



Puget Sound Regional Council

Coordinated Mobility and Accessibility Committee Meeting Summary

Date: December 10, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Remote – Online Meeting Only (Zoom Meeting)

Welcome and Introductions

Jean Kim, PSRC, welcomed everyone at 9:00 a.m. and took a roll call of the membership in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Summary

The September 18, 2024 meeting summary was approved as presented.

Action: Consolidated Grant Regional Priority Ranking Recommendations for Projects Seeking Funding for 2025-27 Biennium/2025-29 Biennia

Jean facilitated the deliberations for the CMAC to develop recommendations for the regional priority ranking in WSDOT's Consolidated Grant competition for the 2025-2027 biennium. Jean and Erin Hogan, PSRC, provided a presentation on the overview of the process. Also, Matthew Cramer, WSDOT, presented the statewide process for the upcoming biennium.

Regional Priority Rankings

Regional priority rankings, provided by Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), add points to the overall project score in WSDOT's statewide competition. Of the 21 regional priority rankings WSDOT has allotted to this region, 11 were available for this year's process. They included 3 A's, 3 B's, and 5 C's. PSRC can also distribute "D" rankings to projects that did not receive ABC rankings which adds no additional points to the statewide scoring.

PSRC received 24 project submissions, totaling \$19.7 million in funding requests for the 2023–2025 biennium and \$8.3 million for the 2025–2027 biennium. The submissions included a mix of operating projects serving individuals with mobility and accessibility needs, vehicle replacement projects to support program operations and mobility management programs.

WSDOT's Consolidated Grant competition provides funding from various federal and state sources, available for use throughout Washington State. A portion of the funding includes large urban FTA Section 5310, which must be used exclusively for programs

benefiting the large urbanized area in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties (Seattle-Tacoma). The amount available from large urban FTA Section 5310 is less than \$4 million per year. Funding from other federal and state sources awarded by WSDOT cannot be predicted for the PSRC region, as these funds are distributed on a statewide basis.

Regional Priority Ranking Factors and Deliberation Factors

PSRC reviewed Attachment A of the agenda packet which organized applications according to PSRC's assessment of how well each project met the pre-established regional priority ranking factors. This assessment was informed by the application materials and sponsor presentations. The five ranking factors are derived, in part, from the region's Coordinated Mobility Plan and were further shaped by input from the CMAC and PSRC's Equity Advisory Committee. Regional priority ranking factors used for PSRC's assessment include:

- Preservation of Existing Programs
- Addressing Coordinated Mobility Plan's High Prioritized Strategies
- Service Coordination
- Performance Measures and Targets
- Equitable Engagement and Communications

PSRC staff reviewed all applications submitted by the September 16th deadline and provided an evaluation of whether the projects adequately addressed the factors noted above. The results of the initial assessment of projects were shared with the CMAC as follows:

- 2 projects addressed all 5 factors (5/5).
- 2 projects addressed 4 factors (4/5).
- 6 projects addressed 3 factors (3/5).
- 11 projects addressed 2 factors (2/5); and
- 3 projects addressed 1 factor (1/5).

After a review of the assessment results, the committee discussed additional factors to take into consideration in their deliberation. After discussion, the committee voted unanimously to include the following deliberation factors for consideration:

- a. Acknowledge the importance of the largest county service providers, particularly thinking in terms of number of rides provided
- b. Geographical distribution of priority rankings
- c. Project types
- d. Agency equity (number of projects per agency)
- e. Compelling cases for agencies with limited resources
- f. Strategic application of federal/state funds

- g. Coordination
- h. Vehicle characteristics (vehicle mileage or age, vehicle configuration and capacity), particularly relating to capital projects
- i. Consideration given to vehicle projects applied for by agencies new to the grant process to support existing operations
- j. Precedent for past rankings for projects that have competed in this competition in past grant cycles
- k. Compelling cases for new agencies applying for existing projects
- l. Unique populations currently not well served by specialized transportation

The CMAC reviewed the deliberation factors used in previous cycles (factors a–g listed above) and agreed to include them in this year’s process. Additionally, the committee discussed and decided to introduce several new factors for consideration. Recognizing the increased number of vehicle replacement projects competing this year, the committee added two deliberation factors (factors h and i) to help prioritize these projects. Additionally, the committee decided to incorporate past ranking results when adjusting the array of projects (factor j). To support agencies newly participating through the Consolidated Grant program—who may be less familiar with the application process—the committee introduced another factor (factor k). Lastly, the committee added a factor to prioritize projects that serve unique populations currently without access to transit or other specialized transportation programs (factor l).

The committee began its deliberations using the staff assessment as a starting point. They allocated an "A" ranking to a project that addressed all five factors in the staff assessment, demonstrated strong coordination with other transportation programs in King County as one of the largest volunteer transportation programs in the region, and had previously received an "A" because the project type competes statewide (strategic application of funds). The committee decided to move two other projects up to an "A".

To apply the "strategic application of federal/state funds" factor, the committee decided to allow lower rankings for projects that are eligible for federal funding that must be used in the PSRC region and historically received funding despite lower regional rankings. As a result of this discussion, mobility management projects were assigned lower rankings (either "C" or "D"), regardless of how well they addressed regional priority factors. This approach led the committee to recommend the assignment of "C" rankings to two countywide mobility management projects that met 4 to 5 priority ranking factors but did not appear to require an "A" or "B" ranking based on "strategic application of funds." Moving these two projects to lower rankings allowed the committee to allocate two "A" rankings to projects initially ranked lower.

In selecting which projects to prioritize with "A" rankings, the committee identified Homage’s Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Sustain project as a candidate, recognizing its alignment with the "acknowledge the importance of largest county

service providers" factor. Another "A" ranking was proposed for Mt. Si Senior Center's Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (SVT) Weekday Service operations, applying the "geographic distribution of regional priority rankings" factor to support this decision. In this case, the "geographic distribution" factor was applied to the rural nature of SVT's service.

For the "B" ranking allocation, the committee prioritized operations projects that would need to compete statewide, using the "strategic application of funding" factor. In addition, programs that acknowledged the "importance of each county's largest specialized transportation providers" resulted in allocating "B" rankings to Pierce County Human Services' Beyond the Borders – Supplement, Sound Generations' Hyde Shuttle – Eastside, and Homage's TAP – Expansion programs.

The CMAC discussed factors that would distinguish the remaining projects between "C" and "D" rankings. These included the following factors:

- The committee agreed that higher ranking projects that were given lower scores should receive a "C" rather than a "D". Both Pierce and Snohomish County mobility management programs fit this category and received "C" rankings.
- The committee applied the "coordination" factor to the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's project, which was initially ranked lower based on the staff assessment. The program demonstrated connections with other agencies' specialized transportation programs, emphasizing its coordination efforts. Therefore, the committee decided to assign a "C" ranking to this program.
- Additionally, the committee assigned a "C" ranking to MultiCare's PACE Senior Transportation program. This program serves Medicare and Medicaid riders who are ineligible for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services. The committee applied the "unique populations currently not well served by specialized transportation" factor to justify assigning a "C" ranking instead of a "D".

The remaining eleven projects were given "D" rankings. In determining these recommendations, the committee based their decisions on the following criteria:

- All six capital projects and the two remaining mobility management projects are eligible for the large urban FTA 5310 funding that must be allocated in the PSRC region. With the strategic application of lower rankings to these projects, they may still receive funding in the statewide competition, even with a "D" ranking.
- The two Pierce Transit "Runner" projects and the City of Issaquah MetroFlex project received "D" rankings. These applications were provided by government entities with access to local tax revenue that is not available to the projects

applied by private nonprofit and human service agencies that demonstrated more “compelling need with limited resources” and ranked in “A” through “C.”

- This left one remaining sustaining volunteer transportation project in Snohomish County (Disabled Veterans Transportation) and an expansion of Northshore Senior Center’s service to Mill Creek as the two operating projects to also receive “D” rankings. The committee applied the “coordination” factor for this decision.

The motion to recommend the final package to the TOC was approved unanimously by the CMAC.

The presentation can be found on our website [here](#).

For more information, contact Jean Kim, PSRC, at JKim@psrc.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

***Members and Alternates Represented**

See attached attendance roster.

***Alternates, Guests and PSRC Staff Present**

Brandy Arojo, Sound Transit; Cherry Thomas, Pierce Transit; Davina Miller-Leach, PSESD; Dorene Cornwell; Hollianne Monson, Catholic Community Services - King; Ian Watson, Homage; John Larson-Friend, City of Issaquah; Juli Rose, Homage; Kristin Ely, VOAWW; Laura Loe, Hopelink; Phirun Lach, Sound Generations; Sarah Streiffert, Pierce Transit; Thomas Valdriz, City of Issaquah.

PSRC

Gil Cerise, Jean Kim, Erin Hogan, Alexa Leach, Nick Johnson

**All attendees were present via remote participation.*

CMAC Attendance Roster

Item 2 - Att. A

(Members and Alternates represented)

Date: December 10, 2024 9:00am - 3:00pm

Online/Remote Meeting Only

Representation		Name	Representation		Name
King County			Snohomish County		
King County Metro (1)	x	Scott Weinberger	Community Transit/Everett Transit (1)		Margaret Keckler, Community Transit
		Penny Lara (Alt.)		x	Jenny Hayslip, Everett Transit
KCMC (1)		VACANT	SNOTRAC (1)	x	Brock Howell
	x	Staci Sahoo, Hopelink (Alt.)			Amanda Dodd, Snotrac Board President (Alt.)
Seattle-King County Aging and Disability Services (1)	x	Meg Woolf	Snohomish County Long-Term Care and Aging (1)	x	Stefanie Novacek
		Suzy Miller (Alt.)			Michal Glauner (Alt.)
King County Persons with Disabilities/Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities (1)	x	Aaron Morrow, KCMC	Snohomish County Persons with Disabilities/ Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities (1)		Leigh Spruce, Arc of Snohomish County
		Dorene Cornwell, KCMC (Alt.)		x	Don Vanney, Arlington councilmember and disability advocate (Alt.)
Other People with Mobility and Accessibility Needs (1)		Phirun Lach, Sound Generations	Other People with Mobility and Accessibility Needs (1)		Melissa Johnson, Snow Goose Transit
Available county seat to be chosen by KCMC*	x	Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (Alt.)	Available county seat to be chosen by SNOTRAC*	x	Christina Robertson, Catholic Community Svcs Snohomish (Alt.)
Pierce County			Kitsap County		
Pierce Transit (1)	x	Ausha Potts	Kitsap Transit ^ (1)		Michael Bozarth
		Cherry Thomas (Alt.)			Jeff Vinecourt (Alt.)
Representative from PC Human Services (f/k/a PCCC) (1)	x	Daeveene May, Pierce County Human Services	KIRN ^ (1)		Kelly Schwab
		Jodie Moody, Catholic Community Services (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources (1)	x	Brian Guthrie	Kitsap County Dept. of Aging and Long-Term Care ^ (1)		VACANT
		VACANT (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
Pierce County Persons with Disabilities/ Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities (1)	x	Francie Peltier, PCCTC	Kitsap County Persons with Disabilities/ Advocacy Groups for Persons with Disabilities ^ (1)		VACANT
		Tara Zink, Pierce County, Human Svcs. Developmental Disabilities Dept (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
Other People with Mobility and Accessibility Needs (1)	x	Steve Hutchins, Around the Sound	Other People with Mobility and Accessibility Needs (1)		VACANT
Available county seat to be chosen by PCCTC*		Penni Belcher, UWPC/South Sound 211 (Alt.)	Available county seat to be chosen by Kitsap Group* ^		VACANT (Alt.)
Regional Representation			Tribal Representation		
Paratransit Services/Hopelink (2)		Ann Kennedy, Paratransit Services	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (1)		VACANT
		Christie Scheffer, Paratransit Services (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
	x	Susan Carter, Hopelink	Puyallup Tribe of Indians (1)		VACANT
		Darryl Sierra, Hopelink (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
Washington State Ferries (1)		Sarah Rose	The Suquamish Tribe (1)		VACANT
		Jared Fernley (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
Sound Transit (1)	x	Beth Hamby	The Tulalip Tribes (1)		VACANT
		Brandy Arojo (Alt.)			VACANT (Alt.)
Puget Sound Educational Services District (1)	x	Jacque Mann	NON-VOTING/PARTNER MEMBERSHIP		
		Davina Miller-Leach (Alt.)	WSDOT Community Transportation Planner – King/Pierce (1)	x	Matthew Cramer
			WSDOT Community Transportation Planner – Kitsap (1)		Elizabeth Safsten
			WSDOT Community Transportation Planner – Snohomish (1)		Katie Stanford

*This is suggested to be a representative from a transportation provider or other special needs populations listed in coordinated plan including seniors, low income, youth, veterans, and limited

** Representative is chosen by local Tribal Transportation Planning Organizations (TTPO)

^Role does not include WSDOT Consolidated Grant Voting

as of 9/2024