

Equity Advisory Committee Update

PSRC Growth Management Policy Board

January 5, 2023



Puget Sound Regional Council

Agenda

1. The role of the Equity Advisory Committee
2. Year in Review
3. Looking Ahead
4. Discussion & Feedback



Regional Equity Strategy



2023 Cohort Outreach

Fall 2022

- Solicited applications
- Blogs & social media posts
- Translated materials
- Interviews
- Onboarding

Call for Applications

PSRC is currently accepting applications to join the 2023 cohort of the **Equity Advisory Committee**. Applications are due **Monday, October 10, 2022**.

Candidates should submit an online application, along with up to two references that can speak to the candidate's qualifications, connections to their community, and commitment to racial equity. Candidates selected to move forward will be asked to participate in a panel interview. Applications and interviews will be conducted by current committee members and PSRC staff.

Application Materials

English	+
中文 Simplified Chinese	+
Soomaali Somali	+
Español Spanish	+
中國人 Traditional Chinese	+
Tiếng việt Vietnamese	+

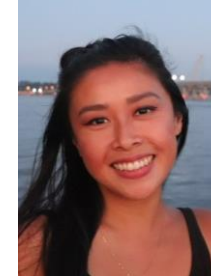
Community Engagement

Equity Advisory Committee

- Center equity in PSRC work
- Involve stakeholders early and often
- Co-create Equity Strategy



Ben Sung Henry



Annie Tran



Debbie Lacy



Hien "Elly" Trinh



Lalita Uppala



Lisa Espinosa



Megan Espinoza



Autrina Martindale



Jewel Shepherd-Sampson



Shannon Turner



Brendan Nelson



Laurenne Sayles



Julis Moss



Julia Jannon-Shields



Lupe Valtierra-Prieto



Donne Bonner



Thanh Nguyen



Michelle Stewart



Mindy Woods

Regional Representation

Counties

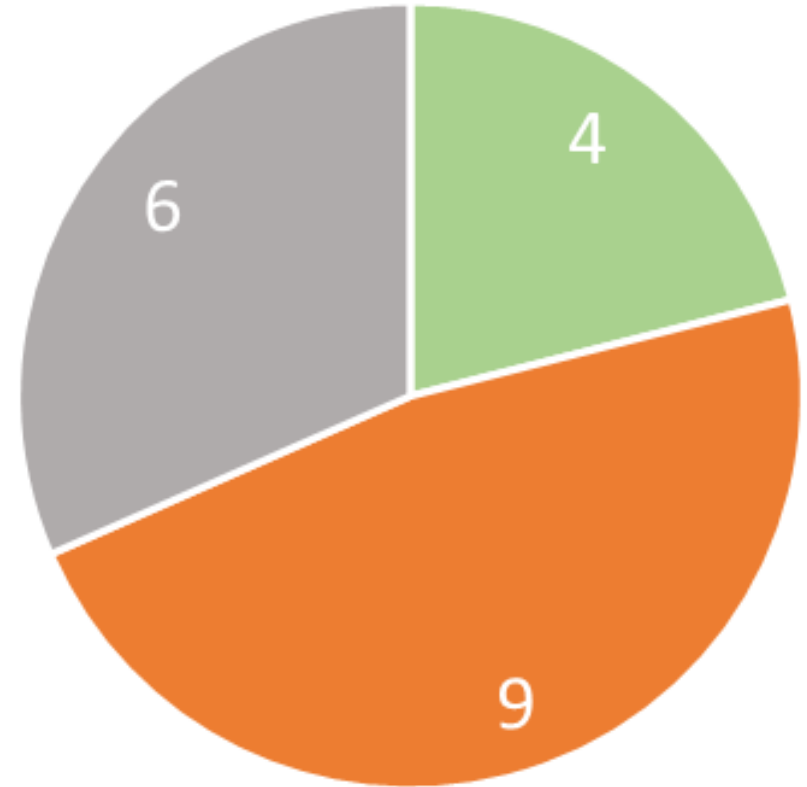
- King: 9 members
- Kitsap: 2 members
- Pierce: 4 members
- Snohomish: 4 members



Roster Demographics

Race / Ethnicity

- Asian American & Pacific Islander
- Black
- Multi-racial

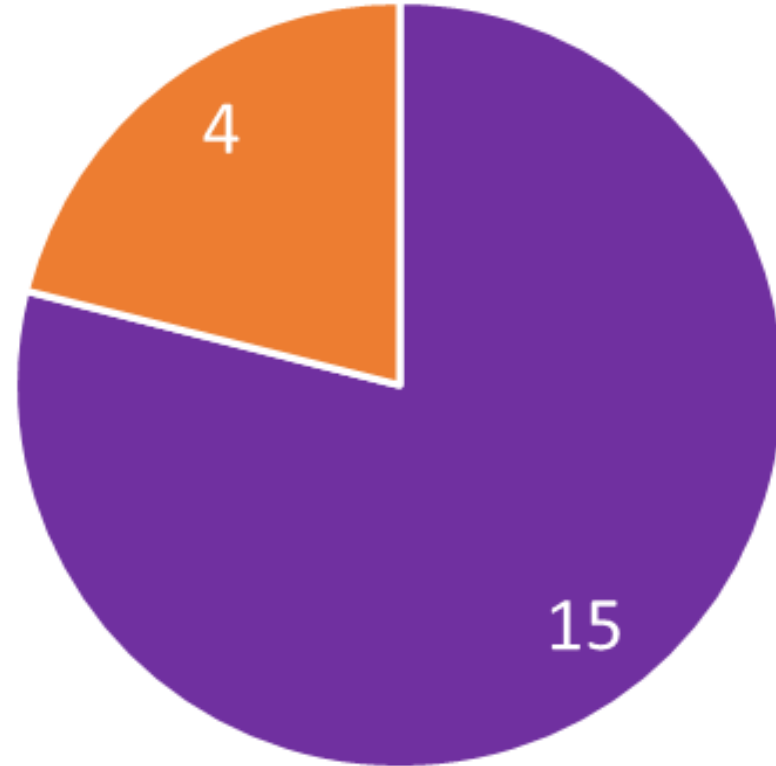


<https://www.psrc.org/committee/equity-advisory-committee>

Roster Demographics

Gender

- Men
- Women



EAC Experience

Member Feedback

- EAC members' voices are valued
- Thoughtful, engaging discussions on important topics
- Clear, thorough, well-organized presentations
- EAC members ask great questions and share powerful ideas
- Appreciate sharing data and resources



Peer Agencies

MPOs with Equity Committees

- Atlanta Regional Council
 - Transportation Equity Advisory Group (TEAG)
- Met Council – Minneapolis
 - Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
- Metro – Portland
 - Committee on Racial Equity (CORE)

2022 Work Program-Regional Planning Projects

Regional Housing Strategy

- EAC reviewed the GMPB recommended Regional Housing Strategy in January and provided feedback
- Regional Housing Strategy was adopted by the PSRC Executive Board in February of 2022
- Final Regional Housing Strategy brought before the EAC at March meeting

Regional Housing Strategy-EAC Feedback

- **NIMBYism**
 - *The Implementation Table was updated to include expanded language on community engagement.*
- **Housing Near Transit**
 - *The Supply strategy “Allow for more multi-family housing choices near transit to provide greater access for more people” was updated to emphasize the need to prioritize land for people and housing rather than land for cars and parking near light rail stations.*
- **Unhoused People**
 - *The introductory narrative now includes additional language on the connection between the lack of affordable housing and an increase in unhoused people, particularly people of color.*
- **Publicly Owned Housing**
 - *Language on publicly owned housing was updated in the Stability and Subsidy sections.*
- **Root Causes of the Housing Crisis**
 - *The draft strategy acknowledged this in the narrative text that talks about the impact of increased demand for housing.*

2022 Work Program-Regional Planning Projects

Regional Transportation Plan

- EAC provided extensive input on the Regional Transportation Plan, Project Selection, and Engagement methods
- Discussed at January, February, and March meetings
- The Regional Transportation Plan was unanimously recommended for adoption by the Executive Board in April 2022
- Adopted by the General Assembly in May 2022

Regional Transportation Plan-EAC Feedback

- **Future Data and Analysis Improvements:**

- *Include affordability as a metric and goal.*
- *Traveling half-a-mile to a transit stop may be unreasonable for some people with disabilities and should be reconsidered.*
- *Develop clear goals for wait times and travel times.*

- **Future Outreach Improvements:**

- *Future engagement should include increased outreach with Tribal partners.*
- *PSRC should explore innovative ways to conduct outreach with marginalized communities, such as those with limited English proficiency and those that don't have access to the internet.*

- **Health and Safety:**

- *Invite more people from the healthcare area to serve on the Special Needs Transportation Committee.*
- *Encourage transit providers to invest in safe and welcoming transit stations.*
- *Provide greater emphasis on coordination between transportation and health care.*

- **Terminology:**

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

Regional Equity Strategy

The Strategy includes a suite of resources co-created with the Equity Advisory Committee. It will provide guidance to help members and staff work towards the region's equity goals.



Capacity Building

- ▶ Learning Opportunities
- ▶ Prioritizing Equity
- ▶ Inclusive Procurement
- ▶ Hiring and Retention



Data and Research

- ▶ Equity Tracker Data
- ▶ Data and Analysis
- ▶ Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report



Community Engagement

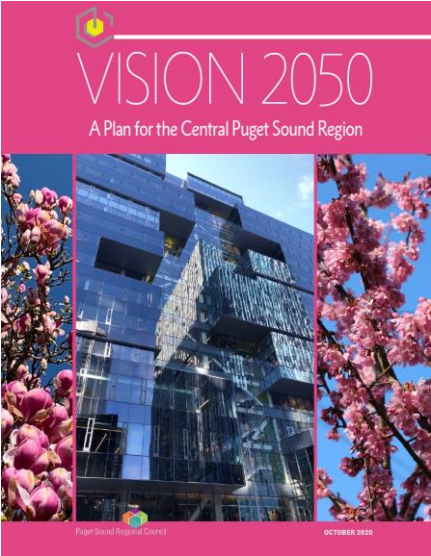
- ▶ Equity Advisory Committee
- ▶ Anti-Displacement Organizations Report
- ▶ Equitable Engagement Guidance



Best Practices

- ▶ Racial Equity Impact Assessment
- ▶ Equity Planning Guidance

Equity and the Plan Update Process

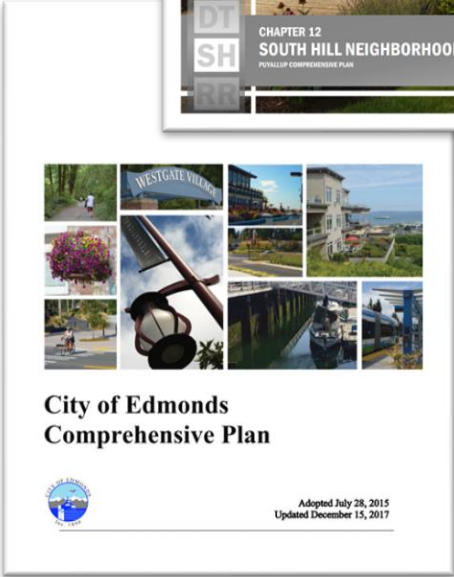
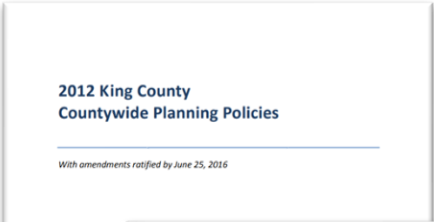


VISION 2050 PLANNING RESOURCES
Plan Review Manual
May 2021

Regional Collaboration	
The plan supports collaboration for a healthy environment, thriving communities, and opportunities for all , including coordination with other jurisdictions and agencies, tribes, ports, military installations, and adjacent regions.	
Policies and programs should:	
Support regional collaboration	Page/Policy Reference
✓ Include a statement about how the plan relates to countywide planning policies, VISION 2050, and planning requirements of the Growth Management Act	
✎ Coordinate with other jurisdictions, agencies, tribes, ports, military installations, special purpose districts, and adjacent regions (RCW 36.70A.070(6)(a)(v), MPP-RC-1, RC-4-5)	
✎ Prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and historically underserved communities to ensure all people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve quality of life and address past inequities (MPP-RC-2)	
✎ Address land use, transportation, and housing opportunities and challenges related to military installations, when applicable (MPP-RC-6)	
✓ Prioritize investments in centers, including regional centers, countywide centers, high-capacity transit areas with a station area plan, and other local centers (MPP-RC-8-9)	
✓ Explore funding sources, changes to regulatory, pricing, taxing, and expenditure practices, and other fiscal tools to meet infrastructure and other needs (MPP-RC-10-11, RC-Action-7, RC-Action-9)	
Additional comments on Regional Collaboration or additional documents to share [optional]: _____	



REGIONAL EQUITY STRATEGY



Regional Equity Strategy

The Strategy includes a suite of resources co-created with the Equity Advisory Committee. It will provide guidance to help members and staff work towards the region's equity goals.



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Data and Research

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Community Engagement

- ▶ Equity Advisory Committee
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- ▶ Equitable Engagement Guidance



Best Practices

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- ▶ Equity Planning Guidance



Data and Research



Equity Tracker (Upcoming Spring 2023)

Public facing dashboard that quantifies equity related policies in VISION 2050 to track, explain, and share solutions for disparities.



Data and Analysis

Conduct research on racial equity and provide data support for other REAP teams.



Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report (Upcoming Spring 2023)

Historical overview of structural racism in the Puget Sound region and how this history informs existing disparities.

RES Data and Research-EAC Feedback

Equity Tracker

- **Data**
 - *PSRC should measure and track disparities for disadvantaged groups*
- **Context**
 - *Data should include personal stories to complement data*
- **Solutions**
 - *Available resources for tackling disparities should be provided*

Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report

- **New topics**
 - *The report should address additional topics such as homelessness, the racial wealth gap, incarceration, etc.*
- **Regional examples**
 - *Additional examples of structural racism should be woven through the report (e.g., segregated wartime housing in Bainbridge Island)*
- **Broader scope**
 - *Staff should tell more complete story of racial impact of policies such as the G.I. Bill and write the report not only for planning staff but CBOs, as well*



Community Engagement



Equity Advisory Committee (Launched Fall 2021)

Co-create products with staff and the Executive Board, as well as advise PSRC committees and boards on policies and programs with an equity lens.



Anti-Displacement Organizations Report (Upcoming Spring 2023)

Develop a directory to connect member agencies and interested parties to organizations that are developing locally appropriate and community-driven solutions for displacement. Explore potential opportunities to support these efforts.



Equitable Engagement Guidance (Available Now)

An equitable engagement guidebook that empowers member agencies and PSRC staff to develop and implement engagement plans for marginalized communities.

RES Community Engagement-EAC Feedback

Anti-Displacement Organizations Report

- **Lead with positive engagement**
 - *PSRC should ask CBOs about their mission and accomplishments, not just the challenges they face*
- **Value time of CBOs**
 - *Do as much independent research as possible, so CBOs are not asked mundane questions*
- **Additional contacts**
 - *EAC provided many additional CBO contacts for PSRC staff to conduct outreach*

Equitable Engagement Guidance

- **Update terminology**
 - *PSRC should replace outdated terms*
- **Ongoing relationships**
 - *Engagement should include relationship building with community members to better reach residents*
- **Combine online engagement with in-person techniques**
 - *In-person engagement is needed to include those unable to access online engagement platforms*
- **Hire within communities**
 - *PSRC should hire consultants from specific communities to engage groups they actively participate in*



Best Practices



Racial Equity Impact Assessment (Upcoming Spring 2023)

Help cities and counties assess the impact of planning initiatives and implementation efforts on different populations.



Equity Planning Guidance (Upcoming Winter 2023)

A resource for cities and counties to address racial disparities in housing, transportation, and other policies and planning.

RES Best Practices-EAC Feedback

Racial Equity Impact Assessment

- **Structuring the assessment**
 - *Checklist, worksheet, and glossary of terms should be included*
- **Leading with racial equity and intersectionality**
 - *Materials should be clear about assessing racial equity and how it intersects with other marginalized groups*
- **Prepare staff**
 - *PSRC should provide resources and trainings to prepare local staff members for assessments*
- **Define success**
 - *PSRC should more clearly define how success will be measured*

Equity Planning Guidance

- **Representation**
 - *Hearing from community members who are often excluded is key in the planning process*
- **Best practices and case studies**
 - *Highlight equitable planning projects around the region makes planning for equity more achievable*
- **Equity across planning efforts**
 - *Equity should be included in all planning projects, such as planning for transit*



Capacity Building



Learning Opportunities (Ongoing)

Expand staff and board knowledge of racial equity and its role in the agency's work.



Prioritizing Equity (Ongoing)

Explores and implements strategies that systemically elevate equity across the agency.



Inclusive Procurement (Ongoing)

Help PSRC spend its resources to improve equity outcomes by proactively working to create a system where BIPOC and/or women-owned businesses experience elevated participation in PSRC procurement and contracting.



Hiring and Retention (Ongoing)

Implement strategies that create a staff that reflects the diversity of the region and retains talent by establishing an equitable workplace. Expand staff and board knowledge of racial equity and its role in the agency's work.

Learning Opportunities

Board Member Feedback

- The presentation was very localized. The information was about our community.
- I enjoyed all of it: Presentation. Polls. Breakout.
- I appreciated the depth of historical knowledge presented, showing how oppressive systems have been built over time.
- Worth the time. Very well done. I would recommend the class to my colleagues.

<https://www.psrc.org/about-us/media-hub/watch-joint-board-session-institutional-and-structural-racism>



Looking Ahead to 2023

- Complete Regional Equity Strategy
- Project Selection Equity Pilot Program begins in January
- Co-create workplan



2023 Work Program-Equity Pilot Program

New set-aside for a Transportation Equity Pilot Program

- For the 2022 process, \$6 million are set aside for a new Equity Pilot Program.
 - *This amount equals 5% of the total FHWA Transportation Funds*
- The EAC will develop this pilot starting in January 2023, with the following scope:
 - *Evaluate the outcomes of the 2022 transportation project selection process and the effectiveness of the revisions to the equity and safety criteria*
 - *Advise on the scope, eligibility and criteria for the equity pilot competition*
 - *Advise on procedural roles and responsibilities for conducting the competition*



Other Potential Topics for 2023

- Regional Safety Plan
- Household Transportation Survey
- Regional Housing Strategy Implementation
- Equity in Procurement and Contracting



Questions

What topics would board members be interested in including on the EAC's workplan?



Thank you

Noah P. Boggess

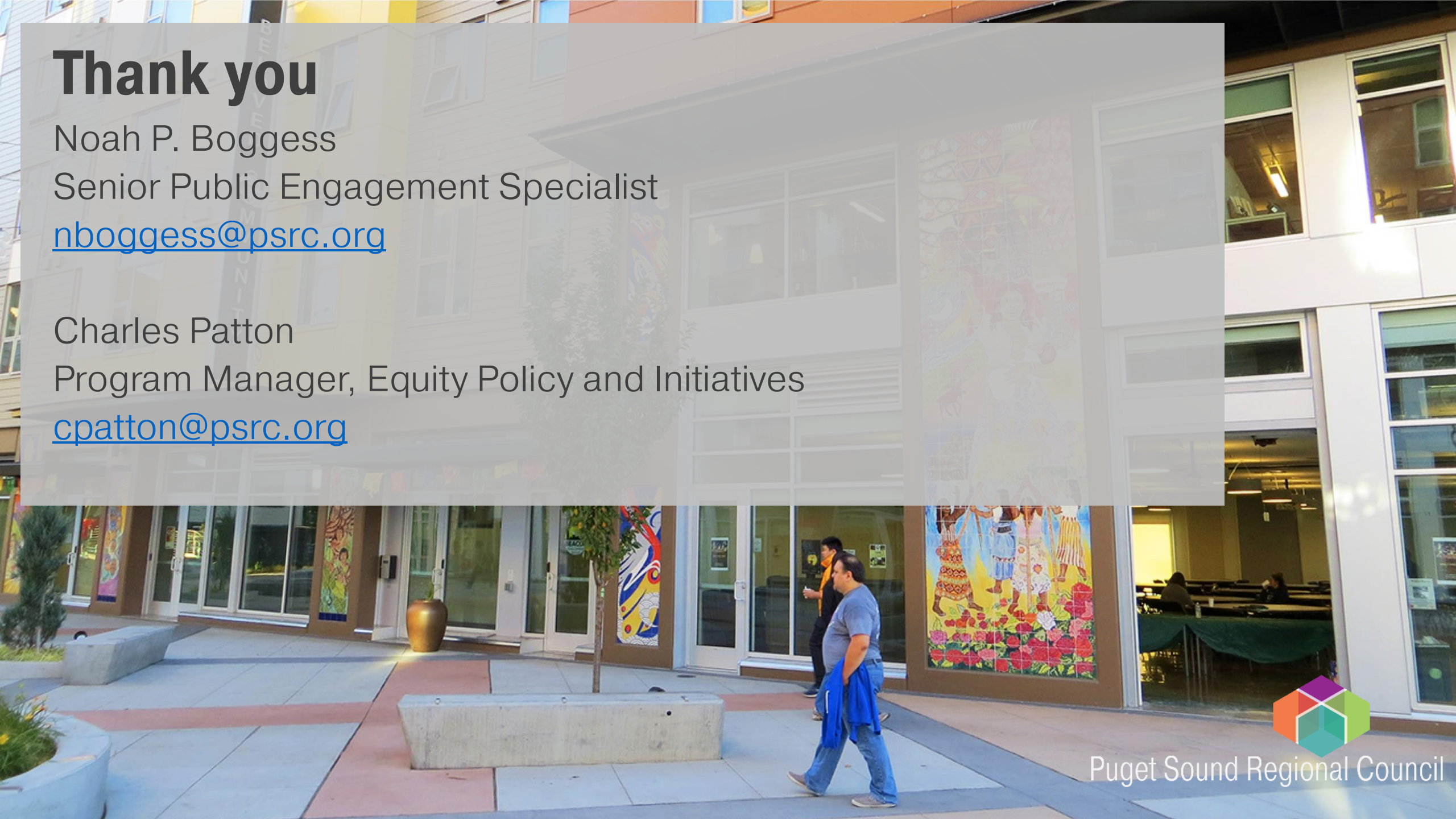
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Puget Sound Regional Council