



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only**

**Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 from 5:30-7:30 pm**

**Optional: Pre-Meeting Icebreaker from 5:00-5:30 pm and Post-Meeting Q&A from 7:30-8:00 pm**

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#### **Optional Pre-Meeting Icebreaker (5:00) – Charles Patton, PSRC**

##### **1. Welcome and Roll Call (5:30) – Co-Chairs**

##### **2. Reports**

- a. Meeting Summary for March 3, 2022\*
- b. EAC Member Report Out
- c. Staff Announcements

##### **3. Discussion Item (5:45)**

- a. Regional Transportation Plan Feedback and Next Steps\* – *Kelly McGourty, PSRC*

##### **4. Discussion Item (6:00)**

- a. Update on the Equitable Engagement Guidance\* – *Maggie Moore & Gary Simonson, PSRC*

##### **5. Break (6:15)**

##### **6. Discussion Item (6:20)**

- a. Updates on the Development of the Equity Tracker\* – *Brian Lee & Mary Richards, PSRC*

##### **7. Zoom Poll (7:25)**

##### **8. Adjourn (7:30)**

##### **9. Next meeting: May 5, 2022**

#### **Optional Post-Meeting Q&A (7:30) – Charles Patton, PSRC**

\*Supporting materials attached.

**\*Zoom Remote Connection Details on page 2**

## Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join the webinar, please click the following link: <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/89573552380?pwd=aGtKdlh5dFMxM0RXbDNCSWxGaWtUQT09> and enter Passcode: 108426.
- To join by phone, call 833 548 0276 or 833 548 0282 and enter Webinar ID: 895 7355 2380 and Passcode: 108426.
- Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 711.
- العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact-center/language-assistance>.



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Date: March 3, 2022**

**Location: Remote Only**

**Presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website:**

**<https://www.psrc.org/eac-meetings>. Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.**

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### **Introductions & Welcome**

Chris Stearns, from King County, and Shannon Turner, from Kitsap County, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chairs welcomed everyone, and Shannon asked Charles for a brief staff report. Charles announced that PSRC is hiring for a new Senior Public Engagement Specialist, and asked members to spread this information in their networks.

Mikayla began the roll call for attendance and asked if anyone was calling in on the phone. During the roll call, members responded to the icebreaker question, "What's a restaurant you really enjoy in your part of the region?"

### **EAC Member Report Out**

Committee members were given an opportunity to share out about upcoming events or projects in their region. There were no reports during the meeting.

### **Update on the Regional Housing Strategy**

Laura Benjamin, Senior Planner, provided a follow up briefing from the December and January updates on the draft Regional Housing Strategy. Laura also briefed the committee on how the Executive Board incorporated the committee's feedback into the strategy and next steps in regional housing work.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Laura Benjamin at [lbenjamin@psrc.org](mailto:lbenjamin@psrc.org).

### **Regional Transportation Plan: Coordinated Mobility Plan**

Jean Kim, Senior Planner, provided additional details on the Coordinated Mobility Plan and outreach activities conducted specifically related to this element of the Regional Transportation Plan. This discussion builds on the past two months of briefings provided to Equity Advisory Committee on various aspects of the Regional Transportation Plan. The plan has been released for a public review and comment period which runs through February 28, 2022, and board action is scheduled for April.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Jean Kim at [jkim@psrc.org](mailto:jkim@psrc.org).

### **Equitable Engagement Guidance for Local Jurisdictions**

Maggie Moore and Gary Simonson, Senior Planners, provided a briefing on the draft Equitable Engagement Guidance for local jurisdictions, and discussed future engagement work with the Equity Advisory Committee.

You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions? Contact Maggie Moore at [mmoore@psrc.org](mailto:mmoore@psrc.org) or Gary Simonson at [gsimonson@psrc.org](mailto:gsimonson@psrc.org).

### **Adjourn**

At the close of the meeting, members participated in two polls; one to determine if members were interested in additional meeting time in the future, the other to evaluate the current meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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### **Members Represented at the Table**

See attached attendance roster.

### **PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present**

Mikayla Svob, PSRC  
Charles Patton, PSRC  
Jean Kim, PSRC  
Maggie Moore, PSRC  
Gary Simonson, PSRC  
Laura Benjamin, PSRC  
Kelly McGourty, PSRC  
Noah Boggess, PSRC  
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC

## PSRC Equity Advisory Committee - Attendance Roster

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## Puget Sound Regional Council

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

April 7, 2022

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning

**SUBJECT: Regional Transportation Plan Feedback and Next Steps**

### **IN BRIEF**

The Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) has received briefings on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan between January and March 2022. These briefings have included an overview of the draft plan, outreach and engagement activities, the incorporation of equity in planning and analyses, and specific information on the Coordinated Mobility Plan addressing transportation challenges of individuals due to age, income or ability.

At their meeting on April 7 the EAC will receive a final update on the draft plan, including a summary of the feedback provided to date and how it is being addressed moving forward.

### **DISCUSSION**

Development of the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) began in early 2020, and adoption by PSRC's General Assembly is expected on May 26, 2022. The EAC was established in late 2021, and, recognizing the timing constraints, received a series of briefings on the RTP between January and March 2022. These briefings had a specific focus on the incorporation of equity in the plan, including planning and policy elements, outreach and engagement, and regional analysis and performance metrics.

Equity considerations are included throughout the draft plan, including a regional equity analysis that provides an evaluation of the plan's performance and the distribution of projects. Significant community outreach has occurred, including outreach related to the Coordinated Mobility Plan which addresses transportation needs and challenges faced by individuals due to age, income or ability.

Throughout the briefings to the EAC over the last three months, helpful feedback and insights have been provided on specific topics. A summary of the themes heard is provided below and will also be provided to PSRC's boards. Provided after each section is additional information related to next steps, which may include specific proposed amendments being considered for the final RTP, future PSRC work programs, and/or coordination with specific transportation providers.

### **Future Data and Analysis Improvements:**

- Include affordability as a metric and goal in the RTP.
- Continue to monitor and consider the impacts of COVID-19 on travel projections (e.g., ridership, traffic).
- Future transportation analyses and forecasting should take into account the likelihood that low-income communities and communities of color could potentially be displaced from central urban areas.
- Traveling half-a-mile to a transit stop may be unreasonable for some people with disabilities. The half-a-mile metric should be revised to consider the time it takes for people with various disabilities to reasonably get to a transit stop.
- There is a desire for shorter travel times. Develop clear goals for wait times and travel times.

*Next steps: PSRC will continue to seek improvements to our modeling and analysis, including those related to displacement risk. Prior to the next RTP cycle staff will engage further with communities, staff committees and other stakeholders regarding metrics and measures for travel times and walksheds, in particular related to age/income/ability factors. PSRC's household travel survey and additional data will be mined into the future to monitor and adapt as necessary relative to COVID and future travel conditions. Lastly, PSRC's boards are currently considering proposed amendments related to the Coordinated Mobility Plan, particularly related to ADA planning and implementation.*

### **Future Outreach Improvements:**

- Future RTP engagement should include increased outreach with Tribal partners.
- Continue to share short videos summarizing the RTP in multiple languages in the future.
- Allow the public to provide feedback on future RTPs via text.
- PSRC should explore innovative ways to conduct outreach with marginalized communities that don't have access to the internet and can't engage virtually.
- Specific to transportation services, engage with members to provide additional support for residents with limited English proficiency so they can take advantage of the transportation resources that are being offered (e.g., video demonstrations for those who are illiterate).

*Next steps: PSRC commits to continued improvements in future outreach and engagement efforts, including those described above, and will share these comments with our Communications Department and outreach teams. We will also share these suggestions and best practices with our member agencies, including the various transit agencies throughout the region.*

### **Health and Safety:**

- Encourage transit agencies to consider future COVID-19 variants when designing buses for optimal air flow within vehicles in Transit Safety Plans.
- Invite more people from the healthcare area to serve on the Special Needs Transportation Committee to improve transit accessibility to health services.
- Our public transit stations aren't welcoming (e.g., they're dirty; there aren't enough shelters and seating areas; there are no amenities and services such as food, essentials, etc.).
- Specific to the strategy in the Coordinated Mobility Plan related to strengthening the partnership and coordination between transportation and health care providers, provide greater emphasis to address the needs of equity focus areas.

*Next steps: PSRC will share these comments with our transit agency partners, and will review the Safety element of the draft plan for the opportunity to strengthen language related to personal health and safety. We will also continue to work with our partners from the health field, who currently serve on various PSRC committees and boards, for further interaction and participation on the Special Needs Transportation Committee.*

### **Terminology:**

- Review terms and language used and remove outdated references (e.g., "special transportation needs").

*Next steps: PSRC will review the draft plan for any outdated terms, and will work with our mobility partners and the Special Needs Transportation Committee on the appropriate terminology to use moving forward.*

### **Next Steps**

The Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board will review proposed amendments to the RTP at their meetings in March and April. The final plan is scheduled for adoption on May 26, 2022.

### **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org), or 206-971-3601.





# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

April 7, 2022

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Maggie Moore, Senior Planner, and Gary Simonson, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT: Update on the Equitable Engagement Guidance**

## IN BRIEF

Following up on the March briefing on the draft Equitable Engagement Guidance, PSRC staff will provide an update on how the committee's feedback was incorporated into the draft guidance document and next steps on release.

## DISCUSSION

### ***Background***

PSRC develops data, guidance, and resources to support implementation of VISION through local planning. Guidance documents developed so far are available on the [VISION 2050 Planning Resources](#) page.

Planners from cities and counties in the region have asked for more resources on conducting equitable engagement for their local comprehensive plan updates. PSRC staff are developing a guidance document on equitable engagement, with examples from PSRC and the region.

The Equitable Engagement Guidance document will highlight four key considerations when conducting community engagement, as well as strategies for their implementation:

- Identify Impacted Communities
- Develop Engagement Strategy
- Establish Meaningful Relationships
- Meet Communities Where They're At

### ***EAC Input on the Draft Equitable Engagement Guidance***

A summary of the feedback received for the Committee at their March meeting is listed below. This feedback will be incorporated into the draft Equitable Engagement Guidance document.

- **Updated terminology.** Members expressed interest in updating terminology from “vulnerable populations”. This language has been updated to “impacted communities” in the draft document.
- **Ongoing relationships.** Members noted the importance of establishing relationships with community members to help identify groups, such as individuals that are undocumented and hidden households, that may not be identified in traditional data sources.
- **Establishing level of influence.** Members emphasized the importance of making it clear what authority or impact community members can have on the decision-making.
- **Combining online engagement with in-person techniques.** Members pointed out the limitations that some community members have in participating in online engagement opportunities. Suggestions included using in-person engagement techniques to cement relationships.
- **Hire outreach staff from within communities.** Members highlighted the importance of having community members engage with one another in outreach. Suggestions including hiring consultants from communities that have already established trust with community members.

### **Next Steps**

A draft of the Equitable Engagement Guidance is expected to be posted on PSRC’s website in the coming weeks. Further updates can be made to this document over the next few months as more resources are developed by PSRC.

### **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Maggie Moore, Senior Planner, at [mmoore@psrc.org](mailto:mmoore@psrc.org) or Gary Simonson, Senior Planner, at [gsimonson@psrc.org](mailto:gsimonson@psrc.org).



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

April 7, 2022

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Brian H. Y. Lee, Ph.D., Program Manager, PSRC

**SUBJECT:** Updates on the Development of the Equity Tracker

## IN BRIEF

Following an introductory briefing on the development of the Equity Tracker in February, PSRC staff will highlight priorities heard from that meeting's discussions and Zoom polls regarding how best to engage with the committee on this project and address questions posed anonymously by members. Based on those priorities, staff will discuss with members details on the data, context, and solutions elements of the Equity Tracker and offer an opportunity for members to examine draft webpages and provide feedback on their experiences using them.

## DISCUSSION

### ***Background***

PSRC is developing an Equity Tracker centered on [VISION 2050](#). It will use a variety of data to paint a broad picture of wellbeing for people of different communities in our region. This public-facing set of tools and resources will track progress on equity-related [VISION 2050](#) goals and policies. It will also allow the public to hold PSRC and others accountable as we work towards a region where race no longer predicts life outcomes and people have improved choices in where they live and how they get around.

The Equity Tracker will complement a wide selection of existing technical tools and data resources. PSRC has a robust [Data Program](#) and existing [Equity Resources](#) that support agency work programs and help center equity in analyses for the development of regional plans and strategies. As a significant undertaking within the Data and Research component of the [Regional Equity Strategy](#), the Equity Tracker will add to the suite of tools and resources available for elevating equity in agency work. Further, it will enhance PSRC's ability to provide technical assistance to support members, stakeholders, and the public in pursuit of their own equity objectives.

PSRC staff is taking an iterative approach to develop the Equity Tracker and starting with a bounded set of priorities for the initial version. We envision subsequent versions to include periodic improvements and the addition of more features and functionalities.

### ***Engagement with the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)***

In the [February EAC meeting](#), PSRC staff introduced the Equity Tracker project to members and engaged with them on its development. Through discussions, questions and answers, and Zoom polls, the committee considered [options for future engagement](#) with the staff project team. Members expressed a desire to learn more about “data, context, and solutions,” the three main components for each life outcome being measured and tracked. With respect to options of involvement in the development process, members identified testing draft products and providing feedback on specific materials through surveys as top choices. Based on this feedback, PSRC staff will provide additional details on the data, context, and solutions elements of the Equity Tracker in the April meeting. We will also offer an opportunity for members to examine draft webpages after the meeting and provide feedback on their experiences using them.

### ***Data, context, and solutions elements of the Equity Tracker***

The structure of the Equity Tracker will include three main components for each life outcome being measured and tracked: 1) data; 2) context, and 3) solutions.

**Data:** The heart of the Equity Tracker will be data from trusted sources that are regularly updated and reliably available in suitable detail for analysis in the region. The Equity Tracker will visualize the data in interactive ways, highlight notable patterns, make appropriate connections, and explain key findings in accessible ways for public consumption.

Expanding on equity analyses performed in [VISION 2050](#) and the recently drafted [Regional Transportation Plan](#), the Equity Tracker will focus on the needs of communities that may have historically faced disadvantage and underinvestment due to their race/ethnicity, income, age, ability, or other socioeconomic characteristics. Throughout the Equity Tracker, wherever possible with available data, disparities for the following groups will be measured and tracked:

- People of color,
- People with low incomes (below 200% of the federal poverty threshold),
- Older adults (aged 65 and above),
- Youth (ages 5-17),
- People with disabilities, and
- People with limited English proficiency (LEP).

PSRC staff will discuss with EAC members on how disparities for the above-mentioned groups will be measured and tracked, as well as the constraints for different options.

**Context:** The data component will be preceded by regional context, which will include explanations of why different life outcomes are important indicators of people's wellbeing and how selected data can help provide insights on disparities. The context will also point toward root causes of equity gaps, touch upon factors that help exacerbate them, and make relevant connections to the legacy of structural racism.

PSRC staff will solicit ideas from the EAC committee on how to add personal stories to complement information on planning and policy context.

**Solutions:** Following the data component will be ideas for solutions. They will include available resources on tackling disparities in different life outcomes, examples of what communities in the region and in other parts of the country are doing to face different challenges, and prognosis of current regional efforts.

PSRC staff will brainstorm with EAC members on ways to crowdsource available resources for solutions and connect with different organizations on their efforts to close various equity gaps.

### **Next Steps**

After the April EAC meeting, PSRC staff will offer an opportunity for members to examine draft webpages and provide feedback on their experiences using them. Members will be emailed instructions on how to access the draft product and respond to a brief survey.

### **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Brian H. Y. Lee, Ph.D., Program Manager, at [BLee@psrc.org](mailto:BLee@psrc.org), or Mary Richards, Assistant Planner, at [MRichards@psrc.org](mailto:MRichards@psrc.org).