

# Preparing for PSRC's 2024 Project Selection Process

Transportation Policy Board | November 9, 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](https://psrc.org/equity)

# Today's Agenda

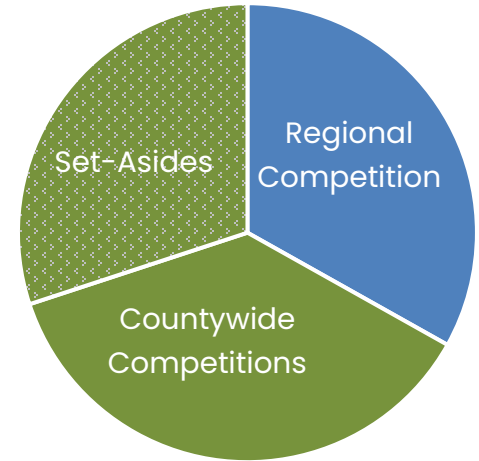
- Continuing discussion of 2024 Policy Framework and potential revisions
  - Funding distributions
  - Emphasis areas of safety, climate, equity
- Feedback from Executive Board and Regional Project Evaluation Committee will be provided



# Funding Distributions

- Consider changes to either the set-asides or the distribution splits between the Regional and Countywide competitions?

Set-Aside	Application
Preservation	20% of STBG Funds, distributed in countywide competitions
Bicycle / Pedestrian	10% of all Funds, distributed in countywide competitions
Kitsap County Adjustment	Population adjustment from STBG for Kitsap countywide process
Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program	10% of Regional Funds, distributed in off-year
PSRC Funding	\$1 million of STBG Funds per year
Equity Pilot	5% of STBG Funds for a new Equity Pilot Program in 2022



# Funding Distributions

- Feedback to date:
  - *No suggestions to revise the existing distribution splits between the Regional and Countywide competitions*
  - *No suggestions to revise the existing, or create new, set-asides*
  - *Assumption that the Equity Pilot will sunset once EAC recommendations are incorporated into the process*
- **Is there board consensus to retain the funding distributions per the existing process?**



# Project Evaluation Criteria and Point Values

- From 2022 regional process:

CRITERIA	REGIONAL POINT VALUES – STP	REGIONAL POINT VALUES – CMAQ
Development of Centers	30	15
Circulation, Mobility and Accessibility	27	14
Equity	10	10
Safety	8	6
Air Quality / Climate Change	20	50
Project Readiness / Financial Plan	5	5
TOTAL	100	100

➤ Policy emphasis areas continue to be:

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Climate
- ✓ Equity



# Safety Options

## 1. Update scoring values?

- Feedback to date:
  - *General consensus to increase the point values to demonstrate importance of topic*
  - *Staff can come back in December with specific options for consideration*

➤ **Is there board consensus to increase the points for Safety?**



# Safety Options

2. Update safety criteria & language to more concretely tie to the Safe System Approach and FHWA proven safety countermeasures?
    - Feedback to date:
      - *General consensus to update the criteria and guidance in this manner*
      - *Staff can provide more specific language suggestions in December*
- Is there board consensus to update the criteria as described?



# Safety Options

3. Consider a requirement that each agency have, or commit to develop, a safety plan based on a Safe System Approach?
    - Feedback to date:
      - *Some initial support for this concept*
      - *Concern about reasonable expectations for those who do not yet have a plan, particularly smaller agencies*
      - *Questions about PSRC's ability to enforce and consequences*
      - *Comments about short timeframe to 2024 competition*
- Is there board consensus to develop a requirement such as this for the 2024 process?





# Climate Options

1. Update scoring values (currently 20–50 points depending on funding source)?
    - Feedback to date:
      - *Some comments to retain point values as they are*
      - *Some comments to do more on climate*
      - *Noted that scoring point changes are being considered for Safety and Equity, let those settle first*
      - *Comment that current scoring values align with VISION 2050 policies*
- **Consensus not yet reached; additional board feedback?**



# Climate Options

2. Set parameters around types of projects eligible for funding?
  - Feedback to date:
    - *Some board member interest in limiting projects that provide general purpose roadway capacity – no climate benefit, and potential climate harm*
    - *Alternatively, noted the importance of funding a diversity of project types – multiple improvements needed around the region*
    - *Concern that good investments might get branded as ineligible because they are considered “roadway” – e.g., street grids in regional growth centers*



# Climate Options

- Feedback to date:
  - *Concern about projects that were previously awarded Design funds would now be ineligible to pursue Right of Way or Construction funding – burden on a federalized project*
  - *If limiting eligibility would be pursued, exemptions should be provided – e.g., freight improvements, denser street grids, already federalized projects*
  - *Multimodal improvements are necessary in places where transit service is low or does not exist*

(Note Attachment 8b – illustration of project scores across all criteria)

➤ **Consensus not yet reached; additional board feedback?**



# Equity Options

- Reminder that the Equity Pilot is currently underway
  - Evaluating improvements to the existing Equity criterion and point values
  - Also evaluating incorporating equity throughout each criterion vs. a separate Equity criterion
- The Equity Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to the board in December on proposed revisions to the Equity criterion



# Additional Board Discussion

Additional feedback?

Are there other topics the board would like to discuss as we prepare for the 2024 project selection process?



# 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

