force discussion held on October 14th and next steps for the November meeting. In particular, the committee will review the compromise proposal from PSRC that the Task Force unanimously passed related to the set-aside discussions and further work on equity. The Task Force proposed no further revisions to the remaining criteria, but staff is tasked with providing the updated full set of criteria by the November meeting, reflecting the revisions recommended to date and the final point values (see agenda item #5). Also to be discussed by the Task Force in November are the administrative details for the project selection process.
5. **Action: Project Evaluation Criteria (10:00)**

Staff is preparing a draft of the full set of project evaluation criteria, incorporating the revisions to safety and equity and the realignment among the three project categories as previously discussed. The committee will be asked to review and provide final feedback. *Materials will be sent to the committee in advance of the meeting.*
6. **Discussion / Action: Hardship Policy* (10:45)**

The Task Force provided preliminary feedback on the development of refinements to the existing *Exceptions* provision in the adopted Project Tracking Policies. In particular, staff is directed to develop further definition around "emergencies" and potential restrictions tied to their approval.
7. **Other Business (11:25)**
8. **Next Meeting: December 3, 2021: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**
9. **Adjourn (11:30)**

*Supporting materials attached



Project Selection Task Force Debrief

- Wrap-up of project evaluation criteria and set-asides
- *Compromise proposal – Equity Pilot Program*
 - No changes to existing set-asides
 - \$5.31m – *5% preservation delta* – set aside for the pilot
 - Will learn from impact of safety and equity criteria changes in the 2022 process
 - Will consult and develop with the new Regional Equity Advisory Committee in summer / fall 2022



Review of 2022 Draft FHWA Criteria

- Per previous discussions:
 - Incorporated Safety and Equity criteria changes
 - *Stand-alone criteria, set point values*
 - Realigned existing criteria to be consistent across project categories
 - “Moved” existing criteria points to safety and equity criteria



Hardship Policy

- Adopted Project Tracking policies include an *Exceptions* policy, under which certain requests may be entertained that deviate from the standard policies
- In general address emergency funding requests and / or additional extensions of time
- Expectations:
 - Phase will be fully funded
 - Phase will be implemented within six months of action
 - There is a compelling need for the exception



Hardship Policy

- Board interest in reviewing the *Exceptions* policy to include more parameters around “hardship” considerations
- Specifically:
 - *What is an “emergency?”*
 - *What are the limitations that might be applied if approved?*
 - E.g., previous requests for additional funding have been approved with a limit set on participation in a subsequent competition
- Interest in putting more policy structure and staff review around these requests before they are put before the board
- Task Force to consider for recommendation in November



Hardship Policy

- Definition of emergency examples:
 - Natural disasters
 - Major safety issues
 - Significant impacts to regional system and/or local population centers
 - *Funding shortfalls are not considered emergencies*
- Possibly different policy details if requesting *more time vs. additional funding*



Hardship Policy

- Potential limits / offsets
 - Sliding scale proposed --
 - Possibly no limitations on future funding cycles, e.g. if due to a natural disaster
 - For all other requests, potential limit to participation in the next funding cycle – by amount or number of applications
 - Could be dependent on amount of emergency request, number of existing projects, etc.



Hardship Policy

- Question:
 - In general, the existing policies presume projects have gone through a PSRC competition, and have therefore been reviewed and vetted
 - Should emergency funding requests be open to projects that have *not* gone through a competition at some point?



November Task Force: Administrative Details

- Estimates of available funding
 - *Will consult with FHWA / FTA – preliminary proposal is to use final 2021 allocation amounts*
- Number of applications per sponsor -- *No changes proposed*
- Limits on amount of requested funding -- *No changes proposed*
- Percentage split of funding between processes -- *No changes proposed*
- Contingency lists -- *No changes proposed*
- *Recap of streamlining discussions and final feedback*

