

Preparing for PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process

Regional Project Evaluation Committee | September 22, 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

Policy Framework

- Policy direction from Board adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Based on VISION 2050 policies and consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan
 - Adopted policy focus = *support for centers and the corridors that serve them*
- Projects must be consistent with local comprehensive plans
- Process conducted every two years
 - 2024 process will distribute FFY 2027–2028 funds



Policy Framework

Project selection process – key direction from VISION 2050, criteria based on VISION 2050 policies and consistency with RTP and RES



Short-range implementation — — — *Long-range plans*



Project Evaluation Criteria

CRITERIA	Range of Point Values (depending on funding source)
Development of Centers	15 – 30
Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility	14 – 27
Equity	10
Safety	8
Air Quality / Climate Change	20 – 50
Project Readiness / Financial Plan	5
TOTAL	100



Additional Process Details

- Set-Asides: Preservation, Bicycle / Pedestrian
- Funding estimates
- Distribution splits
- Project tracking policies
- Contingency lists
- Caps on number of applications / funding requests



Key Policy Areas for Discussion

- 2022 process made significant revisions to Equity and Safety criteria
 - Including establishing a new Equity Pilot, currently in process
- Emphasis areas continue to be:
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ Climate
 - ✓ Equity



Current Work

Safety

- Regional Safety Summit
 - *June 2023*
 - Draft scope of work for the Regional Safety Action Plan
 - *September 2023*
 - Inventory of local safety plans / policies / programs
 - *November 2023*
 - Final Regional Safety Action Plan
 - *1st quarter 2025*



Current Work

Climate

- 2030 analysis and sensitivity tests
 - *1st quarter 2023*
 - Expert review panel
 - *September – October 2023*
 - CPRG / climate action plan development
 - *March 2024 & Summer 2025*



Current Work

Equity

- Development of Equity Pilot with Equity Advisory Committee
 - *January through September 2023*
 - Equity Pilot competition
 - *September through October 2023*
 - Equity Advisory Committee recommendations
 - *November – pilot projects*
 - *December – process improvements*



Schedule and Next Steps

- **October – December 2023**
 - Board discussions on key policy areas for *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- January 2024
 - Adoption of *Policy Framework*
- February – June 2024
 - Conduct project selection process
- July 2024
 - Project recommendations to board



Highlights from 2022 FHWA Process

- Projects provided improvements to:

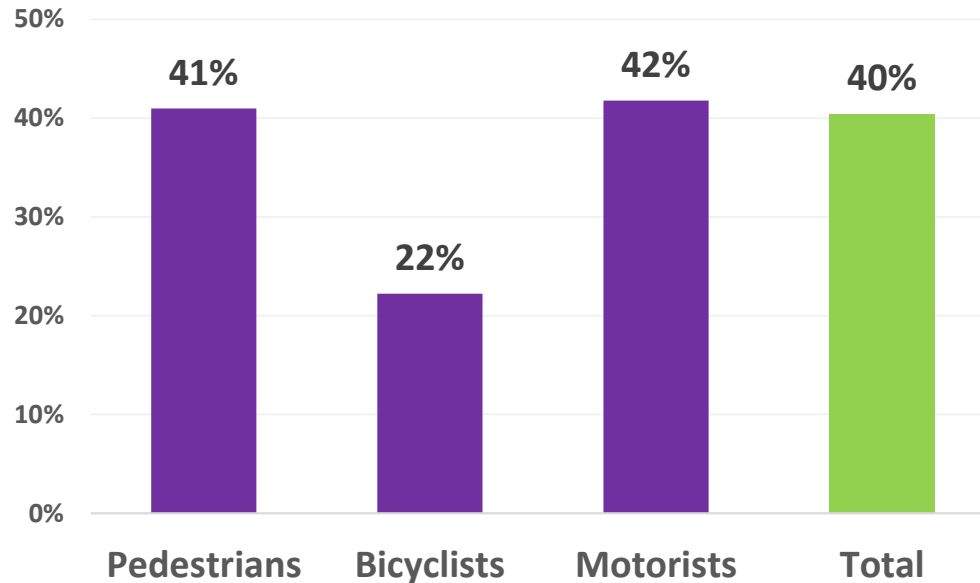
- Freight
- Transit
- Bicyclists / pedestrians
- Intersections
- Pavement preservation
- Safety
- Equity
- Emissions



Safety Issues

Board discussions pending, but interest in continuing to address the safety crisis

% Increase in Fatalities and Serious Injuries in the PSRC Region by Mode (2012 - 2022)



2022 Safety Criteria

8 Points STP, 6 Points CMAQ

- Describe how the project addresses safety and security. *(4 / 2 points)*
- Describe how the project helps protect vulnerable users of the transportation system, by improving pedestrian safety and addressing existing risks or conditions for pedestrian injuries and fatalities and/or adding or improving facilities for pedestrian and bicycle safety and comfort. *(2 points)*
- Describe how the project reduces reliance on enforcement and/or designs for decreased speeds. *(1 point)*
- Does your agency have an adopted safety policy (e.g., Vision Zero, Target Zero, etc.)? How did these policies inform the development of the project? *(1 point)*



Safety Criteria – Potential Considerations

No proposal yet suggested, but preliminary comments / ideas on the topic to date:

- Keep the 2022 criterion until the Regional Safety Action Plan is completed; *or, for 2024:*
 - Increase safety scoring values
 - Improve criteria to better reflect Safe System Approach / FHWA proven safety countermeasures
 - Safety plan threshold – adopted or commitment to develop



Schedule and Next Steps – RPEC

- October – December 2023
 - Staff will keep RPEC apprised of the board discussions and proposals
 - Where time permits, RPEC feedback will be presented to the board for consideration (*reminder that Chairs have non-voting seats at the TPB table*)
 - RPEC will also review proposed project tracking revisions
 - Are there other elements of the process the committee wants to discuss in this timeframe?

