

Project Selection Process

Project Selection Co-creation Pt. 2

Equity Advisory Committee

May 4, 2023



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

psrc.org/equity



The region's vision for equity...

All people have the means to attain the resources and opportunities that improve their quality of life and enable them to reach full potential. Differences in life outcomes cannot be predicted by race, class, or any other identity. Communities of color, historically marginalized communities, and those affected by poverty are engaged in decision-making processes, planning, and policy-making.



Overview

- What we heard last meeting
- Discussion



Discussion Questions

What are the pros and cons of having equity serve as its own distinct criterion versus having it woven throughout the Equity Pilot?

Do the categories we placed your feedback in make sense? Do you understand why some comments don't connect directly to the Pilot and can't be incorporated right now?

Is there consensus that these are the topics we want to address?
Is anything missing?



Regional vs. Local Planning

Local plans and responsibilities

Local Comprehensive Plans

- Local policies and planning

Local Project Development

- Derived from comprehensive plan
- Funded by multiple sources, including PSRC competitions where applicable

Regional plans and responsibilities

VISION 2050

- Regional policy guides regional and local planning and activities

Regional Equity Strategy

- Will support regional and local planning and activities

PSRC's project selection process

- Based on VISION 2050
- Locally based projects meeting federal, regional criteria



2023 Equity Pilot Schedule

Phase 1: Understanding



Jan: Project
selection
introduction

Feb: Learn from
other MPOs

March: Project
evaluation
simulation

Phase 2: Designing



April – May: Pilot
Co-Creation

June – Aug:
Design Pilot

Sept: Review with
EAC and Develop
Call Materials

Phase 3: Implementing



Sept: Release Pilot

Sept – Oct:
Conduct Pilot

Nov: EAC Pilot
Project
Recommendations

Phase 4: Planning Future



Nov – Dec: EAC
Process
Recommendations

Dec: Board Review
of EAC
Recommendations

Jan 2024: Policy
Framework
Adoption

Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

**Street and traffic
slights,
stop signs**

Considering grade and connectivity for wheelchair users, strollers, etc.

Safe routes to anchor businesses, grocery stores, places of necessity.

**bus stops
that
connect to
schools**

**safe
non-skid
crosswalks**

provide customer service in multiple languages for limited speaking English and people of color communities

Providing pedestrian crossings at reasonable intervals when distance between intersections is long

**Transit
connection to
community
center**

**Repaving
street to
job center**

Multi-family, truly affordable housing options, such as Duplexes, Triplexes, and more.

Partnering with programs like safe routes to school in opportunity areas

**Sidewalks
leading to
school**

Adjusting intersection timing during H.S., Mid. School, & Elementary school hours so priority is getting kids to school. Ex. Increase freq. of 'walk' signals to move kids along safer

**Bike
lane to
park**

Universally understood graphics or icons if not everything can be translated. Directional signage.

**Sidewalks
leading to
rapid transit
stations/stops**

**multilingual
everything**

**Ensure access
bus parking
areas**

Consider adding a audio tool for those with limited sight

Skybridge connections between high-rise buildings (e.g., low-income housing to office park high-rise)

Could seating while waiting for buses be considered. Many don't have areas where community members can sit, with better lighting, would increase participation

**accessible
access
and
education**

EV power stations located at municipal parks and/or commuter bus terminals

Increasing the number of rapid transit lines...bus and light rail and commuter train

**free
transit**

**housing-first
homelessness
interventions**

**Ensure use of
flashing lights
with cross
walks**

**Sidewalks
leading to
school**

Free community van/bus transportation options for low-income, fixed-income and differently-abled people when buses aren't feasible.

**Focus on
a 15 min
city**

Road diets to slow down traffic to provide a safer environment for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit users

Provide multiple public transit options to reach a destination in case one option is out of service

Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

What We Heard:

Transit
Bicycle / Pedestrian
Housing
Roadway
ADA / Language Access

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Street and traffic slights, stop signs | Considering grade and connectivity for wheelchair users, strollers, etc. | Safe routes to anchor businesses, grocery stores, places of necessity. | bus stops that connect to schools | safe non-skid crosswalks | provide customer service in multiple languages, for limited speaking English and people of color communities | Providing pedestrian crossings at reasonable intervals when distance between intersections is long | Transit connection to community center |
| Repaving street to job center | Multi-family, truly affordable housing options, such as Duplexes, Triplexes, and more. | Partnering with programs like safe routes to school in opportunity areas | Sidewalks leading to school | Adjusting intersection timing during H.S. Mid. School, & Elementary school hours so priority is getting kids to school. Ex. Increase freq. of walk signals to move kids along safer | Bike lane to park | Universally understood graphics or icons if not everything can be translated. Directional signage. | Sidewalks leading to rapid transit stations/stops |
| multilingual everything | Ensure access bus parking areas | Consider adding an audio tool for those with limited sight | Skybridge connections between high-rise buildings (e.g., low-income housing to office park high-rise) | Could seating while waiting for buses be considered. Many don't have areas where community members can sit, with better lighting, would increase participation | accessible access and education | EV power stations located at municipal parks and/or commuter bus terminals | Increasing the number of rapid transit lines, bus and light rail and commuter train |
| free transit | housing-first homelessness interventions | Ensure use of flashing lights with cross walks | Sidewalks leading to school | Free community van/ bus transportation options for low-income, fixed-income and differently-abled people when buses aren't feasible. | Focus on a 15 min city | Road diets to slow down traffic to provide a safer environment for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit users | Provide multiple public transit options to reach a destination in case one option is out of service |



Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

What We Heard – Transit

- Bus stops and transit that connects to schools, community centers, etc.
- Increasing number of rapid transit, bus, light rail, and commuter rail lines
- Free community van / bus options for low-income residents and people with disabilities when buses aren't feasible
- Easy to read transit maps
- Ensure access bus parking areas
- Road diets to slow traffic and increase safety

**bus stops
that
connect to
schools**

**Transit
connection to
community
center**

**Increasing the
number of rapid
transit lines...bus
and light rail and
commuter train**



Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

What We Heard – Bike / Ped

- Considering grade and connectivity for wheelchair users, strollers, etc.
- Safe non-skid crosswalks, leading to rapid transit stations and schools
- Providing pedestrian crossings at reasonable intervals when distance between intersections is long
- Partnering with programs like safe routes to school in opportunity areas
- Bus stop benches with lighting
- Ensure use of flashing lights with cross walks

Providing pedestrian crossings at reasonable intervals when distance between intersections is long

Sidewalks leading to rapid transit stations/stops

Ensure use of flashing lights with cross walks



Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

What We Heard – Housing

- Re-zoning single-family neighborhoods to allow for other housing options (e.g., duplexes, triplexes)
- Housing-first homelessness interventions
- 15-minute cities

Multi-family, truly affordable housing options, such as Duplexes, Triplexes, and more.

housing-first homelessness interventions

Focus on a 15 min city



Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

What We Heard – Roadway

- Street and traffic lights, stop signs
- Access to EV power stations
- Adding more vegetation and trees to the right of way to make the street more "green"

**Street and
traffic
lights,
stop signs**

**EV power stations
located at municipal
parks and/or
commuter bus
terminals**

**adding more
vegetation and trees
to the right of way
to make the street
more "green"**



Projects Leading to Equitable Outcomes

What We Heard – ADA and Language Access

- Provide customer service in multiple languages
- Universally understood graphics or icons if not everything can be translated. Directional signage.
- Consider adding an audio tool for those with limited sight

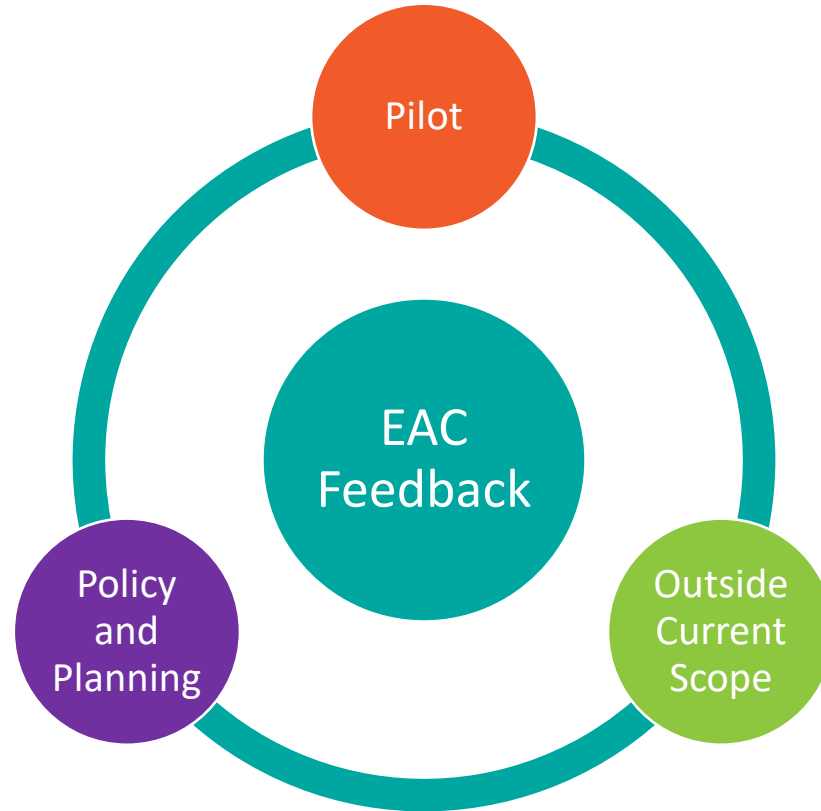
Universally understood graphics or icons if not everything can be translated. Directional signage.

multilingual everything

Consider adding an audio tool for those with limited sight



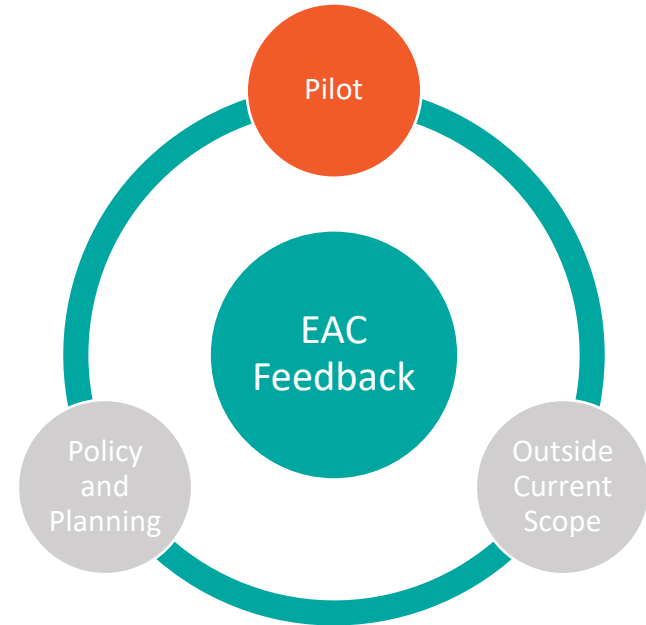
What We Heard



What We Heard – Pilot

Comments PSRC may consider for the Pilot

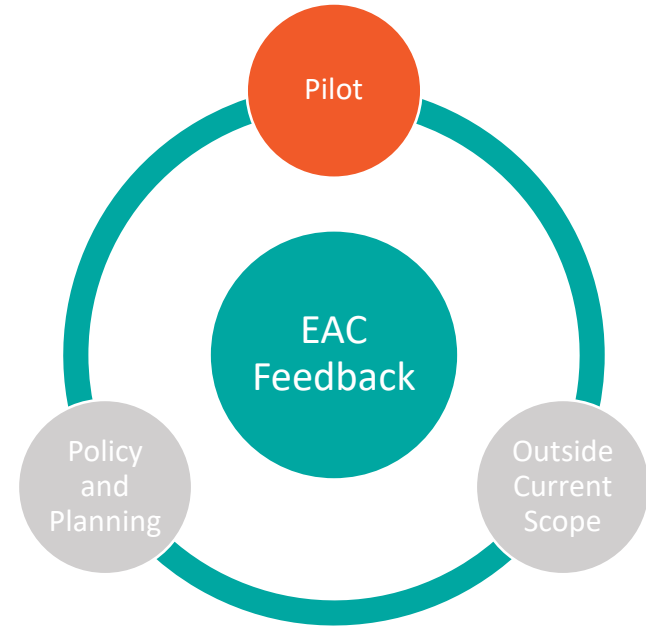
- Consider access to both peak and off-peak transit
- Address resilience of the system (e.g., when the bus doesn't run what are the options)
- Emphasize pedestrian safety
- Address the quality of displacement policies
- Require agencies compensate community members for input



What We Heard – Pilot

Comments PSRC may consider for the Pilot

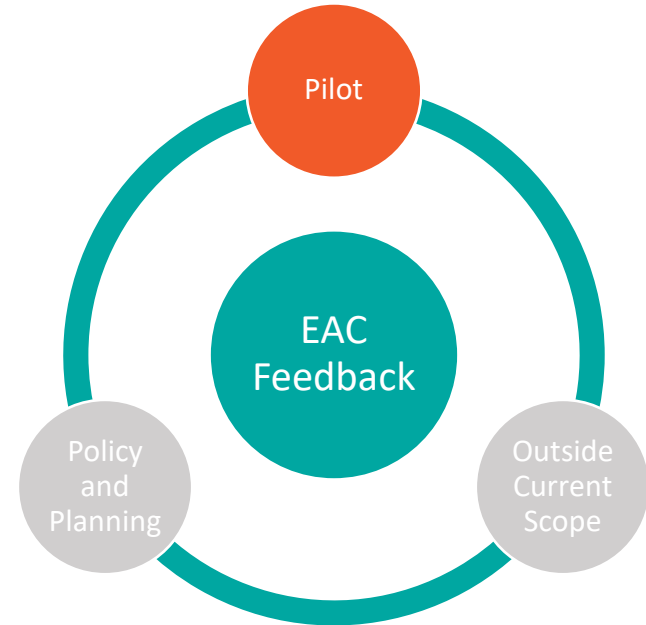
- Consider language access in outreach
- Encourage / require agencies to partner with community on their projects; avoid allowing this to serve as a checkbox experience
- Encourage increased dialogue with marginalized community to learn about needs and build relationships
- Reduce likelihood engagement is an afterthought



What We Heard – Pilot

Comments PSRC may consider for the Pilot

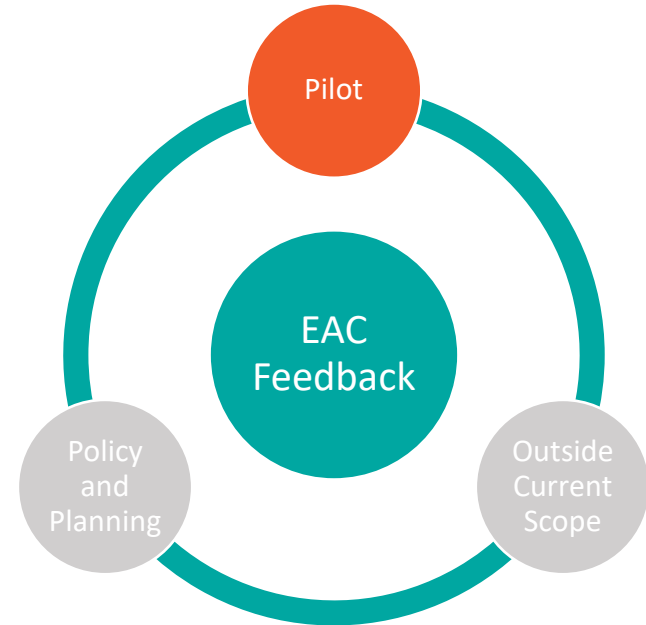
- Weight the equity criterion more, or consider equity as the overall umbrella
- Require sponsors identify the most marginalized group related to the project and describe how it's addressing their needs
- Use the location of marginalized communities in relationship to the project



What We Heard – Pilot

Comments PSRC may consider for the Pilot

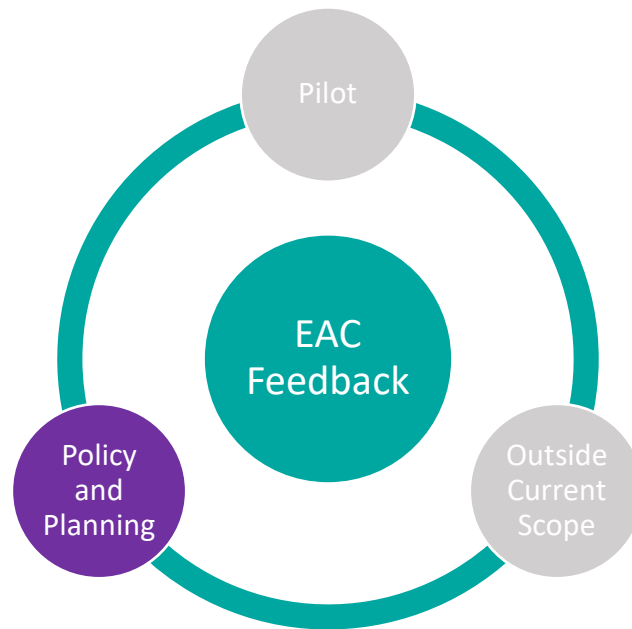
- Consider the impacts benefits strategies
- Focus on access to destinations and opportunity
- Focus on transit and bike/ped projects



What We Heard – Policy and Planning

Comments better suited for PSRC policy and planning work

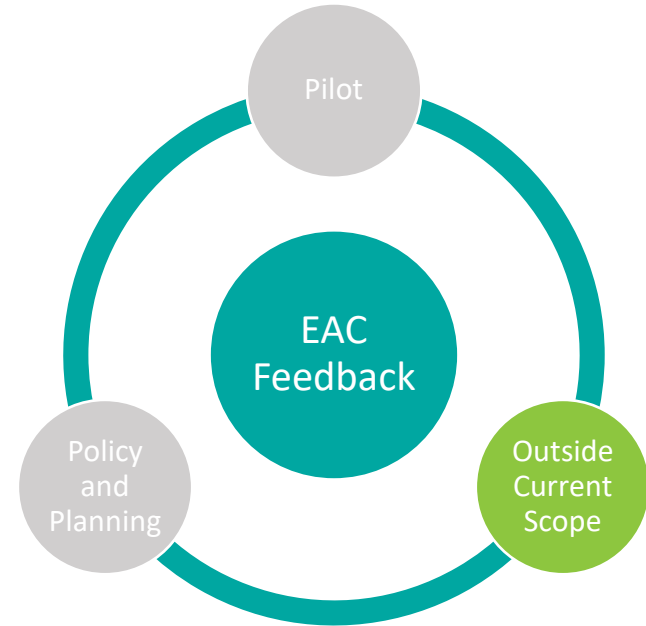
- Ask agencies to describe how equity was incorporated into their comprehensive plans
- Address the issue of lack of capacity of CBOs (i.e., stop always using the same groups for outreach)
- Require agencies to compare demographics of their staff to population of residents they're attempting to serve



What We Heard – Outside Current Scope

Comments currently outside the scope of the Pilot and require more discussion

- Consider unintended consequences and other elements of the racial equity toolkit
- Report and monitor on outcomes, future community feedback post-award
- Explore how to address income inequality (e.g., area level of income rather than our current thresholds)
- Use models to forecast how project will benefit marginalized users in the future



Equity throughout Process vs Equity Criterion

In addition to the specific **Equity** criterion, other criteria address:

- Support for centers -- *supporting densities, access to jobs for all*
- Mobility, accessibility and circulation -- *supporting active transportation, filling gaps in the system, addressing problems for all*
- Safety -- *supporting vulnerable users, pedestrian and bicycle safety, reduced reliance on enforcement*
- Climate and air quality – *reduction of emissions, addresses environmental health disparities*
- Project readiness



Equity throughout Process vs Equity Criterion

OPTION 1 = Improve Equity criterion to the extent possible based on feedback, and increase point values

- Will rework point values for remaining criteria

OPTION 2 = Reconfigure all criteria to address equity populations

- E.g., “Support for centers” could respond to improving access to jobs for everyone, and specifically improving access to jobs for equity populations
- “Mobility, accessibility and circulation” could address system improvements for everyone, and specifically improvements for equity populations



Discussion Questions

What are the pros and cons of having equity serve as its own distinct criterion versus having it woven throughout the Equity Pilot?



Discussion Questions

Do the categories we placed your feedback in make sense? Do you understand why some comments don't connect directly to the Pilot and can't be incorporated right now?

Is there consensus that these are the topics we want to address?
Is anything missing?



Discussion Questions

Are you interested in attending staff meetings to design the Pilot?

- Minimum of three meetings between June and August.
- Each meeting will be approximately 1 hour.
- EAC members will be compensated \$62.50 for each staff meeting they attend.



Thank You

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