

Preparation for 2024 PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Process

March 20, 2024



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

Today

- **Overview**
 - PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Process
- **Committee Review & Discussion**
 - Regional Priority Ranking Factors
 - Peer Region Review
 - Incorporating Equity
- **Next Steps**



Goals

- Understand the Consolidated Grant regional priority ranking process and confirm decisions on priority ranking factors used for the staff review.
- Provide feedback to the following discussion questions:
 - Do you have any **feedback on staff proposals** for the upcoming regional priority ranking process?
 - Regional priority ranking factors
 - Incorporating equity
 - Do you have any **other ideas for improvement?**

WSDOT Consolidated Grant

- WSDOT manages and allocates the Consolidated grants.
 - WSDOT has its evaluation criteria developed for the statewide scoring.
- **PSRC recommends priority projects** for the state's evaluation by assigning priority rankings (A, B, C, D) for projects:
 - A = automatically awarded
 - B = 25 points
 - C = 12 points
 - D = no additional points

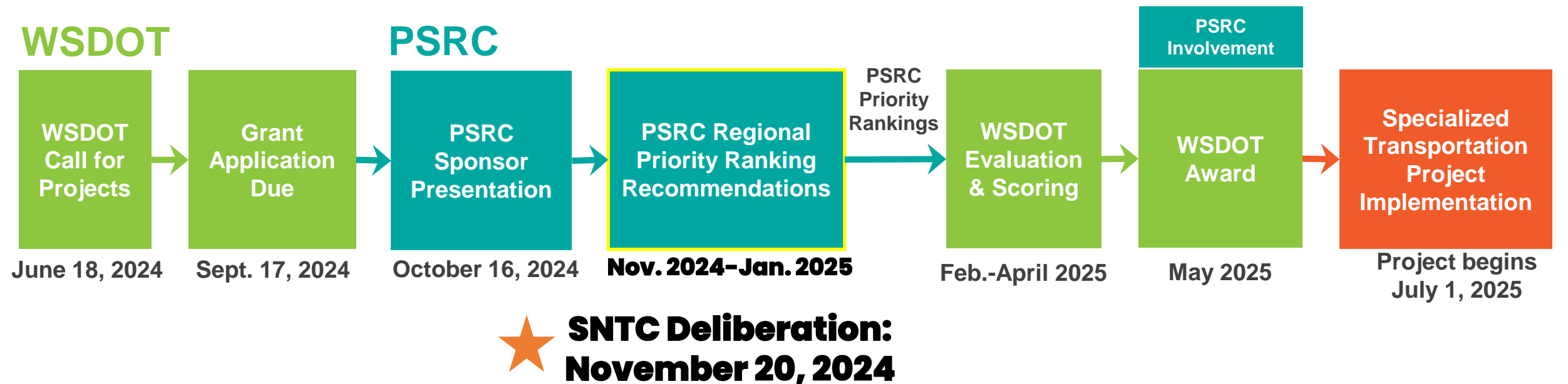
2025–2027 Ranking Allocation for PSRC

- WSDOT uses demographic data to allocate ABC rankings throughout the state.
- PSRC can distribute 21 ABC rankings (7As, 7Bs, and 7Cs).
 - For the 2025–27 biennium: **3As, 3Bs, 5 Cs, and unlimited number of Ds** are available.
 - 4-year projects will receive the same ABC ranking they received from the 2023–25 process.

NOTE: Kitsap County participates through Peninsula RTPO's regional priority ranking process.

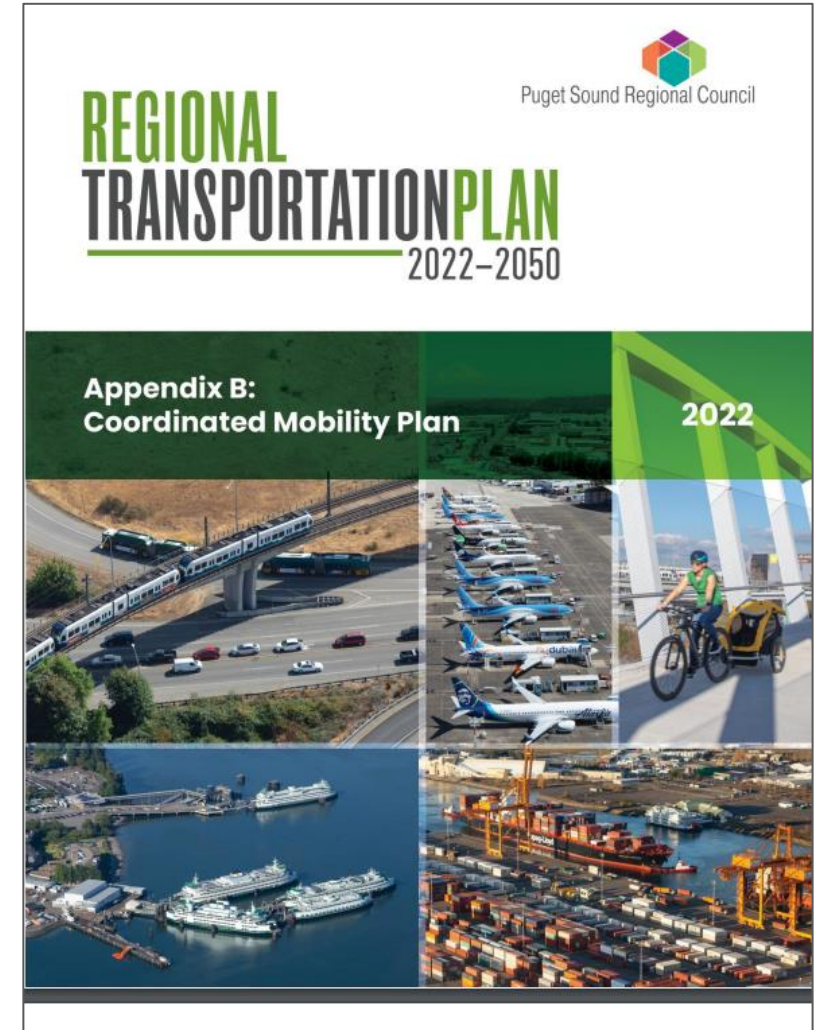
Priority Ranking Process for PSRC Region

PSRC provides regional priority rankings to the WSDOT for specialized transportation projects seeking Consolidated Grant funds in the PSRC region.



PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors

- PSRC's regional priority ranking factors are designed to help **implement the region's Coordinated Mobility Plan**.
- Staff use "factors" to review and **organize the applications in an initial sorting**, which is less intensive than scoring:
 - Projects receive a **"Yes"** or **"No"** answer for each factor. Projects are then organized by the total number of "yes" responses.



PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors (Cont'd)

#1. Project Type (Preservation vs. New/Expansion)

Preservation and capital projects that support existing programs at existing service levels receive a “yes.”

#2. Support for PSRC's Coordinated Mobility Plan

Projects adequately address at least one “High Prioritized Strategy” that addresses key mobility needs receive a “yes.”

PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors (Cont'd)

#3. Uniqueness of Service

Applicants adequately explain the uniqueness of their programs AND how their projects do not duplicate others for similar target populations within the same geographic area receive a “yes.”

#4. Financial Sustainability

Projects providing more than the federal minimum required match (operating: 50%, capital/mobility management: 20%) from local sources receive a “yes.”

PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors – Example

Project Title	County	Sustaining or New/Expansion	Project Type	PSRC Review				Total Number of "Yes" Responses
				Project Type (Sustaining vs. New/Exp.)	Support for Coordinated Mobility Plan	Uniqueness of Service	Financial Sustainability	
Project 1	C1	Sustaining	Operating	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Project 2	C2	Sustaining	Operating	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Project 3	C1	Sustaining	Operating	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3
Project 4	C1&C3	Sustaining	Operating	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3
Project 5	C1	New/Expansion	Capital	No	Yes	No	Yes	2
Project 6	C1	Sustaining	Operating	Yes	No	No	Yes	2
Project 7	C3	Sustaining	Mobility Management	Yes	No	Yes	No	2
Project 8	C2	Sustaining	Mobility Management	Yes	Yes	No	No	2
Project 9	C1&2	Sustaining	Capital	Yes	No	No	No	1
Project 10	C3	New/Expansion	Planning	No	No	No	No	0

NOTE: Final regional priority rankings will be determined at the deliberation meeting, using “Additional Factors for Consideration in Deliberation” developed by the committee



Additional Factors for Considerations

- **Geographical distribution of regional priority rankings**
- **Project types**
- **Agency equity** (# of projects per agency)
- **Compelling cases for agencies with limited resources**
- **Strategic Application of Federal/State Funds**
- **Coordination**
- **Acknowledge Importance of the Largest County Service Providers** (safety net projects)



Addressing Equity and Inclusion

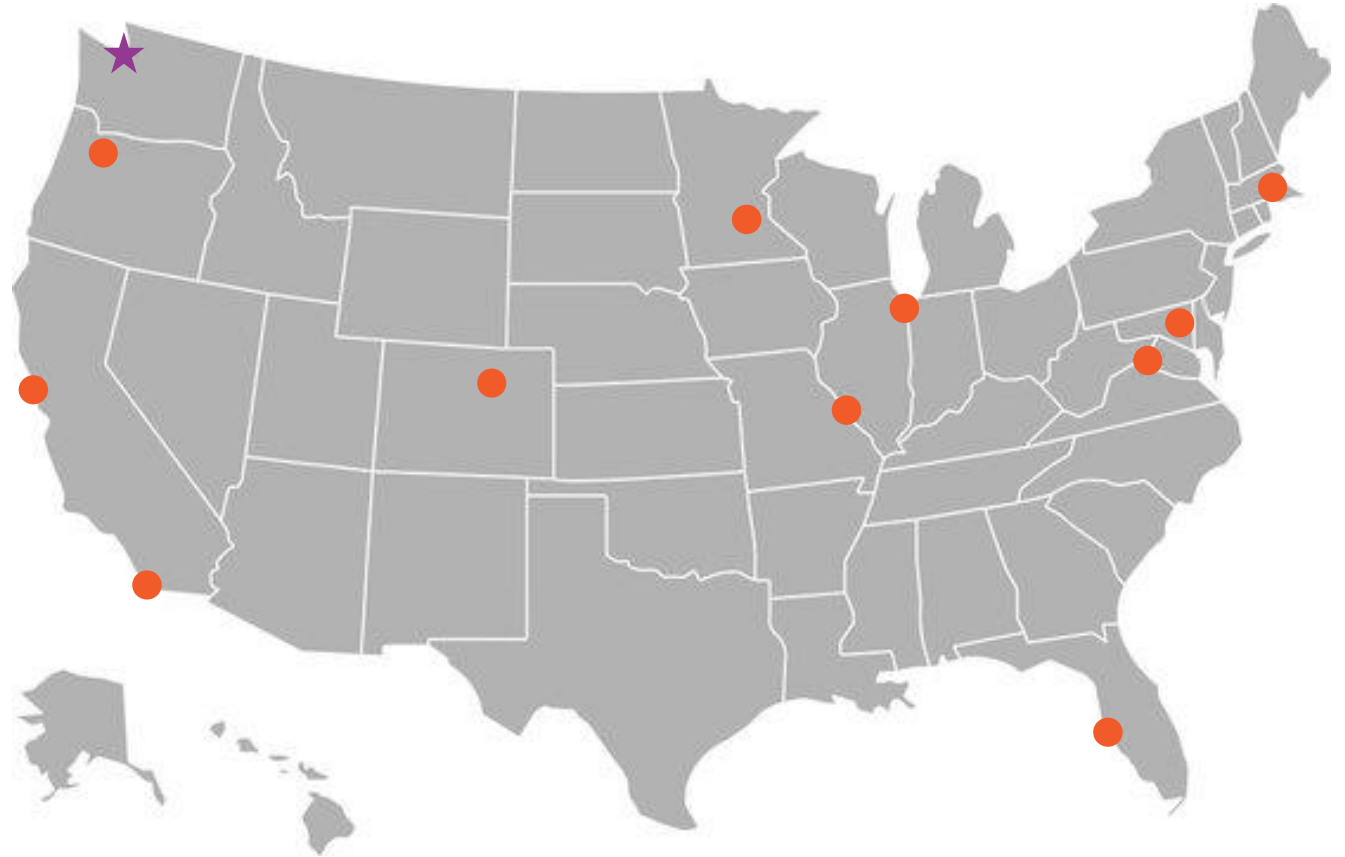
Concerns heard from sponsors:

- Lack of data to report due to limited staff capacity and resources.
- Programs serving rural areas may not receive high rankings if the equity factor is considered.
- Specialized transportation projects are already addressing equity by serving priority populations covered in the plan.



Peer Review

- Portland, OR
- San Francisco, CA*
- San Diego, CA*
- Denver, CO*
- Minneapolis, MN*
- Chicago, IL
- St. Louis, MO*
- Washington, D.C.*
- Baltimore, MD*
- Boston, MA
- Tampa, FL*



Peer Review Findings

- Some MPOs are not directly involved in allocating Specialized Transportation funds (ex: Chicago, Boston)
- Very few regions include equity, communications, and/or outreach in evaluation criteria (San Diego, Washington D.C.)
- It was one of the lower point values for those that did include it in criteria (8% and 5%)
 - San Diego – Integrated with Need
 - D.C. – Does program serve an Equity Emphasis Area?

SANDAG

Specialized Transportation Grant Program

Cycle 13 Call for Projects



Literature Review and Benchmarking Analysis

December 22, 2023

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Kaalmada Luqadda ee Bilaashka ah | Безкоштовна мовна допомога

[SANDAG.org/LanguageAssistance](https://www.sandag.org/LanguageAssistance) | 619.699.1900



Staff Proposals

1-1. Add “Meaningful Engagement & Communications”

Factor. Assess whether a project sponsor engages individuals from equity focus areas when developing/maintaining programs.

- Pros: this element could encourage sponsors to implement more inclusive engagement strategies, which could help improve ridership or program participation.
- Potential issues/considerations: There is a need to discuss what “meaningful engagement” is to help decide which projects receive a “yes.”

Staff Proposals

1-2. Conduct geographic analysis. Identify programs that provide service to or through EFAs. This could be a stand-alone factor, part of the “Uniqueness of Services” factor, or an additional consideration.

- Pros: PSRC can identify projects providing service to or through EFAs and help prioritize them.
- Potential issues: Regional-scale geographic analysis may not capture the true performance of programs. Also, programs providing countywide service would get a “yes” automatically, although they may not provide service to/from certain EFAs.

Staff Proposals

1-3. Assess Equity-related performance and goals. Assess if a project sponsor develops and tracks equity-related metrics (e.g. ridership by equity populations) to achieve equity goals.

- Pros: this will encourage sponsors to develop metrics to achieve regional equity goals. PSRC will have better data to assess the outcomes of specialized transportation programs.
- Potential issues/considerations: discussion regarding standardization of metrics by project type would be needed.

Staff Proposals

2. Bring back the “Performance Measures and Targets” Factor or take it into consideration for deliberation.

- Existing evaluation method: Assess whether the application commits to tracking project-specific performance measures AND setting targets for those measures.
- Potential changes:
 - Applications improving performance AND achieving targets receive a “yes” (or a priority).
 - Equity-related considerations can be combined with this factor.

Next Steps

March – May 2024: Continued discussion with SNTC & EAC

Mid-June 2024: Call for projects

Fall 2024–Early 2025: PSRC Regional priority ranking recommendation process.

- **October 16: Sponsor Presentation**
- **November 20: SNTC Deliberation Meeting**

July 1, 2025: Awarded projects begin

Continuous improvement and updates to further equity goals





Thank You!

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