

Appendix C

Public Comments

October 27, 2022

The public comment period for the Draft 2023-2026 Regional TIP will be conducted from September 8 through October 27, 2022. All comments received will be included in this Appendix.



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, at 206-464-6175, with two weeks' advance notice. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, through TTY Relay 711.

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Funding for this document provided in part by member jurisdictions, grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation.

Additional copies of this document may be obtained by contacting:

Puget Sound Regional Council Information Center 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500 Seattle, Washington 98104-1035

206-464-7532 | info@psrc.org | psrc.org

September 2022



PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT 2023-2026 REGIONAL TIP

Note: PSRC responds to every comment, and where appropriate forwards the comment to any affected jurisdictions.

Comment 1:

Kathleen Pozarycki, Snohomish County

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'd like to see a more clear linkage for these projects to include multi-benefit projects that will include stormwater filtration (including things like rain gardens, rain swales, bridge filtration to filter 6-PPE Quinone) and water quality buffers to support riparian buffers where roads are adjacent to or near waterbodies. I'd like to see project that link up with priority fish passage culverts that are blocking or partially blocking fish passage. In this way, we can more holistically develop these transportation projects while benefits critical and endangered species and protecting and improving water quality. There's an option to suggest or require that the Transportation Projects meet Salmon Safe design criteria and also link up with the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda priority of projects.

PSRC Response to Comment 1:

Thank you for commenting on the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards for their review in October.

Sincerely,

Doug Cox, Principal Planner Puget Sound Regional Council

Comment 2:

Jakeh Roberts, City of Monroe

The City of Monroe supports the 2023-2026 TIP as proposed. Monroe looks forward to working with our local and regional partners to continue the successful allocation of resources for completion of important transportation system preservation and improvement projects in Monroe and throughout Snohomish County.

PSRC Response to Comment 2:

Thank you for your support of the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards for their review in October.

Sincerely,

Doug Cox, Principal Planner Puget Sound Regional Council

Comment 3:

Jonathan Blubaugh

- 1) Terminate all spending on things that could loosely be described as "sound walls."
- 2) Terminate all spending on the West Seattle spur of the light rail extension.
- 3. Terminate all spending on the Ballard spur of the light rail extension.
- 4) Focus the savings on accelerating light rail buildout on the main lines to Tacoma and Everett.
- 5) Airport expansion for commercial passenger and cargo traffic must be first to McChord Field (we need to get the Air Force to agree to joint civil and military use) and second to Paine Field.
- 6) Terminate all consideration of any "greenfield" sites for new airports. The environmental costs are catastrophic.

PSRC Response to Comment 3:

Thank you for commenting on the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Your comment will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards for their review in October. Your comment will also be forwarded to Sound Transit for their information.

Sincerely,

Doug Cox, Principal Planner Puget Sound Regional Council

Comment 4:

Bev Martin on behalf of Superintendent Tom Seigel, Bethel School District

Please see the attached from Superintendent Tom Seigel. He'd be happy to meet with you to discuss this.

PSRC Response to Comment 4:

Thank you for commenting on the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Your comments will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards for their review in October. Your comments will also be forwarded to Pierce County and Pierce Transit for their information.

Sincerely,

Doug Cox, Principal Planner
Puget Sound Regional Council

Comment 5:

Paul Marquardt, Bethel School District

The Bethel School District is made up of 202 square miles in South Pierce County. It makes up 1/9 of the landmass of the county. These 202 square miles have 124,000 residents which is 1/8 or 13.1% of the county population. Out of the 15 school districts in the county, we have the third largest number of student enrollments and we have the 2nd largest geographic area. We also have the honor of four legislative districts within our boundaries.

As 13.1% of our county's citizens live within the Bethel School Districts boundaries, one would expect that at minimum 13.1% of the county's resources would be found here. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Transportation is our number one area that we urge the county to address. Pierce Transit currently has 251 miles of service within Pierce County. Families within the Bethel School District have access to only 3 miles of this service. It is one line coming down Pacific Avenue. This is merely 1.2% of Pierce Transits resources. There is zero access from the surrounding 202 square miles for our 124,000 residents. We urge the county to add much needed transportation for our families.

To further highlight the need for transit, only 9% of the roads in Bethel have sidewalks. Due to the lack of sidewalks and mass transit, families are required to drive themselves most anywhere they need to go. There are certain areas where it would make sense to have sidewalks to allow students to walk safely to and from school. Bethel has been attempting to obtain sidewalk funding from a variety of sources over the last 15 years. We have been successful in one and a half of these grant requests. If we had sidewalks

that connected to schools, it would reduce the need to transport 10,500 students daily and reduce the consumption of hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel. We urge the county to invest in sidewalks and safe walking paths to schools, community centers, transit hubs, and parks. The Puget Sound Regional Council states: "Non-motorized transportation facilities including sidewalks, pathways and trails will be planned and systematically developed within the community so that in the future residents can travel to schools, parks, commercial areas, and other destinations safely without relying upon the automobile." This objective has not been pursued within Bethel School District.

Another inequality that exists are county parks. Only three county parks are located in our region. All of them can only be reached by automobile. These three parks comprise only 1.8% of the county parks and not the 13.1% that would be an equitable distribution. Our 124,000 residents do not have access to parks, a swimming pool, a YMCA, or many other outdoor spaces and recreational facilities. The Puget Sound Regional Council states "adequate public infrastructure and services including, but not limited to, roads, water, sewer, recreation, and schools will be available prior to or concurrent with the actual need..." We urge the county to fulfill its pledge and provide equity of access to these elements for a healthy community.

In addition to the lack of recreational facilities, our community is greatly lacking social and safety services. There is one library on the far south end of the district. There are 28 libraries in Pierce County. For there to be equity of access to this service there should be at least one more brought to our region. Further, there are zero health and human services offices and no Sheriff detachments. Considering the high crime rate and that 52% of our students receive free and reduced meals, which is a measurement of poverty, we urge the County to place Department of Social and Health Services and Sheriffs in Bethel.

The Bethel School District Region also has no college or university. As a result, many students have been denied the opportunity to participate in the "Running Start" program, where the state pays tuition to allow high school students to attend college. This is further compounded by the lack of transit systems. Our students are not able to take transit to universities unless they have their own vehicle. This is a huge barrier for our families in poverty and even middle class families that cannot afford an extra vehicle.

Bethel, although an educational institution, has taken on the task to help ameliorate some of these problems. Specifically, we reversed the access model for Pierce College and invited the college to come teach at two of our high schools (SLHS & GKHS). As a result, 10% of our 1000 June 2022 graduates received an Associate Degree from Pierce College, as well as their high school diploma, saving each family \$10,000 in tuition costs. While these 100 students earned their Associates Degree, many others experienced success and gained college credits and local area adults also benefited by access to these courses.

In order to help entice human services to this area, for decades Bethel has had a Family Support Center located at Challenger High School. This facility can be used free of charge by nonprofit, charitable or governmental entities that provide services and support to the families and students in Bethel. In addition to the current Bethel Family Center, a new center will be built on Pacific Avenue as a result of federal funding. We have also requested funds to modify an existing building to be used for the same purpose in Graham.

In addition to these fixed-site family support centers, we have modified four vehicles (BOB - the Bethel Outreach Bus) to go into low income neighborhoods, including trailer parks, to bring services and materials to community members in need. Donated materials include school supplies, food, clothing, furniture, wheelchairs and medical supplies. Many of the donated items were donated through coordination with our area's Faith Leaders. Further, we have been joined with doctors that provided medical advice. Twenty-five of these events have been held this year helping 2,500 residents.

"Pierce County's Healthy Youth Survey" shows our students have significant health, dental and behavioral health issues above the county average. Because of the lack of hospital access and local clinics, we have undertaken the process of building School-Based Health Clinics at three of our school sites. We have one operating at Bethel Middle School that supports the 3,500 students in the area. We currently have a clinic under construction at Graham-Kapowsin High School and will be building a third clinic at Spanaway Middle School. Each of these clinics can support about 3,500 students.

For the past two decades, Bethel has grown at the rate of about 2,000 new residents and 300 new students per year. The recent change in zoning will further increase the total number of residents and students beyond previous projections. Based on the maximum density of housing permitted, we could have an additional 5,400 new students beyond current projections. That is the equivalent of 10 new elementary schools. This would be in addition to the current projected growth of 300 students per year.

It is a critical time in our region. We must act now to ensure the residents within the Bethel community "have access to the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life".

Again, we urge the county to expand transportation to our community. Prioritize parks, natural spaces, and sidewalks. Support bringing resources such as the YMCA, swimming pools and recreational facilities to the Bethel community. And bring an equitable share of resources like health and family services, libraries, colleges and Sheriff detachments to Bethel.

Bethel is doing what we can to help address these inequities. It is clear that the county needs to focus on this region and provide it with the same level of access and resources as it does for other areas of Pierce County. The Bethel School District is willing to be a

partner in these efforts. We would love to discuss opportunities for Pierce County to join some of our outreach efforts listed above and we are willing to provide space in our family centers for health and social services.

Together, we can accomplish Pierce County's goal of Equity for all. We must act now!

PSRC Response to Comment 5:

Thank you for commenting on the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Your comments will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards for their review in October. Your comments will also be forwarded to Pierce County and Pierce Transit for their information.

Sincerely,

Doug Cox, Principal Planner Puget Sound Regional Council

Comment 6:

Andy Galuska, City of Sultan

The City of Sultan is completing a yearlong public outreach program on improvements to the US2 corridor through the city. This section of US2 is a major regional travel corridor as well as the only road connecting the east and western halves of the City of Sultan. Congestion on this section causes regular, significant delays on Fridays and Sundays, and congestion on weekdays has been rising in recent years. We would ask that PSRC consider including improvements to this corridor in the TIP. More information on the project can be found on our website: https://ci.sultan.wa.us/348/US-2-Alternatives-Analysis-and-Public-En

PSRC Response to Comment 6:

Thank you for commenting on the Draft 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The TIP provides a summary of current transportation projects within the region that have secured the necessary funding for implementation within the TIP's four-year timeframe. These projects are funded with federal, state, and local funds, including the most recent federal grants awarded through PSRC, as well as state and federal grants from other sources. A project phase must have secured funds in order for an agency to program it in the TIP – the TIP itself does not allocate funds to projects.

In our region, a new TIP is created every two years and goes through a major update each year in-between, as well as accepting amendments on a monthly basis.

Projects that meet the following criteria are included in the TIP:

- The project has been developed through a planning process and is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
- The project is using federal and/or state funds, or is funded locally AND is considered regionally significant; and
- The project's funds are scheduled for use within the four-year timespan of the current TIP.

While the corridor project is being developed through a local planning process, currently WSDOT Northwest Region has listed US-2 widening within Sultan as an unprogrammed regional capacity project in the RTP (project ID: 4178). It is noted that the City has moved forward with intersection improvements along US-2 that are considered programmatic and consistent with the RTP; however, the overall widening project cannot be implemented until it is submitted by WSDOT to the RTP's financially constrained list. For regional capacity projects included on the RTP's financially constrained list, project phases can be programmed into the TIP as soon as funding is secured. PSRC encourages the City to continue to work with WSDOT regarding the RTP status and potential implementation of this project.

More information about the TIP is available at PSRC's website at https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/transportation-improvement-program

Your comments will be provided to PSRC's Transportation Policy and Executive Boards for their review in October. Your comments will also be forwarded to WSDOT for their information.

Sincerely,

Doug Cox, Principal Planner Puget Sound Regional Council Equity is achieved when all people - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, neighborhood, or other factor - have access to the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life, allowing them to reach their full potential and participate in the vibrant communities of Pierce County.

- Pierce County Equity Initiative

This equity statement from Pierce County is clear on the need for access to resources for equity for all. The problem of access for the Bethel School District area is that there is very little County resources in Bethel and the transportation network to access it elsewhere in the county is inadequate.

The Bethel School District is made up of 202 square miles in South Pierce County. It makes up 1/9 of the landmass of the County. These 202 square miles have 124,000 residents which is 1/8 or 13.1% of the County population. Of the 15 school districts in Pierce County,

Bethel School District has the third largest student enrollment and the 2nd largest geographic area. There are four county representative districts within our boundaries.

As 13.1% of our County's citizens live within the Bethel School Districts boundaries, one would expect that approximately 13.1% of the County's resources would be found here. That is not the case.

Transportation is the number one area that we urge the County to address. Pierce Transit currently has 251 miles of service within Pierce County. Families within the Bethel School District have access to only 3 miles of this service on one line on Pacific Avenue. This is merely 1.2% of Pierce Transit routes.

To further highlight the need for transit, only 9% of the roads in Bethel have sidewalks. Due to the lack of sidewalks and mass transit, families are required to drive most anywhere they need to go. There are certain areas where it would make sense to have sidewalks to allow students to walk safely to and from school. Bethel has been attempting to obtain sidewalk funding from various sources over the last 15 years. We have been successful in one and a half of these grant requests. If we had sidewalks connected to schools, it would reduce the need to transport 10,500 students daily and reduce the consumption of hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel. We urge the County to invest in sidewalks and safe walking paths to schools, community centers, transit hubs, and parks. The Puget Sound Regional Council states: "Non-motorized transportation facilities including sidewalks, pathways and trails will be planned and systematically developed within the community so that in the future residents can travel to schools, parks, commercial areas, and other destinations safely without relying upon the automobile." This objective has not been pursued within Bethel School District.

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including, but not limited to, roads, water, sewer, recreation, and schools will be available prior to or concurrent with the actual need..." We urge the County to fulfill its pledge and provide equity of access to these elements for a healthy community.

In addition to the lack of recreational facilities, our community greatly lacks social and safety services. There is only one library on the far south end of the district. There are 28 libraries in Pierce County, and our fair share would have three more. There should be at least one more library in to our region. Further, there are no health and human services offices nor Sheriff detachments. Considering the high crime rate and that 52% of our students receive free and reduced meals, (a measurement of poverty) we urge the County to place Department of Social and Health Services and a Sheriff Detachment in Bethel.

The Bethel School District area also has no college or university. As a result, many students have been denied the opportunity to participate in the "Running Start" program, where the state pays tuition to allow high school students to attend college. The lack of an adequate public transit system compounds this access as our students cannot get to the colleges unless they have their own vehicle. This is a barrier for our families in poverty and even middle-class families that cannot afford an extra vehicle.

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local clinics, we have undertaken the process of building School-Based Health Clinics at three of our school sites. We have one operating at Bethel Middle School that supports the 3,500 students in the area. We currently have a clinic under construction at Graham-Kapowsin High School and will be building a third clinic at Spanaway Middle School. Each of these clinics can support about 3,500 students.

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It is a critical time in our region. We must act now to ensure the residents within the Bethel community "have access to the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life".

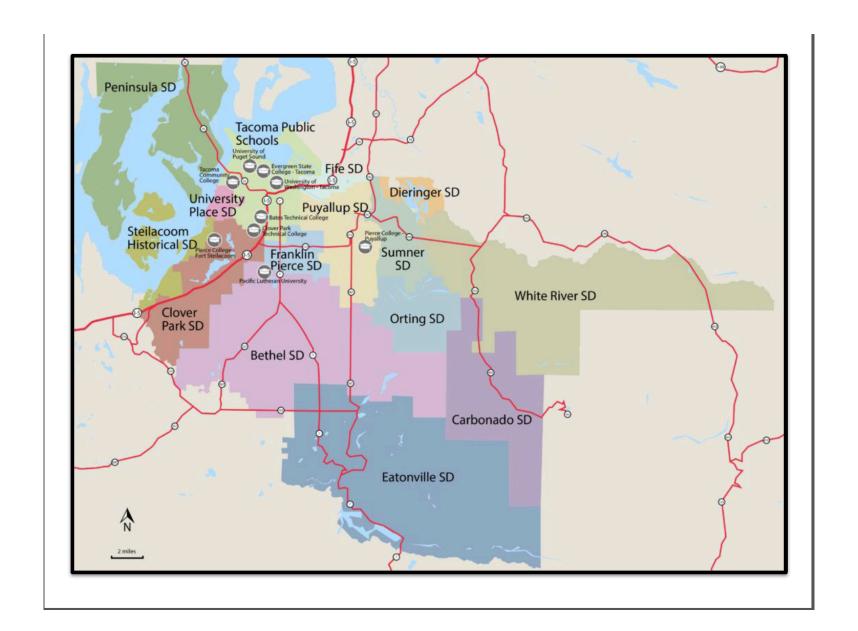
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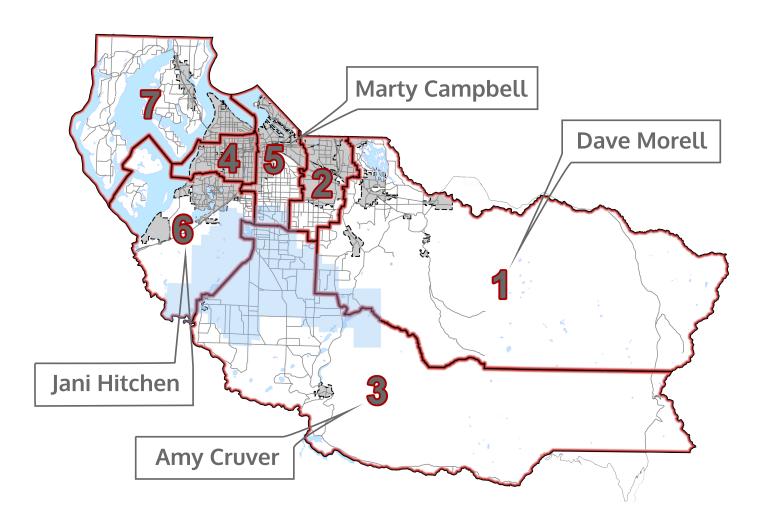
Together, we can accomplish Pierce County's goal of Equity for all. We must act now!

Equity is achieved when all people - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, neighborhood, or other factor - have access to the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life, allowing them to reach their full potential and participate in the vibrant communities of Pierce County.

- Pierce County Equity Initiative



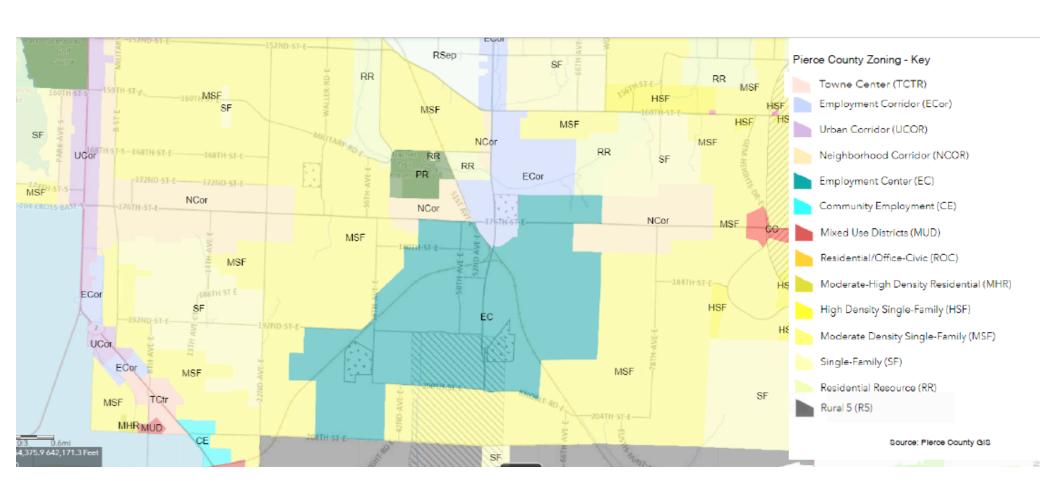
Pierce County Council Districts

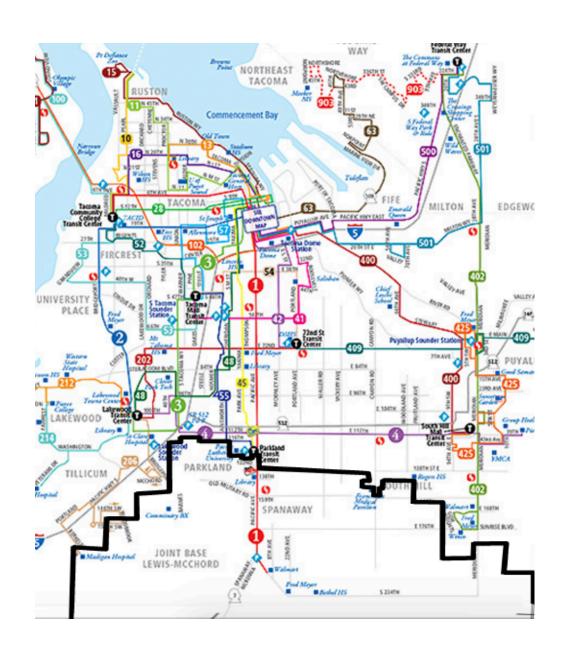


Population

946,310 (2022) Pierce County 124,000 (13.1%) Bethel Equity is achieved when all people - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, neighborhood, or other factor have access to the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life, allowing them to reach their full potential and participate in the vibrant communities of Pierce County.

- Pierce County Equity Initiative





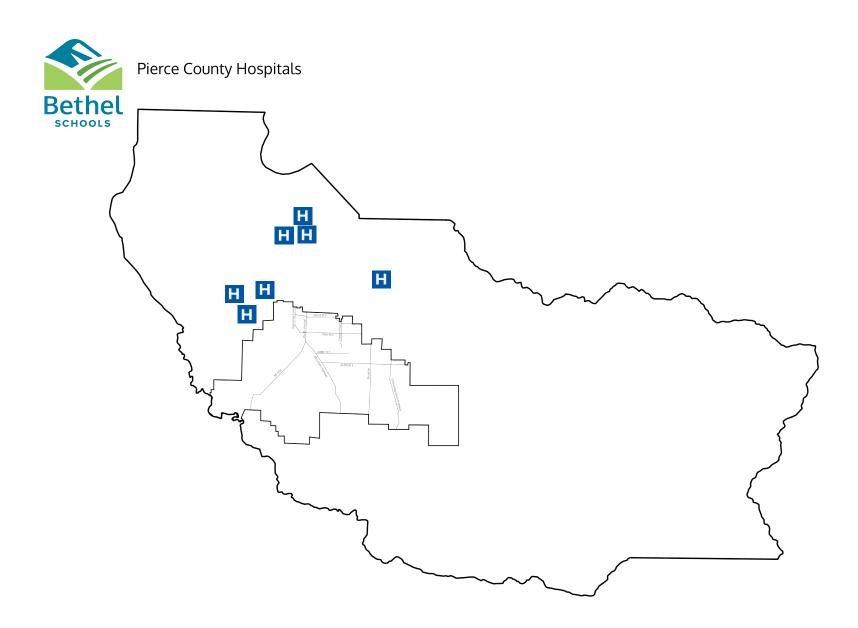
Pierce Transit

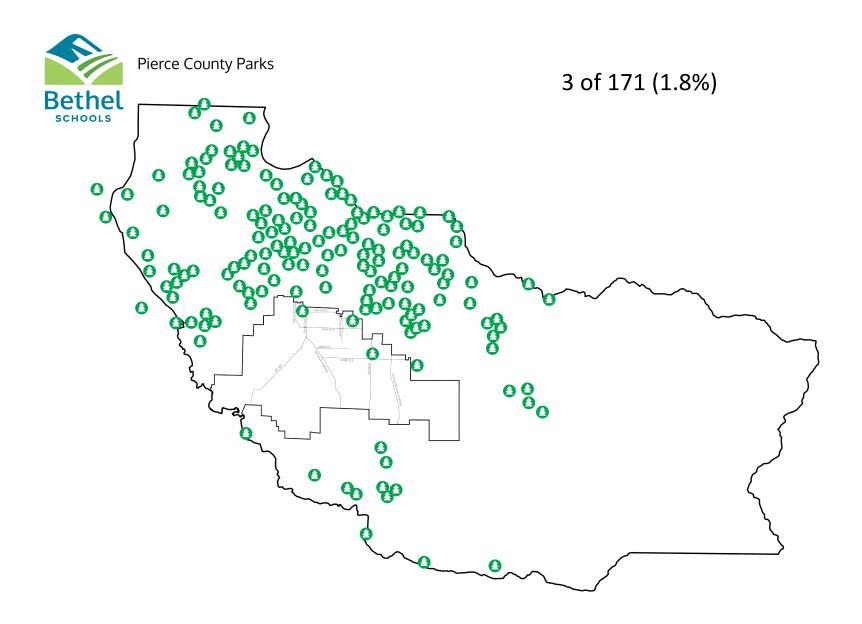
251 miles of bus service 3 miles (1.2%) in Bethel Adequate public infrastructure and services including, but not limited to, roads, water, sewer, recreation, and schools will be available prior to or concurrent with actual need;

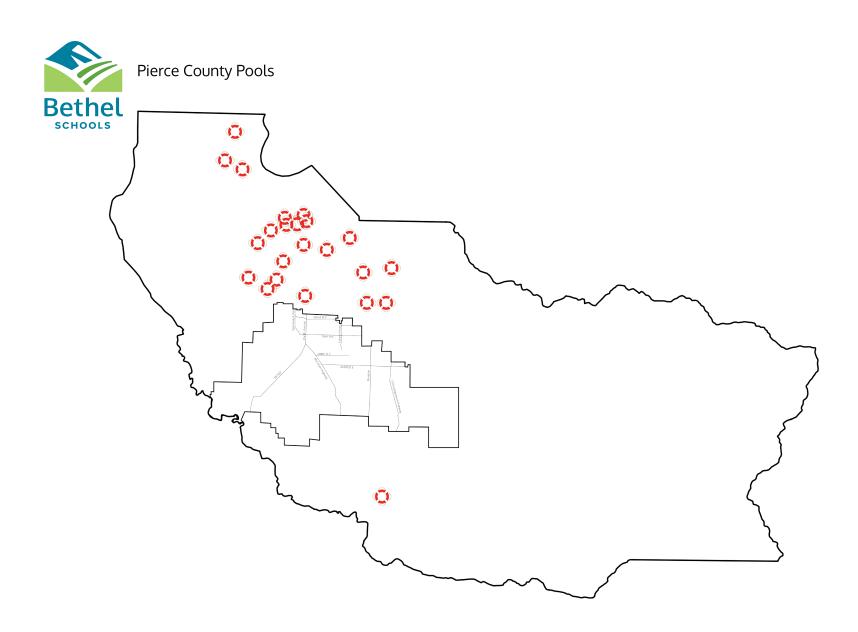


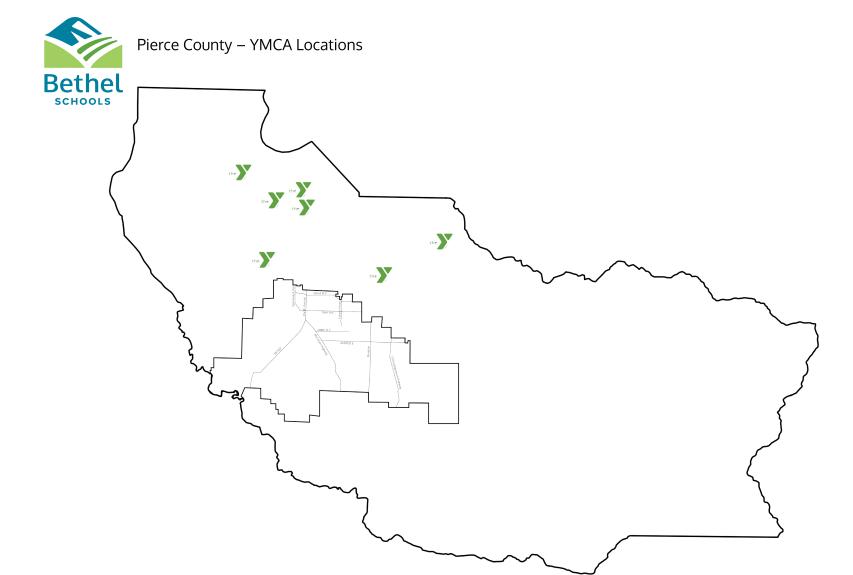


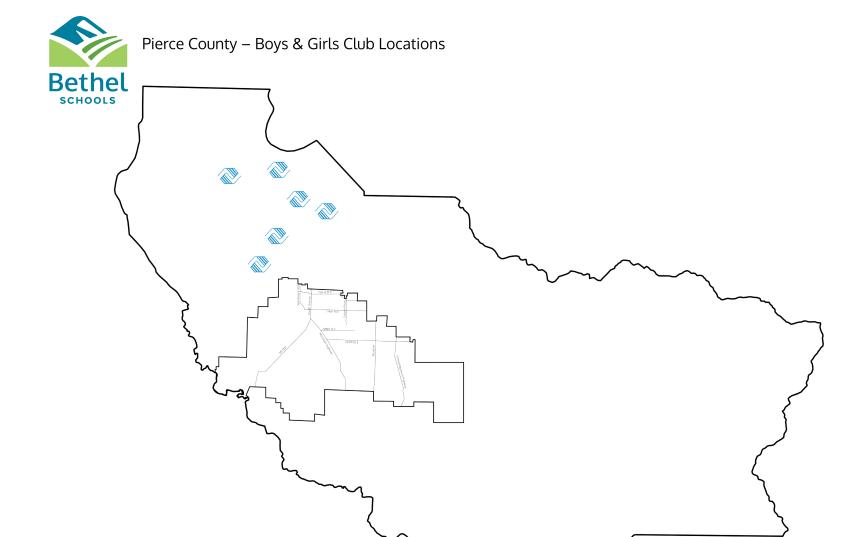
Neighborhoods will be more livable with new developments being designed in a manner which supports interaction of residents and pedestrian mobility, and existing neighborhoods protected from incompatible or more intense uses;

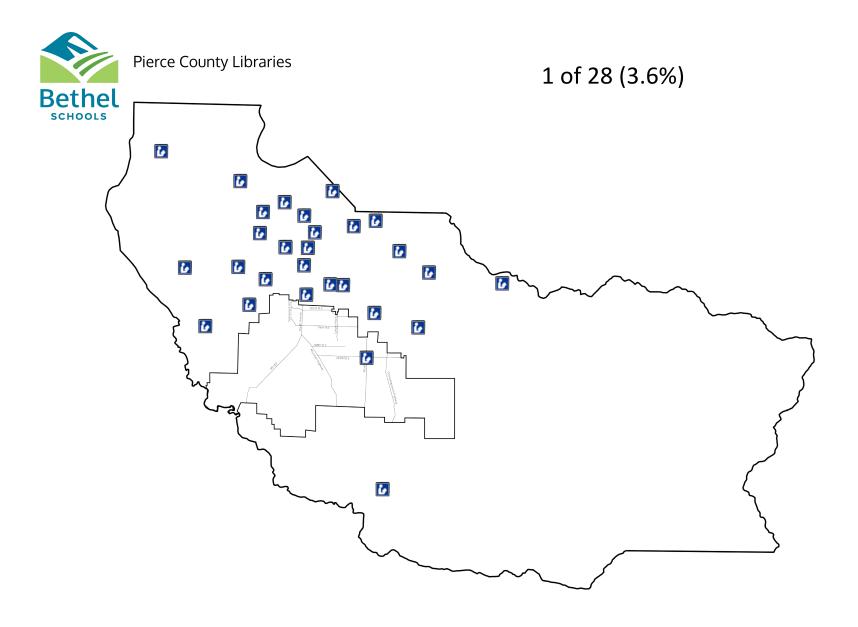


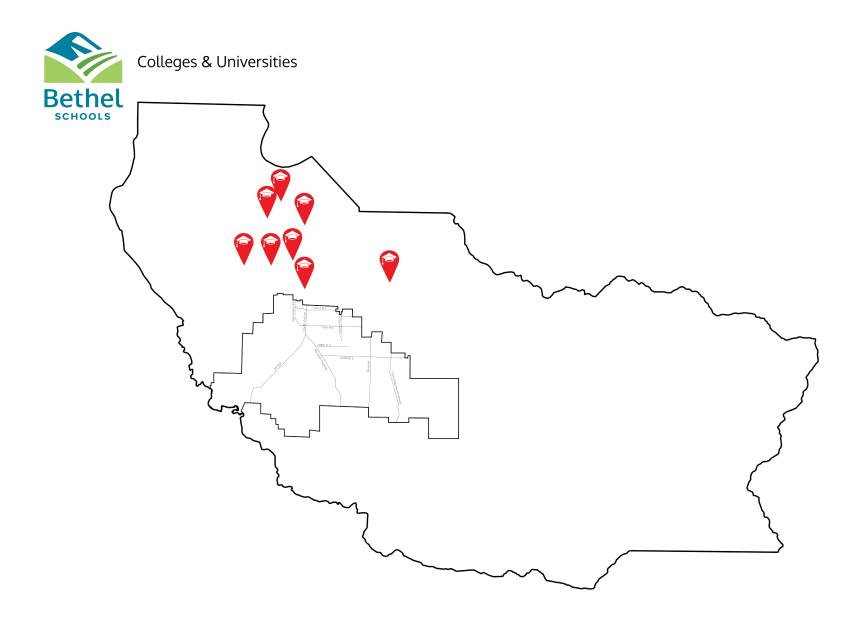


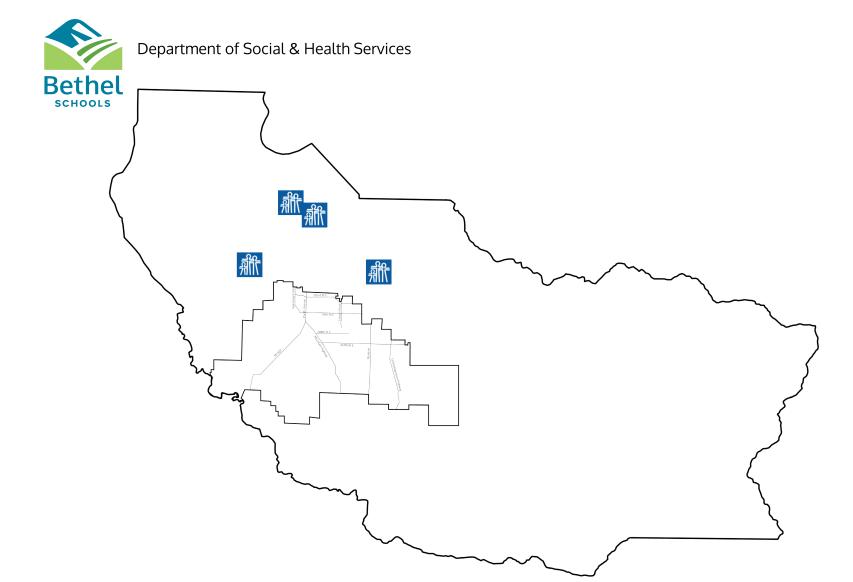






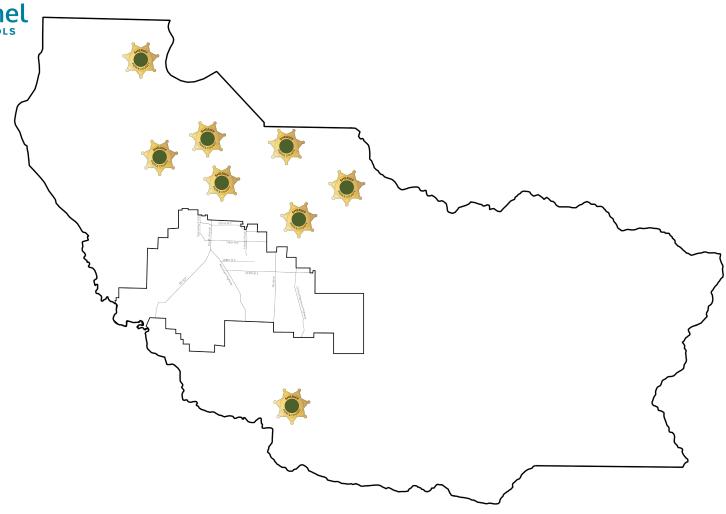


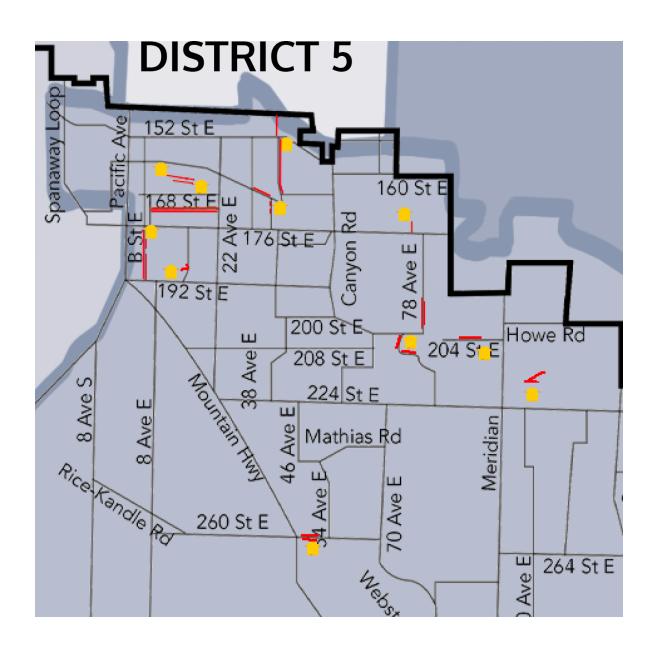






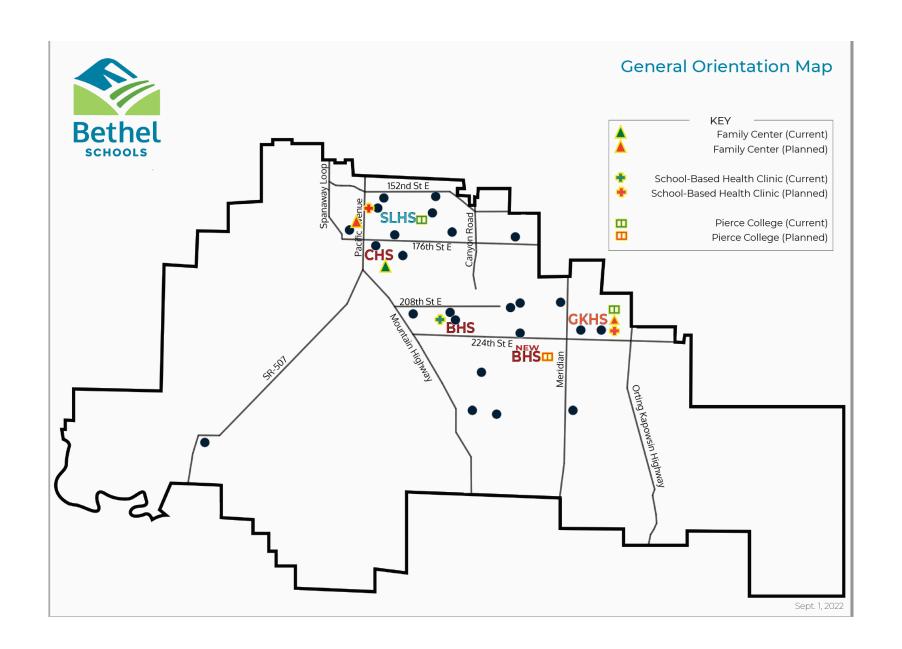
Pierce County Sheriff Department Detachments





Nonmotorized transportation facilities including sidewalks, pathways, and trails will be planned and systematically developed within the community so that in the future residents can travel to schools, parks, commercial areas, and other destinations safely without relying upon the automobile;









Mid-County Leadership Team Survey: Rank Order of Greatest Concerns

- 1. Mental health (including drug treatment)
- 2. Community Center: youth and senior, athletics/activity center with centralized point of access to community services
- 3. Transportation: bus, cross base highway
- 4. Parks and trails
- 5. Homelessness and hunger

Pierce County Government Resources:

For 13.1% of County population:

- 1.2% of Pierce Transit bus routes (1 route of 3 miles)
- 1.8% County Parks (3 parks which can not be reached by pedestrians)
- 3.6% County Libraries (1 library)
- 0% Sheriff Detachments
- 0% Department of Social and Health Service offices (up to 70% poverty in some areas)

Other Important Community Building Resources that are Lacking:

- 0 Hospitals
- 0 Colleges
- 0 Pools
- 0 Boys & Girls Clubs
- 0 "Y's"

Other County Resources in Bethel

- Pierce County Maintenance and Operations site
- Prairie Pit (road waste disposal site)

Opportunities:

- 1. Reestablish Pierce Transit routes to what they used to be
- 2. Sidewalks fund key areas, rather than wait for developers
- 3. Bring County services to the area free space at family centers
- 4. Join "BOB the Bus" outreach effort free access
- 5. Collaborate/develop Public swimming pool, walkable parks and spaces, trails, libraries

Equity is achieved when all **people** - regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, neighborhood, or other factor have access to the resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life, allowing them to reach their full potential and participate in the vibrant communities of Pierce County.

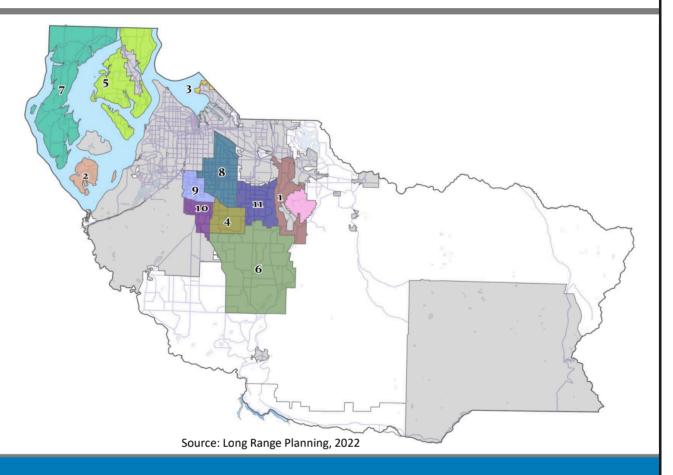
- Pierce County Equity Initiative

Outreach: Tactical In-Person



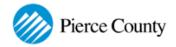
Locations for Tactical in person Outreach:

- 1. Alderton-McMillin
- 2. Anderson & Ketron Islands
- 3. Browns Point & Dash Point
- 4. Frederickson
- 5. Gig Harbor (2 visits)
- 6. Graham
- 7. Key Peninsula
- 8. Mid-County (2 visits)
- 9. Parkland (2 visits)
- 10. Spanaway
- 11. South Hill (2 visits)



9/7/2022

Equity Analysis



Map Area	People of Color	Limited English	Voter Turnout	Income	Economic Opportunity	Heavy Traffic Areas	Environmental Health	Cardiovascular Disease
1. Alderton-McMillin	0	0	0	0	•	0	•	•
2. Anderson/Ketron	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	•
3. Browns Pt/Dash Pt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•
4. Frederickson	•	•	•	О	•	•	•	•
5. Gig Harbor	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	•
6. Graham	0	О	•	Ο	•	Ο	•	•
7. Key Peninsula	0	0	0	•	0	0	0	•
8. Mid-County	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
9. Parkland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
10. Spanaway	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
11. South Hill	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
12. Upper Nisqually	0	0	0	•	•	0	•	•
Rural Area	0	0	0	•	•	0	0	•