

## PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Process

Every two years, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) awards state and federal funds for specialized transportation services through the Consolidated Grant competition. Specialized transportation fills mobility gaps when public transit is unavailable or does not fully meet the needs of people with mobility and accessibility challenges, including older adults and people with disabilities. As part of this process, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) or Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) contribute to the Consolidated Grant by providing regional priority rankings for projects applying for funds within their respective regions. As an MPO, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) provides regional priority rankings, expressed in WSDOT's designated letter grade format, for the projects seeking funds in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.<sup>1</sup>

WSDOT allocates each region a fixed number of A, B, and C rankings to award. Points associated with the rankings are added to the total score that the state produces. Points associated with each ranking (higher points for A and lower points for C rankings) are added to the statewide score. PSRC can also distribute D rankings, which are worth 0 points to the statewide score, but this allows the project to compete, relying solely on its state score.

For the 2025–2027 biennium, WSDOT has indicated that the PSRC region can distribute **11 regional rankings worth points** in the competition (3 A's, 3 B's, and 5 C's). Projects can apply for either two years (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027) or four years (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2029).



<sup>1</sup> Kitsap County is a member of both PSRC and the Peninsula RTPO. Kitsap County participates in the regional ranking process through the Peninsula RTPO.

## Instructions

**Application Deadline:** Projects applying for the Consolidated Grant must submit their applications to both WSDOT, via Grants Management System (GMS), and PSRC, via email, by 3:00pm PDT on September 17, 2024. For PSRC submissions, applications must be converted to PDFs from the GMS and emailed to Jean Kim at [jkim@psrc.org](mailto:jkim@psrc.org) by the date and time noted above to be considered for PSRC's regional priority ranking review.

- Projects within the PSRC region must address both WSDOT's evaluation criteria and PSRC's Regional Priority Ranking Factors in the same application.
- Applicants must identify how their projects address five Regional Priority Ranking Factors (see Table 1) in their WSDOT GMS application to receive a regional priority ranking.
- PSRC will be providing a **regional priority ranking training on July 31, 2024 (9:30–10:30am) via Zoom**. Please register here in advance: [https://psrc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hqCLBfNETcGfmXm8LByDOQ](https://psrc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hqCLBfNETcGfmXm8LByDOQ). The video recording of this session will be posted to the PSRC website at a later date.
- For more information on PSRC's regional priority ranking process, contact Jean Kim, Senior Planner, at [jkim@psrc.org](mailto:jkim@psrc.org) or visit PSRC's Specialized Transportation Funding website: <https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/special-needs-funding>
- For any questions on the WSDOT Consolidated Grant process, contact the WSDOT Community Transportation Planner that serves your project area:
  - King and Pierce Counties: Matthew Cramer ([cramema@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:cramema@wsdot.wa.gov))
  - Snohomish County: Marianna Hanefeld ([Marianna.hanefeld@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Marianna.hanefeld@wsdot.wa.gov))
  - WSDOT Consolidated Grant Website: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/business-wsdot/grants/public-transportation-grants/grant-programs-and-awards/consolidated>

## PSRC's Priority Ranking Factors

PSRC's Priority Ranking Factors are designed to help implement the [Coordinated Mobility Plan](#), the region's Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. The objective of the priority ranking factors is for PSRC to evaluate how well projects address regional priorities to serve populations with mobility and accessibility needs. This evaluation helps guide the Special Needs Transportation Committee (SNTC) in developing its regional priority ranking recommendations for projects applying for the Consolidated Grant.

PSRC staff will review applications for how well they address the priority ranking factors listed below:

- Preservation of Existing Programs
- Support for PSRC's Coordinated Mobility Plan
- Service Coordination
- Performance Measures and Targets
- Equitable Engagement and Communications

For PSRC's evaluation, projects will receive a simple "Yes" or "No" answer for each factor, rather than numeric scores:

- A "Yes" response indicates that the project application addresses the factor; and
- A "No" response indicates that a project application does not adequately address the factor.

**Projects seeking regional priority rankings from PSRC are also required to provide a short presentation.** At this session, SNTC voting members (or alternates of the voting members) and PSRC staff will attend and have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters. The quality of the presentation itself will not be evaluated. **The presentation session is scheduled for October 16, 2024 (9:30am-4:00pm).** The exact date and time will depend upon the volume of applications received by the September 17 deadline. Agencies will be notified about the length and the order of the presentations before the meeting. Information provided in presentations can help inform PSRC's evaluation of priority ranking factors.

A summary of the PSRC evaluation, including information received from presentations, will be provided to the SNTC as a beginning basis for their **November 20, 2024, deliberation meeting**, at which the committee will discuss and make recommendations for the regional priority rankings.

The first column in Table 1 outlines the regional priority ranking factors along with a description of how PSRC will evaluate each factor. The topics listed below are not listed in any priority order. No weighting will be applied to any factor. The second column of the table provides guidance for where the regional priority ranking factor should be addressed in the WSDOT application.


**Table 1. PSRC Regional Priority Ranking Factors**

Regional Priority Ranking Factors	Guidance for WSDOT Application
<b>Factor #1: Preservation of Existing Programs</b>	
<p>Is the project needed to support the ongoing operation of an existing program? This includes vehicle replacement and maintenance, or other capital needs to support an existing program at similar service levels.</p> <p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> Only preservation and capital projects that support existing programs at similar service levels will receive a “Yes.” New or expansion projects will receive a “No” for this factor.</p> <p><b>Existing and/or sustaining projects</b> refer to a program that is already established and its level of service remains similar compared to the previous biennium. <b>Expansion</b> refers to a project that increases the service level of an existing program. This includes establishing new service areas, increasing the budget, and extending service hours. The <b>new project</b> is defined as a project that has either not yet begun or that contains substantial changes in cost and scope of work to the original project.</p>	<p><b>Operating projects:</b> the response should be provided in the <b>“<u>Need for Service</u>”</b> section under the heading “Summary of Project Information.”</p> <p><b>Capital, mobility management, or planning projects:</b> must include whether or not the funds are for the preservation of an existing program in a brief statement in the <b>“<u>Proposed Scope/Description of the Work</u>”</b> under the heading “Scope of Work.”</p>

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<b>Factor #2: Support for the Regional Coordinated Mobility Plan</b>	
<p>Does the project support the Regional Coordinated Mobility Plan by addressing at least one of the “High” Prioritized Strategies identified in the plan?</p> <p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> Projects that adequately address one or more “High” Prioritized Strategies found in the <a href="#">Coordinated Mobility Plan</a> (PDF pages 42–44) will receive a “Yes.” Projects that fail to address this component of the plan or only address “Other” Prioritized Strategies will receive a “No” for this factor.</p> <p>Applications should tie the key effect of the project explicitly to one or more “High” Prioritized Strategies from the Coordinated Mobility Plan to receive a “Yes.” Applicants should identify the most closely aligned Strategy (or Strategies) from the Coordinated Mobility Plan’s “Mobility Tomorrow – Regional Goals and Prioritized Strategies” section and describe how the project addresses the Strategy (or Strategies). Applications that do not provide sufficient explanation linking the project to the Prioritized Strategy or that relate only to an “Other” Prioritized Strategy will receive a “No.”</p>	<p>Address how your project will align with at least one “High” Prioritized Strategy in the “<b>Project Need</b>” section under the heading “Scope of Work.”</p>
<b>Factor #3: Service Coordination</b>	
<p>Does the applicant demonstrate that they coordinate with other operating or mobility management programs serving similar populations within a similar geographic area, including public transit, <b>and</b> avoid unnecessary duplication in services?</p>	<p>Address how your project is unique in terms of serving the areas, times of day, target populations, or other factors in “<b>Special Needs Transportation</b>”</p>

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<p>If other programs are serving similar populations within a similar geographic area, does the project demonstrate how it meets needs of the priority populations that are not currently met by other programs serving the same area?</p> <p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> Applications will receive a “Yes” if they adequately explain how the service or program is coordinated with others, including those provided by public transit (bus, light rail, paratransit, microtransit, travel training, etc.), while avoiding unnecessary duplication. Projects that do not provide an explanation or simply respond that there are no similar services will receive a “No.”</p>	<p>under the heading “Scope of Work.”</p> <p>Also, further address how your project supports and interacts with other existing transportation programs in the “<b><u>Project Coordination</u></b>” section under the heading “Planning and Coordination.”</p>
Factor #4: Performance Measures and Targets	
<p>Does the project commit to tracking required performance measures, including at least one equity-focused measure, and set targets for those measures?</p> <p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> If the project commits to tracking required performance measures, including at least one equity-focused measure, and sets targets for those required measures, the project will receive a “Yes” for this factor. Projects failing to address both required performance measures, including at least one equity-focused measure, and targets will receive a “No.”</p> <p><b>Performance Measures:</b> Projects should track “required performance measures” according to the type of project: operating, capital, or mobility management. In addition, all projects are required to commit to tracking at</p>	<p><b>Operating Projects</b></p> <p>Address required performance measures, including one or more equity-focused measure and target in the “<b><u>Intended Outputs</u></b>” section under the heading “Service Level.”</p> <p>Provide how the target estimates are developed in “<b><u>Project Service Level Description</u></b>” section under the heading “Service Level.”</p>

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<p>least one equity-focused performance measure. Projects can come up with any equity-focused measures to track project performance to better serve members of the PSRC's Equity Focus Areas (or EFAs). <b>EFAs refer to areas that have relatively high concentrations (above the regional average) of underserved communities. They include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People of color</li> <li>• People with low incomes</li> <li>• Older adults (65+)</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• People with disabilities</li> <li>• People with limited English proficiency.</li> </ul> <p>The EFAs all have unique transportation needs. PSRC's <a href="#">Project Selection Resource Map</a> is an interactive web map designed to assist project sponsors in identifying Equity Focus Areas.</p> <p>In addition to the above EFA communities, PSRC recognizes and respects the full sovereignty of each Tribe and their traditional lands located within the jurisdictional boundaries of PSRC members. Federally recognized tribes in the region are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muckleshoot Indian Tribe</li> <li>• Nisqually Indian Tribe</li> <li>• Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe</li> <li>• Puyallup Tribe of Indians</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mobility Management Projects</b> Address required performance measures, including one or more equity-focused measure and target in the <b><u>"Intended Outputs"</u></b> and <b><u>"Project Success Measurement"</u></b> sections under the heading "Measurable Outcomes."</p> <p>Other project types or projects that need more space to address this factor, please use the <b><u>"Supplemental Information"</u></b> section to provide more information.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe</li> <li>• Snoqualmie Indian Tribe</li> <li>• Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians</li> <li>• Suquamish Tribe</li> <li>• Tulalip Tribes</li> </ul> <p>For more information on tribal members, visit this website: <a href="https://www.psrc.org/about-us/tribes">https://www.psrc.org/about-us/tribes</a>.</p> <p><b>Performance measures</b> should be clear, appropriate, and quantifiable to evaluate the impact of the proposed service. Examples of equity-focused measures are provided in the below list. It is strongly encouraged that all projects address their plans to track equity-focused performance and document plans to achieve equity-focused targets. PSRC will monitor the outcomes of the performance measures to help improve regional transportation.</p> <p>Projects may commit to tracking “optional” performance measures in addition to the required measures. However, tracking “optional” measures will not impact the evaluation result for this factor.</p> <p><b>Operating</b>  <b><u>Required Performance Measures:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passenger trips</li> </ul>	





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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revenue vehicle miles</li><li>• Revenue vehicle hours (or Revenue volunteer hours, if applying for volunteer transportation)</li></ul> <p><b><u>Equity-focused Performance Measures (Examples):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passenger trips broken down by different EFA populations (e.g., ridership by older adults)</li><li>• Number of rides provided to or through Equity Focus Areas (EFAs)</li><li>• Number of volunteer driver hours serving an EFA population</li><li>• Average or median travel time experienced by an EFA population</li><li>• Average or median cost of travel for an EFA population</li></ul> <p><b><u>Other Performance Measures (Optional):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of ride requests/calls</li><li>• Number of ride denials</li><li>• Number of volunteer drivers (if applying for volunteer transportation)</li></ul> <p><b>Capital</b></p> <p><b><u>Required Performance Measure:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vehicle Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) in years</li></ul> <p>NOTE: ULB is defined as the expected lifecycle of a capital asset for a particular transit provider's operating environment or the acceptable period of use in service for a particular transit provider's operating environment. For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.transit.dot.gov/TAM">https://www.transit.dot.gov/TAM</a></p> <p><b><u>Equity-focused Performance Measures (Examples):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number or percentage of new vehicles or equipment expected to serve or travel through EFAs</li></ul>	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number or percentage of vehicles near the end of their ULB serving or traveling through EFAs</li><li>• Number or percentage of new wheelchair-accessible vehicles</li><li>• Number or percentage of customers representing EFAs that express the need for a vehicle or other equipment replacement</li></ul> <p><b>Mobility Management</b></p> <p><b><u>Required Performance Measures:</u></b></p> <p><b>Information Referral &amp; Assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of clients receiving trip planning services</li><li>• Number of referrals made</li></ul> <p><b>Mobility Coalitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of mobility coalition meetings</li><li>• Number of mobility coalition participants</li><li>• Number of unique agencies represented at the meetings</li></ul> <p><b>Travel Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of training sessions provided to clients</li><li>• Number of clients trained</li></ul> <p><b><u>Equity-focused Performance Measures (Examples):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of referrals made for EFA populations</li><li>• Number of mobility coalition participants broken down by different EFA populations (or number of organizations representing EFAs)</li><li>• Number of clients served broken down by different EFA populations (e.g., number of Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP) holders who received a training service)</li></ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trainings provided to persons or organizations representing EFAs</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Performance Measures (Optional):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Actual Trips Planned</li> <li>• Percentage of Client or Coalition Member Satisfaction</li> <li>• Number of Training Outreach Completed</li> </ul> <p><b>Targets:</b> Projects should set targets to be achieved by the end of the grant cycle. Targets should be provided in numeric, quantitative form. It is recommended that projects also describe how they will collect the data for each measure that they commit to tracking to meet the target. For repeat applicants in future regional priority ranking processes, PSRC may evaluate if the projects actually tracked required measures (including one or more equity-focused measures) and if the targets were met for those measures.</p> <p>Targets should be meaningful, project-specific, and context-specific; equity-focused targets should be developed based on a reasonable estimate to improve the mobility of the EFA communities. Projects should provide appropriate data and make compelling arguments about how the target was set and what kind of efforts will be made to achieve the target.</p> <p>As a reminder, WSDOT’s Consolidated Grant Quarterly Reports allow projects to track progress toward performance measures. PSRC requests that projects track progress towards required measures by inputting the data into their quarterly reports.</p>	

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<b>Factor #5: Equitable Engagement and Communications</b>	
<p>Does the project adequately describe its engagement and communications effort and its alignment with strategies included in <a href="#">PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance</a> to better serve members of the EFAs within the service area?</p> <p><b>Evaluation Method:</b> Projects will receive a “Yes” if the application adequately explains how the project was shaped by input from EFA populations and commits to continuously making improvements based on feedback from EFA members by using inclusive engagement strategies addressed in the <a href="#">PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance</a>. Projects that do not provide an explanation or simply respond that the sponsor engages EFA populations, with little or no detail, will receive a “No” for this factor. Equity Focus Areas (or EFAs) include areas with higher concentrations of people of color, people with low incomes, older adults, youth, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency than their regional averages.</p> <p>Responses will be assessed based on how well feedback from EFA populations was taken into consideration and how well best practices from <a href="#">PSRC's Equitable Engagement Guidance</a> were implemented in the project outreach.</p> <p><b>New and expansion projects should clearly explain how specific feedback from members representing EFAs helps shape and develop the project proposal.</b> These projects can reference communities’ input from a local needs assessment, project-specific and context-specific survey results, or other local resources to identify the specific needs of EFA populations and clearly explain</p>	<p>Address your project’s equitable engagement efforts to reach EFA populations and how their feedback informed the project in the <b>“Inclusive Planning”</b> section under the heading “Vulnerable Populations in Overburdened Communities &amp; Tribes”</p>

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<p>how the project addresses the needs of the EFA populations.</p> <p>Projects that simply reference regional resources or survey results without any context will receive a “No.” For example, projects applying to serve populations in a specific community or subarea should reference the results of a survey or other engagement activities conducted for residents of that specific community or subarea rather than data reflecting the needs of the county as a whole or the region as a whole.</p> <p>Pathways for outreach are different for different projects, so whether the outreach was conducted during the planning or monitoring process will not influence the evaluation result for this factor.</p>	