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
Presentation Overview

- Brief Review
- Comments and Responses
- Q&A
Brief Review

- GOAL of the Equity Pilot:
  - Develop innovative ways to improve equity in PSRC’s project selection process (e.g., questions and evaluation process)
  - PSRC process provides feedback loop into future planning, improving how transportation projects meet the needs of marginalized communities
    - Laying out expectations for future project submittals
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 with EAC Subgroup
- Sept: Review with Full EAC & Develop Call Materials

Phase 3: Implementing
- Sept: Release Pilot
- Sept – Nov: Conduct Pilot
- Nov: EAC Pilot Process Recommendations

Phase 4: Planning
- Nov – Dec: EAC Process and Project Recommendations
- Dec: Board Review of EAC Recommendations
- Jan 2024: Policy Framework Adoption
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Logistics

• One project per agency to be submitted

• $6.01 million available

  • Cap funding request at $1,000,000
    • Allowed for a diversity of project types and sizes

• Total of 8 projects submitted requesting a total of $6,354,283
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>South 38th St. &amp; South Cedar St. Pedestrian Safety Improvements</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Beacon Avenue South Safety Project</td>
<td>$865,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Way</td>
<td>BPA Trail - City Center Extension</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish County</td>
<td>Center Road Pedestrian Improvements</td>
<td>$485,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSDOT</td>
<td>SR 99 Preliminary Design Study</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>Benson Corridor 20-minute Neighborhood Plan</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce Transit</td>
<td>Equitable Bus Shelter Program</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulalip Tribes</td>
<td>Marine Drive / Hermosa Heights Safety Improvements</td>
<td>$654,000</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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Public Comment
Comments and Responses

Topic: Truck Drivers

Comments

• Please consider allocating some of these funds to small business owners in the transportation industry. Independent drivers need newer trucks to stay in business.

Response

• The funds are limited to transportation infrastructure projects and equipment purchases by state and local governments. Unfortunately, it is not permitted to use the funds to support individual businesses.
Comments and Responses

Topic: Transparency

Comments

• It would be helpful to know more about how the projects were nominated / solicited and the committee's ranking process. Aside, it might be helpful to see more information about EAC members on the committee webpage such as any organization/agency they are connected with.

Response

• Please see the Equity Advisory Committee’s December 7, 2023 meeting resources which includes detailed information about the evaluation criteria and project rankings.

• For more information about the committee members, please see the current membership roster which includes a short biography of each member.
Comments and Responses

Topic: Equity Pilot is Wrong

Comments

• The entire premise is racist. There should be no such program, this is simply affirmative action.
• Select based on qualifications, not race.
• Transportation isn't racist. You waste our money and you perpetuate racism.
• Just don't understand why there is a reason to spend money on an exclusion program ... divide the population into groups, create division all in an attempt "to level the playing field" it is disgusting and wrong.

Response

• The USDOT has directed us to address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities.
• Consistent with federal policies, our boards have directed PSRC to make targeted investments to reduce disparities.
• Research has shown that equitable cities improve outcomes for everyone. Our hope is the Equity Pilot helps connect communities to opportunities, reduce disparities, and raise our ceiling as a region.
Comments and Responses

Topic: Kitsap County

Comments

• It's too bad Kitsap got shut out of funding. Be great if you could look at Bremerton for these programs. 54% of Bremerton Public School students are students of color, 69% are low income. Several schools don't even have sidewalks around them. We could use some help.

Response

• Please be aware that Kitsap County and all cites within it were eligible to apply for this program, as were all of PSRC’s member jurisdictions. PSRC did not receive an application from any Kitsap County jurisdiction for this competition.

• However, Kitsap has received funds for PSRC’s recent Transportation Alternatives Program and Rural Town Centers and Corridors Competition.
It has come to my attention that Pierce Transit was asked to reduce its award. I urge you to reconsider this proposed reduction. Maintaining the original allocation of funds will ensure a more equitable distribution of bus shelters, benefiting a broader spectrum of our community.

Preliminary board direction is to award funds to all of the projects within the amount available. In order to do this, $344,283 must be trimmed. PSRC is asking each of the project sponsors if they would be able to accept a reduced award proportional to their request and still advance their project.
Thank You

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