Regional Centers

Regional Staff Committee

November 5, 2026

Puget Sound Regional Council



Agenda



- Role of PSRC's Equity Advisory Committee
- Review Equity Advisory Committee Input
- Administrative updates
- Input/Feedback/Questions
- Next Steps

PSRC's Equity Advisory Committee



Equity Advisory Committee Members

- Works with PSRC to co-create products as part of the Regional Equity Strategy
- Advises PSRC committees and boards on policies and programs with an equity lens
- Member representation from all four PSRC counties

Equity Advisory Committee Feedback on Subarea Planning



What we heard: Equity Advisory Committee

Impacts

- Increase access/reduce isolation
- Commute impacts, expand local job access
- Support aging in-place

Representation

- Seniors & aging-in-place
- Disability & sensory access needs
- Historically impacted residents
- Unhoused community members
- Multilingual wayfinding

Other

- Public engagement
- Paratransit access
- Who benefits from job creation?
- Addressing displacement



Checklist Topics: Areas to Improve

- Relationships with Indigenous communities
- Public engagement

Vision & Collaboration

- Climate resilience
- Tree canopy, parks, trails, and access to open spaces

Environment & Climate

- Planning for amenities
- Accessible community gathering spaces

Land use & Development

- Alternative ownership
- Long-term affordability
- Renter input

Housing

- Engage with non-profits
- Small-business support
- Commercial displacement

Economy

- Universal design
- Safe walking & cycling
- Transit access & shelters

Transportation & services

Vision & Regional Collaboration

Topics Raised

- Collaborate with Indigenous communities
- Measure services and opportunities for underserved populations
- Access to healthy food, diverse services, and quality jobs
- Language access and prioritizing historically underserved communities
- Early and meaningful community involvement in decisions
- Consideration of impacts on communities of color

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Provide additional public engagement tools and guidance

Jurisdictions:

- Specifically address relationships with Indigenous communities in plans, document the engagement process

Environment & Climate Change

Topics Raised

- Incorporate Indigenous voices in environmental planning process
- Increasing tree canopy in underserved communities
- Accessible parks and trails for people using mobility devices
- Transit access to parks and open spaces

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Continue to provide guidance on climate resilience and environmental equity including updates to the Open Space Conservation Plan
- Provide tribal engagement strategies

Jurisdictions:

- Address climate resilience and impacts on overburdened communities, consistent with HB 1181

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Land Use & Development Patterns

Topics Raised

- Plan for amenities serving youth and seniors, including childcare, schools, and full-service grocery stores
- Consider who benefits from development and existing ownership patterns
- Support affordable spaces for non-profits and small businesses
- Prioritize community gathering spaces with free or low-barrier programming

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Provide guidance on developing third places and livable communities.

Jurisdictions:

- Identify existing and planned neighborhood amenities and gathering spaces in community element section of comprehensive plan and/or subarea plans

Housing

Topics Raised

- Encourage multigenerational housing, alternative ownership models, & community land trusts
- Consider public funding needs for alternative housing models
- Support long-term housing subsidies beyond time limited programs such as MFTE
- Encourage renter advisory groups
- Consider how parking requirements and fees affect housing costs

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Highlight permanent supportive housing in the checklist
- Further address PSH in VISION update

Jurisdictions:

- Encourage alternative housing models and long-term affordability policies

Economy

Topics Raised

- Broaden economic partnerships, including non-profits
- Identify measures to track workforce training and job opportunities
- Support diverse industry clusters and symbiosis: encourage businesses to reuse one another's materials or waste
- Encourage small-business mentorships to help local businesses overcome barriers

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Guidance and data resources on economic opportunity and commercial displacement
- Provide toolkit from recently updated work on commercial and cultural displacement

Jurisdictions:

- Document partnerships supporting workforce development, local businesses, and economic opportunity

Transportation & Public Services

Topics Raised

- Bus shelter protection from extreme weather
- Safe, accessible infrastructure for cyclists, and people using mobility devices, not just pedestrians
- Address unsafe e-bike and scooter use on sidewalks
- Consideration of construction impacts, noise, and effects on nearby communities
- Consider the impacts of locating police stations on communities of color

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Provide guidance on universal design, accessibility, and update language around pedestrians

Jurisdictions:

- In transportation project lists, specifically identify policies and projects that address safety concerns and crashes



Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs)

MIC Subarea Planning: Equity Considerations

Worker access and well-being:

- Employee amenities
- Worker health, safety, and access to services
- Transit needs for shift workers, and workers with mobility challenges

Equitable access to jobs:

- Encourage tracking who benefits from jobs in MICs
- Support local hiring, provide transparency around workforce pipelines and apprenticeships
- Increase partnerships with community organizations

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Share employer transit partnership successes, such as shuttles and vanpools
- Provide guidance on partnerships that connect workers to industrial jobs

Jurisdictions:

- Coordinate with transit agencies and employers to address worker transportation needs
- Identify barriers to accessing jobs

MIC Subarea Planning: Equity Considerations

Environmental justice considerations:

- Address noise, air quality, access to trees & green space, and buffers between industrial areas and neighborhoods
- Encourage cities to address development impacts such as construction hours

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Adopt/implement new open space plan strategies
- Provide guidance on green building strategies

Jurisdictions:

- Encourage landscaping, and setbacks to buffer impacts on adjacent neighborhoods
- Partner with regional agencies on air quality monitoring

MIC Subarea Planning: Equity Considerations

Displacement and community impacts:

- Evaluate who may be impacted by industrial growth
- Identify strategies to reduce displacement and improve accountability

Accountability and outcomes:

- Track equity outcomes, including who benefits from investments and address disparities

Action/Implementation Ideas

PSRC:

- Provide guidance on anti-displacement strategies

Jurisdictions:

- Track successful projects and progress toward subarea plan equity goals
- Continue to engage with affected communities in planning processes

Centers Framework: Administrative Updates



Proposed Administrative Updates

Countywide designation:
Consider requiring designation as a countywide center prior to regional center nomination

Joint planning:
Framework emphasizes centers within cities and encourages joint planning for centers in unincorporated urban areas. This could be strengthened by requiring city-county coordination.

Application completeness:
Add an application completeness review process to improve efficiency and support successful applications

Center plan requirements:
Build on section 9 center planning requirements by clarifying the definition of a center plan and its relationship to the comprehensive plan.

Completed work:
Update the Framework to reflect completed work plan tasks, and the status of available guidance and resources

15% mixed-use minimum:
Clarify the existing 15% minimum jobs-or-residents requirement to ensure a mix of uses and support livability in every center



Recap & Next Steps

Next Steps:

- Freight Advisory Committee December 9th
- Continued review by the Growth Management Policy Board



Thank You!

Paul Inghram, FAICP

Principal Planner

Pinghram@psrc.org

Nancy Ferber, AICP

Senior Planner

NFerber@psrc.org

Puget Sound Regional Council