2020 Project Selection Process
Workshop Agenda

- Overview
- Policy Framework
- Policy Focus
- Eligibility Requirements
- Project Selection Details
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Project Tracking Requirements
- Schedule
- Regional FHWA Competition
- Online Resources and Forms
### Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Highway Administration Funds</th>
<th>Federal Transit Administration Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Competition - $49.2m</td>
<td>Regional Competition - $24.9m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countywide Competitions - $104.1m</td>
<td>Earned Share / Preservation Distributions - $354.9m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other PSRC funding programs, conducted separately:

- *Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program*
- *Special Needs Transportation*
- *Transportation Alternatives Program*
Overview

All processes will:

• Follow policy direction from Board, as adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds*

• Follow regional policies and procedures
  • Consistency with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transportation Plan
  • Consistency with local comprehensive plans

• Follow federal and state requirements
  • Must be competitive
  • Specific eligibility requirements per funding program
  • Full funding of awarded phases
Policy Framework

**Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds**

- Adopted prior to each funding cycle
- Funds distributed approximately every 2 years
  - *Program funds into the future*
  - *2020 process will distribute FFY 2023-2024 funds*
- Based on VISION 2040 policies
  - *Support for centers and the corridors that serve them*
- Provides board direction for project selection
- Detailed policies and procedures for conducting the process
Policy Framework Key Elements

Identifies:

• Funding estimates
• Set-Asides (Preservation, Bicycle/Pedestrian, FTA Minimum Floor)
• Details of each process (amounts per process, funding limits, etc.)
• Project evaluation criteria
• Other administrative details
Policy Focus

- Policy focus continues to be support for centers and the corridors that serve them:
  - FHWA regional competition = centers defined as regional growth and manufacturing/industrial centers
  - For all other processes = centers definition expanded to include locally identified centers
    - Military facilities included as a locally identified center for countywide competitions
Eligibility Requirements

FHWA Funds

- **Surface Transportation Program (STP):**
  - most flexible
  - can fund roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, freight projects, etc.
  - minimum amount required to be spent in rural area (separate from the RTCC Program)
  - 13.5% match

- **Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ):**
  - projects must provide an air quality benefit
  - general purpose capacity projects ineligible
  - 13.5% match
Eligibility Requirements

FTA Funds

- projects must be transit-related
- local agencies eligible to apply with concurrence from a transit agency
- four specific funding programs with specific eligibility requirements
- 20% match
Three urbanized areas (UZAs) in the region: Bremerton, Marysville, Seattle-Tacoma-Everett.

Seattle-Tacoma-Everett UZA only

How FTA funds come to the region:

- Earned Share Distribution
  - Operating characteristics, service provided from each transit agency
- Regional Competition
  - Regional attributes such as population density
- Set-Asides

Three urbanized areas (UZAs) in the region: Bremerton, Marysville, Seattle-Tacoma-Everett.
Project Selection - FHWA

Shared Regional / Countywide Processes

- Regional competition
  - Limited number of applications, regional focus

- Countywide competitions
  - Set-asides distributed
  - Rural minimum
  - Priorities within each county, based on Policy Framework

- For both:
  - single phase requests, or PE + 1
Project evaluation criteria include:

- Support for centers
- Safety, mobility and accessibility
- Populations served, including health and equity considerations
- Emissions reduction
- *CMAQ includes cost-effectiveness*
- Project readiness and financial plans
- Non-scored elements include innovations and cost-benefit / practical design in project considerations
Project Tracking Requirements

Project Tracking System in place since 2003

**Goal = Efficient use of PSRC funds**

- Projects are delivered in a timely manner, cost of delays are minimized
- Policies updated over time, address all funding programs and processes
- Progress reports required twice a year
- Specific to FHWA funds
  - June 1\textsuperscript{st} obligation deadline
  - Each project award tied to a specific fiscal year
  - Opportunity to request a one-time extension
  - Annual delivery targets = “use it or lose it”
Project Tracking Requirements

FHWA obligation deadline extensions

- No longer automatically granted – rather, identification of reasons *not* allowed
- Earlier date for requesting extensions
- Two tiered process for approving extensions
  - First deadline = July 15th, for projects needing only a short extension after the June 1st deadline
  - Second deadline = no more than one additional year (to June 1 of following year), for projects needing more time; requires PSRC Board approval
- Regular monitoring and reporting
Schedule

January 2020 – 2020 Policy Framework adopted

February 3 – Call for Projects Released

February 11-14 – Workshops in each County

February to July 2020 – Project selection process conducted; project recommendations to Board in July

September 2020 – Public comment on Draft 2021-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

October 2020 – Board adoption of 2021-2024 Regional TIP

January 2021 – Federal approval of TIP
Schedule – Key Deadlines

Eligibility Screening Form Deadlines:

- Regional FHWA – March 2
- Countywide FHWA – March 20 thru April 3, *set by each countywide process*
- FTA Earned Share – April 6
- FTA Regional – March 23

Grant Application Deadlines:

- Regional FHWA – April 8
- Countywide FHWA – *set by each countywide process*
- FTA Regional – April 27
FHWA Regional Competition

- Limited Number of Applications = 36
  - 6 each from Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties
  - 12 from King County
  - 2 each from Sound Transit, WSDOT, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

- Policy Focus = support for regional centers and the corridors that serve them

- Three categories of projects
  - Regional Growth Centers
  - Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
  - Corridors Serving Centers
FHWA Regional Competition

- Maximum amount to be requested by each application
  - 50% of available funds by year, by source
    - $14.76 million of CMAQ available per year
      - $7.38 million maximum CMAQ request
    - $9.84 million of STP available per year
      - $4.92 million maximum STP request

- Reminders:
  - sponsors may request a single phase, or PE + the subsequent phase
  - phases must be fully funded with PSRC and all other sources
FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Policy Criteria:
- Varies slightly depending on category – Regional Growth Center, Manufacturing / Industrial Center, Corridor Serving Centers
- Focused on:
  - Center development, user benefits
  - Circulation, mobility, safety, accessibility
  - System continuity

Technical Criteria:
- Applies to all projects, regardless of category
- Focused on:
  - Air quality / climate change
  - Project readiness / financial plan
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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>STP</th>
<th>CMAQ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1: Policy Criteria (Category Specific Questions)</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category A: Designated Regional Growth Centers</strong></td>
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<td>Regional Growth Center Development</td>
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<td>Benefit to the Regional Growth Center</td>
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<td>Circulation within the Regional Growth Center</td>
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<td>Category B: Manufacturing / Industrial Centers</td>
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<td>Development and User Benefit</td>
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<td>Mobility and Accessibility Benefit</td>
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<td>Category C: Corridors Serving Centers</td>
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<td>Benefit to Regional Growth or Manufacturing / Industrial Center</td>
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<td>System Continuity/Long-Term Benefit and Sustainability</td>
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<td>Part 2: Technical Criteria for all Projects</td>
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<td>D: Air Quality/ Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>E: Project Readiness/Financial Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Regional Growth Center policy criteria:

Supporting centers development
  ▪ How the project supports housing/employment densities in the center
  ▪ How the project supports the plans and activities for the center
  ▪ How the project supports new or existing jobs in the center

Benefits to the center
  ▪ How the project addresses a problem
  ▪ How the project benefits a variety of user groups, and vulnerable populations

Circulation
  ▪ How the project provides access, completes a gap, etc.
  ▪ How the project improves circulation, addresses safety, provides active transportation opportunities, etc.
FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Manufacturing / Industrial Center policy criteria:

Center development and user benefit
- How the project supports the plans and activities for the center
- How the project supports new or existing jobs in the center
- How the project benefits a variety of user groups, including vulnerable populations

Mobility and accessibility
- How the project improves opportunities for freight movement
- How the project completes a gap, removes a barrier, etc.
- How the project addresses safety, reduce conflicts
- How the project improves access for multiple modes
- How the project provides active transportation opportunities, promotes CTR, etc.
FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Corridors policy criteria:

Supporting centers development
- How the project supports housing/employment densities in a center
- How the project benefits a range of modes
- How the project benefits a variety of user groups, including vulnerable populations
- How the project supports new or existing jobs in the center

System continuity
- How the project supports a long-term strategy for efficiency of the corridor
- How the project provides a logical segment linking to a center, fills a gap, etc.
- How the project relieves pressure on the system, addresses safety, reduces conflicts, etc.
- How the project provides opportunities for active transportation
FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Technical criteria:

Air Quality / Climate Change

- The project reduces emissions from:
  - Reducing trips
  - Reducing vehicle miles traveled
  - Improving travel flow / reducing vehicle idling
  - Converting vehicles to cleaner fuels

- CMAQ projects only:
  - Air quality score based on cost effectiveness
  - \( \frac{\text{CMAQ } \$ \text{ requested}}{\text{Useful life}} / \text{Emissions reduced} \)
Highlights of Technical criteria:

Project Readiness / Financial Plan

- Will the project be ready to use PSRC funds by the requested date?
  - What is the schedule of the prerequisites for obligation, project milestones
  - What is the project budget and financial plan

Key reminders:

- Single phase, or PE + 1
- Phase requested must be fully funded with request
  - *Based on reasonable financial plan and schedule*
- June 1\textsuperscript{st} delivery deadline
Tips for Completing Applications

Be clear and concise
• Provide a clear scope of work; how will the funds be used?

Be thorough – answer every question, address every criterion
• Don’t cut and paste, respond to each bullet
• Don’t assume scoring team knows your project or your area

Maps and graphics help illustrate your project and its location

The policy focus is support for centers
• It’s not enough to have a good project; your project must meet the established criteria

Delivery matters – make sure your schedule and your financial plan are feasible
Online Resources and Forms

Key resources on PSRC website:

Policy Framework
- Eligibility
- Maps
- Funding amounts available
- Guidance
  - screening form & applications checklists
  - financial constraint
  - air quality
  - populations served
Online Resources and Forms

Online system for screening forms, applications

Key Features:

- Use regular TIP Application username and password
- Save and return later
- Questions based on which category selected
- System will prompt if errors or blanks

Key Tips:

- Complete answers
- Refer to criteria and guidance
- Upload pertinent attachments

https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/fhwa-and-fta-regional-funding
Questions?