

2022 Project Selection Recommendations

Transportation Policy Board
July 14, 2022



Photo: Everett, WA



PSRC Funds

Under the FAST Act, PSRC has received ~\$290 Million annually in federal transportation funds:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) ~\$90m

- Two funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ~\$200m

- Four funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each

❖ The 2022 project selection process is distributing FFY 2025-2026 FHWA funds

- the distribution of FTA funds is on hold pending further board discussions



Project Selection Process Overview

- Project Selection Task Force – extended set of meetings, April to November 2021
- Policy Framework adopted in January 2022
 - *Based on VISION 2050 policies*
 - *Provides Board direction for project selection*
 - *Detailed policies and procedures for conducting the process*
 - *Strengthened safety, equity criteria; set-aside for a future Equity Pilot Program*
- Call for Projects released in February
- Staff committees prepared project recommendations May-June 2022



Project Selection – Policy Review

Policy Framework and evaluation criteria based on *VISION 2050* policies

- Addresses:
 - ✓ Support for regional and local centers
 - ✓ Mobility, accessibility and circulation
 - ✓ Active transportation
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ Equity
 - ✓ Climate and air quality
- 4 ✓ Project readiness

Set-asides include:

- *bicycle / pedestrian*
- *preservation*
- *Rural Town Centers and Corridors program*



Project Selection Process – FHWA Funds

Shared process - Regional and Countywide competitions

Regional competition

- \$64 million available
- 31 project submitted totaling \$159 million
- 12 projects recommended

Countywide competitions

- \$123 million available
- 167 projects submitted across all four counties
- Total request of over \$334 million
- 71 projects recommended



Project Outcomes

Highlights of the 83 recommended projects:

- 39 projects improve designated freight facilities
- 40 projects improve facilities serving transit routes
- 15 projects improve intersections
- 4 projects include decarbonization elements



Project Outcomes

Highlights of the 83 recommended projects:

- 44 projects include bicycle and pedestrian elements
- 29 projects address preservation and maintenance
- 73 projects are located / providing improvements in one or more equity focus areas
 - 57 projects in areas with higher proportions of people of color and/or people of low income, specifically



Project Outcomes

- Of the 44 projects including bicycle and pedestrian elements:
 - 20 provide separated facilities (multiuse paths, protected or separated bike lanes)
 - 28 provide sidewalks
 - 15 provide bicycle lanes
 - 17 provide other facilities or amenities, such as sharrows, enhanced pedestrian crossings, etc.



Safety Highlights

Criteria strengthened in 2022:

- In addition to “addressing safety and security,” also –
 - protection of vulnerable users
 - reducing reliance on enforcement
 - designing for decreased speeds
 - reflecting adopted safety policies



Safety Highlights

For reference, FHWA's Safe Systems Approach identifies proven countermeasures, e.g.:

- Mitigating roadway departure – rumble strips, curve improvements, edge lines, median barriers
- Intersection improvements – access management, turn lanes, conflict reductions, roundabouts, signal adjustments
- Bicycle / pedestrian improvements – visibility enhancements, dedicated lanes, flashing beacons, leading signal intervals, medians, road diets, walkways
- Other – lighting, pavement components, safety plans



Safety Highlights

Highlights of the 83 recommended projects:

- Approximately 1/3 of the recommended projects are related to preservation, transportation demand management or equipment
- Of the remaining projects, all but one includes at least one of the FHWA proven countermeasures
 - 77% include two or more countermeasures
 - The one remaining project addresses safety through adaptive signal systems and managing traffic flow / reducing vehicle congestion



Safety Highlights

Key examples of safety features included in recommended projects:

- Combination of walkways, bike lanes and lighting
- Roundabouts and other reductions of left turn conflicts at intersections
- Crosswalk visibility enhancements and rectangular rapid flashing beacons
- Provision of medians, pedestrian refuge islands



Equity Highlights

Stand-alone criterion with increased point values

Expanded elements:

- Additional focus groups: People with limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees and transit dependent populations
- Disparities / gaps in the transportation system
- How community outreach will / has influenced project development
- Mitigation strategies in place for potential displacement

Expanded guidance and resources



Equity Highlights

- **High Scoring Projects: Disparities / Gaps**
- **Targeting disparities / gaps experienced by marginalized communities**
 - Creating non-motorized options, addressing missing links, building infill stations, electrifying buses, etc.
 - Increasing transit reliability, reducing travel time
 - Improving access to opportunity (e.g., employment)
 - Reducing emissions and improving health outcomes



Equity Highlights

- **High Scoring Projects: Outreach**
- **Outreach to marginalized communities clearly influenced the project**
 - Advisory groups, focus groups, CBOs, religious organizations, Tribes, etc.
 - Fairs, festivals, farmer's markets, public meetings, workshops, open houses, phone calls, surveys, etc.
 - Interpreters and translated materials
 - Staff (e.g., engineers) participate in engagement



Equity Highlights

- **High Scoring Projects: Displacement**
- **Considered area's level of displacement risk and jurisdictions anti-displacement strategies**
 - Projects located in areas of low displacement risk
 - Projects located areas of high / medium risk with effective displacement mitigation strategies
 - Regardless of if project responsible for displacement or not, increasing likelihood marginalized communities remain in these areas and benefit from transportation investment



Equity Pilot Program

New set-aside for an Equity Pilot Program

- Funded with 5% set-aside of FHWA funds (\$6 million)
- Work with the EAC on development of the program from the beginning
- Share feedback on current equity criteria for next process
- *Anticipate beginning work with EAC in January 2023*

Next Steps

July 2022 – Board action on project recommendations

September 2022 – Public comment on Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

October 2022 – Board adoption of 2023-2026 Regional TIP

January 2022 – Federal approval of TIP



Recommended Action

The Transportation Policy Board is asked to:

Recommend Executive Board approval of the projects recommended for PSRC's FHWA funds as identified in Attachments A and B, including the prioritized contingency lists of projects should additional funds become available prior to the next project selection process

