



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

2026–2050

DRAFT

TRANSIT ACCESS

Final Draft – April 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council



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Introduction

The VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy combined with the ambitious transit expansion in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – including the build-out of a regional high-capacity transit (HCT) system that links all four counties – will make it even more important to ensure that transit access needs are addressed. Providing easy and seamless access to the expanding transit system for people who live, work, and play in the region is key to encouraging people to use transit to meet their daily travel needs today and into the future. To support this vision, the current RTP adopted in May 2022 called for the region to develop and update tools and resources to help identify where access to transit can be improved.

Assessment of Existing Transit Access Tools and Resources

PSRC completed an assessment of its transit access [tools and resources](#), previously developed and published in 2016. This [2024 assessment](#) recommended building on the existing transit access framework with the following changes:

- Update transit access tools and resources to account for important regional work on topics such as equity, safety, and new technologies (including emerging Mobility On Demand opportunities) that influence how people access transit.
- Seek opportunities to automate and streamline transit access tools with readily available data that allow local agency staff to more easily assess transit access needs and opportunities.

The recommendations also called for additional work to improve understanding of the roles and responsibilities for transit access currently covered within the tools.

2026 Regional Transit Access Assessment

PSRC, with the help of Fehr & Peers, began work to implement these recommendations in 2025. The team is working to update PSRC's transit access tools and resources in a way that encourages local jurisdictions and transit agencies to work together to improve transit access in the region in a safe and equitable way.

One outcome of this work will be to develop an online transit access map that allows users to visualize transit access needs both in the current system and in the future. The tool will assist users in focusing on the greatest need for transit access improvement and direct users to strategies recommended to address those needs. The team is exploring ways to enable this online transit access map to incorporate local knowledge and data in a way that can illustrate how future projects could change transit access in a given geographic area. The methodology being used for this work incorporates the most recent data and analyses, including data and analysis from the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) and bicycle level of traffic stress, among others, to modernize the identification of transit access needs and strategies to address those needs.

This regional transit access assessment will highlight and prioritize needs based upon an access typology that recognizes local context and opportunities to access transit using different modes of transportation. For example, ~~in for~~ areas ~~that are within a ½-mile of closest to~~ transit stops and stations, ~~walk and bike investments are the first priority for transit access needs and improvements~~ ~~prioritizing access needs and improvements for those who walk and bike is prioritized within these areas (½-mile radius)~~. For those areas beyond ½-mile radius, the typology accounts for and prioritizes modes that go beyond the typical walkshed:

- Bicycling
- Extending transit/MOD services
- Adding/managing parking

The RTP analysis considers densities of people and jobs within various transit service types, and in the future a smaller share of the region's population will live in areas beyond the ½-mile radius. For example:

- Today, 40% of the region's population lives within ½-mile of HCT and in 2050 that percentage will rise to almost 60%.
- By contrast, 35% of the region's population lives more than 3 miles from HCT. By 2050, this percentage is reduced to 22%.

Next Steps and Timeline

PSRC and its consultant team will be developing and testing the new transit access online map and tool through early 2026, with an anticipated roll-out of the online map concurrent with adoption of the new RTP in May 2026. Once the tool is available, PSRC will provide it for use by local jurisdictions, transit agencies, and others with an interest in improving transit access in the region.