

PSRC Project Selection Update

Regional TDM Advisory Committee - February 9, 2022



Puget Sound Regional Council

Project Selection for PSRC's Federal Funds

- 2022 FHWA and FTA Project Selection
 - Overview and proposed revisions
 - Next steps
- TAP and RTCC Competitions
 - Overview and schedule



2022 FHWA and FTA Project Selection

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**
 - Several funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
 - In general, can fund roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, ITS, equipment, etc.
- **~\$200 million of FTA funds per year**
 - Several funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
 - Must be transit-related



Process Details

Federal Highway Administration Funds	Federal Transit Administration Funds
Regional Competition	Regional Competition
Countywide Competitions	Earned Share Distribution

All processes will:

- Follow **policy direction from Board**, as adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Follow **regional policies and procedures**
 - Consistent with VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan
 - Consistent with local comprehensive plans

Recommending Forums

Committees recommend to Transportation Policy Board; Executive Board makes final decision

FHWA processes:

Regional – Regional Project Evaluation Committee

Countywide forums –

- King County Project Evaluation Committee
- Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council
- Pierce County Transportation Coordinating Committee
- Snohomish County Infrastructure Coordination Committee

FTA process:

Regional FTA Caucus, Transportation Operators Committee



Project Evaluation Criteria

Project Evaluation Criteria include the following elements:

- Support for development of the center(s) (including housing / employment)
- Benefit to user groups
- Benefit to key demographic groups including people of color, people with low income, older adults, people with disabilities, highly impacted communities, areas of high/chronic unemployment/underemployment
- Mobility, accessibility, circulation
- Safety
- Active transportation
- Air quality / climate
- Project readiness



Project Selection Task Force

- A **Project Selection Task Force** is convened prior to each process
 - ✓ Review key policy issues and administrative procedures for PSRC's project selection processes
 - ✓ Recommend the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds* to the Transportation Policy Board
- Over 40 board members met **between April and November 2021** to review the policies and procedures for the upcoming 2022 project selection process.
- **2022 revisions** include:
 - ✓ Strengthening criteria related to safety and equity
 - ✓ Development of a new Equity Pilot Program

Next Steps for Project Selection

- **January 2022** – *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds* adopted
- **February 2022** – Call for projects launched
- **July 2022** – Project funding recommendations presented to PSRC boards
- **September 2022** – Public comment period on full 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including project funding recommendations
- **October 2022** – adoption of 2023-2026 Regional TIP
- **January 2023** – federal and state approvals



PSRC Transportation Alternatives Program

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a federal highway program for **community-based projects to enhance the transportation system.**
- Three categories of eligible activities:
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian
 - Environmental
 - Historic Resources
- Distributing 2022 – 2024 funds = \$13.5 million (\$4.5 M per year)
- Selection committee recommending 9 projects for funding



PSRC Rural Town Centers and Corridors

- PSRC's Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program (RTCC) provides federal highway funding for **projects in smaller towns and cities in rural areas** of the region.
- Distributing 2023 – 2024 funds = \$5.5 million (\$2.7 M per year)
- Selection committee recommending 8 projects for funding



Next Steps for TAP and RTCC

- **February 2022** – Transportation Policy Board releases projects for public comment
- **March 2022** – Project funding recommendations presented to PSRC boards
- **April 2022** – Approval into State TIP, funds available to projects

