



## Puget Sound Regional Council

### Equity Advisory Committee | Remote Only

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 pm

**Optional: Post-Meeting Q&A from 7:30-8:00 pm**

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**1. Welcome (5:30) – Shannon Turner, Co-Chair**

**2. Reports**

- a. Meeting Summary for January 5, 2023\*
- b. Staff Announcements & Co-Chair Selection Update\* – *Charles Patton, PSRC*

**3. Discussion Item (6:00)**

- a. Project Selection Process and Equity: Review of PSRC's Current Process cont.\* – *Kelly McGourty & Charles Patton, PSRC*

**4. Break (6:45)**

**5. Discussion Item (6:55)**

- a. Project Selection Process and Equity: Learning from Other MPOs\* – *Noah Boggess, PSRC*

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

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

**8. Next meeting: March 2, 2023**

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

\*Supporting materials attached.

Members can access the attendance sheet [here](#) to complete and submit to [finance@psrc.org](mailto:finance@psrc.org) for compensation.

### Zoom Remote Connection Details

- To join the webinar, please click the following link: <https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/85155670095?pwd=NVlrWWZMcEVub0Q1Wks3ZEVXNjR0QT09> and enter Passcode: 220787.
- To join by phone, call 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 851 5567 0095 and Passcode: 220787.

- If you need a sign language interpreter or communication aid, call 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, email [LanguageHelp@psrc.org](mailto:LanguageHelp@psrc.org).



## Puget Sound Regional Council

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

**Date: January 5, 2023**

**Location: Remote Only**

Presentations from the meeting are available on the [Equity Advisory Committee webpage](#). Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

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#### **EAC Meet and Greet**

Shannon Turner, from Kitsap County, and Charles Patton, PSRC, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The co-chair welcomed everyone, and Noah began the EAC meet and greet to introduce new members to the committee.

#### **EAC Member Report Out**

Committee members were given an opportunity to share out about upcoming events or projects in their region. Jewel Sheperd-Sampson shared that a weekend long celebration will be held at the Bainbridge Island Museum in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from January 13-15. More information on this series of community events may be found [here](#). Elly Trinh shared that Northwest Green Home Tour is holding a community event to share information about green building practices, with more information available [here](#). Shannon Turner shared that through January 24-26 in Poulsbo, Bremerton, and Port Orchard, resource events will be held to support unhoused individuals in the community. Debbie Lacy shared that Monday, January 16, the City of Bellevue will hold an event commemorating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and encouraged other members to join.

#### **Staff Announcements**

Charles encouraged members to share flyers or upcoming community event information with staff prior to the next meeting in February, for inclusion in the agenda packet. He also shared that a few members, including Co-Chair Chris Stearns, would not be continuing in their role on the committee in 2023. With that, a new co-chair selection will take place in March.

#### **Equity Pilot Program**

PSRC has project selection authority for several sources of funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Between January and September 2023, the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) will work with PSRC staff to develop a pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 FHWA funds with a focused lens on equity. This Equity Pilot Program will also inform future PSRC project selection processes.

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

Questions? Contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org) or Jennifer Barnes, Program Manager, at [jbarnes@psrc.org](mailto:jbarnes@psrc.org).

### **Adjourn**

At the close of the meeting, members participated in a poll to evaluate the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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

Noah Boggess, PSRC

Jennifer Barnes, PSRC

Ben Bakkenta, PSRC

Violet Kashewa Business Psychic

## PSRC Equity Advisory Committee - Attendance Roster

[illegible]



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

February 2, 2023

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

**SUBJECT: EAC Co-chairs**

## **IN BRIEF**

During its meeting on February 2, 2023, Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) members will learn about the roles and responsibilities of committee co-chairs and about how they will select co-chairs.

## **DISCUSSION**

During its meeting on February 2, 2023, EAC members will learn about the roles and responsibilities of committee co-chairs and about how they will select co-chairs. Members will also be asked about their interest in serving a one-year term as a co-chair for the committee. Responsibilities for the position include:

- Meeting preparation (e.g., participating in meeting dry runs)
- Facilitating discussions (e.g., monitoring the chat for questions)
- Providing leadership (e.g., representing the committee at one Executive Board meeting)

Members who express interest in this position will be asked to submit a brief questionnaire (see Attachment A). This will be used to provide some additional information about each candidate, so EAC members can make an informed decision about who they would like to serve as their co-chairs. The responses to this questionnaire will be included in the meeting packet for the March meeting.

## **Next Steps**

The election will be held during the March 2, 2022, EAC meeting using an online polling platform. All votes will be anonymous.

## **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager, at [cpatton@psrc.org](mailto:cpatton@psrc.org).

## Attachment A: Example Co-chair Candidate Form - Stearns

## Chris Stearns (he/him)

### King County



Chris serves as a councilmember for the City of Auburn. He's been committed to fighting for racial equity and justice as a lawyer representing Indian tribes across the nation and has also served in positions within the federal government devoted to upholding treaty rights and improving services to Indian tribes.

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#### Why do you want to serve as a co-chair (75-word limit)?

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#### What experiences and/or skills do you have that will help you serve as an effective co-chair (75-word limit)?

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#### Why are you interested in advancing racial equity and what have you done to help reduce racial inequities (75-word limit)?

I firmly believe that our region will only advance and grow after we acknowledge the historic roots of systemic racism and call on local governments and leaders to enact specific strategies to promote racial equity and justice. My work has included co-writing the 1994 Indian Self-Determination Act Amendments, as well as serving as the first-ever Director of Native American Affairs at the U.S. Energy Department. I believe that representation truly does matter. And that is why I ran for local office. So that Native Americans so often overlooked or mistreated, could bring their perspectives to the table.





# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

February 2, 2023

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

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

**SUBJECT: Project Selection Process and Equity: Review of PSRC's Current Process**

## IN BRIEF

Between January and September 2023, the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) will work with PSRC staff to review PSRC's current project selection process as it relates to equity, and ultimately develop an equity pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The EAC will also develop recommendations for potential further equity improvements in future PSRC project selection processes.

During the upcoming meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee, members will continue the briefing on the current PSRC project selection process. The discussion will include an in-depth review of the equity criteria strengthened in 2022 and an assessment of the projects awarded funding from an equity lens.

## DISCUSSION

PSRC conducts a project selection process to distribute federal transportation funds every two years. The process and the criteria used to evaluate every project is based on policies and outcomes detailed in [VISION 2050](#) and the [Regional Transportation Plan](#). These include elements such as accessibility, multimodal mobility, safety, equity and climate, as well as financial and project readiness considerations.

In addition to substantial improvements to how equity was incorporated into the existing project selection process, as part of the 2022 *Policy Framework* approximately \$6 million of PSRC's FHWA funds were set aside for an Equity Pilot Program. The EAC is asked to co-create this program, developing the parameters by which projects would be selected for funding, with an overarching focus on improving equity with transportation investments.

During the January meeting, members of the Equity Advisory Committee were provided an overview of the current project selection process and outcomes. These discussions will continue at the February meeting, to dive deeper into the current equity criteria and the final projects selected for funding.

In addition, based on questions received during the January briefing, additional information is provided for further reference:

- **Attachment 1** is a process overview of the Equity Pilot Program for reference;
- **Attachment 2** is a summary of the existing PSRC funding process and key requirements; and
- **Attachment 3** is an overview of all transportation funding sources in the region.

After the presentation, members will be asked the following questions:

- Are the equity criteria clear? Do they lead to an improved evaluation of transportation projects from an equity perspective?
  - Is anything missing?
- Do the projects that were ultimately awarded funding provide overall benefits?
  - Do the projects provide improvements to equitable outcomes?
  - Do you see any gaps or needs not reflected in the projects?

For reference, the materials related to the project selection evaluation process and selected projects may be found on the [January EAC webpage](#).

### **Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on March 2, 2023. Members will walk through a simulation of the current PSRC scoring and evaluation process and evaluate transportation projects from previous years to get more familiar with the process.

### **Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org) or Charles Patton at [cpatton@psrc.org](mailto:cpatton@psrc.org).

## ATTACHMENT 1: EQUITY PILOT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Purpose** = review how equity is addressed in PSRC's project selection process and make recommendations for improvements

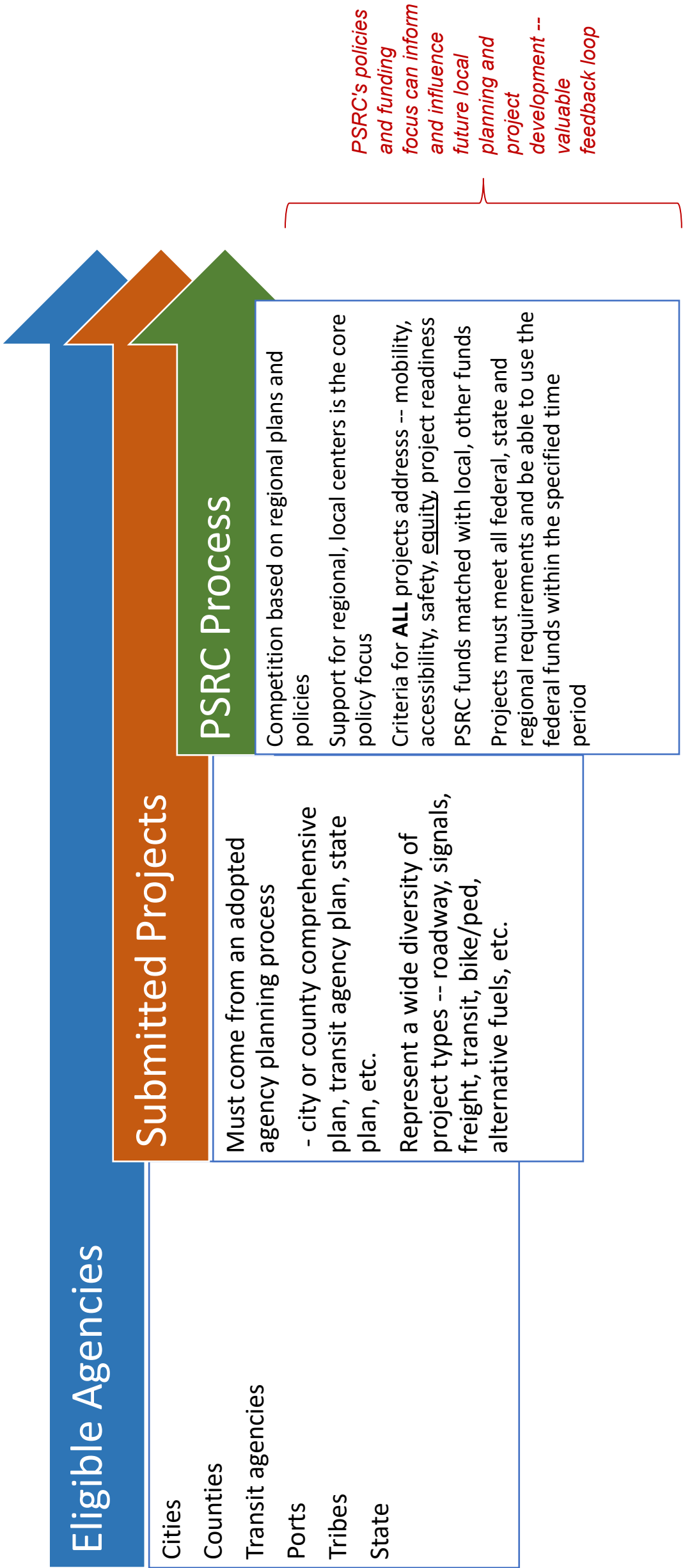
### **Process through Pilot development:**

- review current equity criteria of PSRC and other MPOs
- review PSRC funded projects
- identify needs and gaps
- develop pilot to test potential improvements

**Outcome** = potential recommendation for improvements to next funding process

- could address criteria, project types, process improvements, etc.

ATTACHMENT 2: PSRC FUNDING PROCESS



## Attachment 3: Funding Sources for Transportation Projects

PSRC's Federal Funds
<b>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)</b>
Two funding sources, specific eligibilities
In general, more flexible and more eligible project types
<b>Federal Transit Administration (FTA)</b>
Four funding sources, specific eligibilities
Must be transit related, 3 of 4 sources focused on specific investment types

in general, PSRC's federal funds represent ~ 4% of total transportation funds in the region

Funds Managed by the State
<b>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)</b>
Multiple funding sources, specific eligibilities
Majority for Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) investments
Some sources distributed competitively by WSDOT to local agencies - e.g., bridge, freight, safety, safe routes to schools
<b>State Funds</b>
Transportation funds managed through WSDOT and the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
Majority for WSDOT investments
TIB competitive programs for local agencies - e.g., arterial improvements, preservation, small cities
Legislatively directed state funds to local projects
Smaller amount of funds may be available from other state agencies for specific types of transportation investments - e.g. from Departments of Ecology, Parks

in general, state funds represent ~16 % of total transportation funds in the region; other federal funds - either managed by the state or through other processes - represent ~6% of total transportation funds in the region

Other Federal Funds
<b>Variety of federal agencies</b>
Specific to transportation investments
National competitions or Congressional "earmarks"

Local Funds
<b>Variety of local sources</b>
Cities, counties, transit agencies, ports, tribes
Directed to a variety of transportation investments identified in adopted local plans
Used as match for federal grant funds

the majority of total transportation funds in the region come from local sources (~74%)



# Puget Sound Regional Council

## DISCUSSION ITEM

February 2, 2023

**TO:** Equity Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

**SUBJECT: Project Selection Process and Equity: Learning from Other MPOs**

## IN BRIEF

Between January and September 2023, the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) will work with PSRC staff to review PSRC's current project selection process as it relates to equity, and ultimately develop an equity pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC's 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds. The EAC will also develop recommendations for potential further equity improvements in future PSRC project selection processes.

During the upcoming meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee, members will hear how other Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPOs) across the country have incorporated equity in the project selection process and share thoughts on what strategies might be useful for PSRC to consider.

## DISCUSSION

PSRC conducts a project selection process to distribute federal transportation funds every two years. The process and the criteria used to evaluate every project is based on policies and outcomes detailed in [VISION 2050](#) and the [Regional Transportation Plan](#). They include elements such as accessibility, multimodal mobility, safety, equity and climate, as well as financial and project readiness considerations.

In addition to substantial improvements to how equity was incorporated into the existing project selection process, as part of the 2022 *Policy Framework* approximately \$6 million of PSRC's FHWA funds were set aside for an Equity Pilot Program. The EAC is asked to co-create this program, developing the parameters by which projects would be selected for funding, with an overarching focus on improving equity with transportation investments.

During the January meeting, members of the Equity Advisory Committee were provided with an overview of the current project selection process and outcomes. These discussions will continue at the February meeting, to dive deeper into the current equity criteria and the final projects selected for funding.

Also, during the February meeting, members will hear examples of how other MPOs have incorporated equity into their project selection process. Staff will share six different project selection evaluation categories and corresponding examples. These categories include:

- **Location burdens-based:** considers the location of a project within predefined areas with high concentrations of marginalized populations as detrimental for them; awards points if the project is not located within these areas.
- **Location benefits-based:** considers the location of a project within predefined areas with high concentrations of marginalized populations as beneficial for them; awards points if the project is located within these areas.
- **Impact benefits-based:** considers the potential benefits a project will have on predefined areas with high concentrations of marginalized populations and awards more points to projects that will have positive effects.
- **Access to destinations-based:** considers the accessibility improvements that projects provide to predefined areas with high concentrations of marginalized populations and awards more points to projects that will provide greater increases in access to key destinations.
- **User-based:** considers the number of users of a project that will belong to the population defined as marginalized and awards more points to projects with greater number of marginalized users.
- **Community-engagement considerations:** considers how project sponsors involved marginalized communities prior to and during a project's development and awards more points to projects that show stronger community participation efforts.

After the presentation, members will be asked the following questions:

- What evaluation categories from the other MPOs would you like to explore for further incorporation into PSRC's process?
  - Why do you like the evaluation category?
  - What will it add to our process?

Members can read more about the aforementioned project selection evaluation categories and corresponding examples [here](#) and [here](#).

**Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee will be held on March 2, 2023. Members will walk through a simulation of the current PSRC scoring and evaluation process and evaluate transportation projects from previous years to get more familiar with the process.

**Lead Staff**

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at [kmcgourty@psrc.org](mailto:kmcgourty@psrc.org) or Charles Patton, Program Manager, at [cpatton@psrc.org](mailto:cpatton@psrc.org).