Today’s Topics

Equity Advisory Committee

Regional Equity Strategy

Project Selection Process
Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)
Operating Procedures

• Up to 20 members (no alternates), co-chairs selected by committee

• At least two members from each of the four counties

• Residents, governmental and community-based organizations providing lived experiences and perspectives

• Advise the Executive Board and other boards; co-create Regional Equity Strategy with staff

• Application process and interviews for potential members
Outreach Process

Summer 2021

• Solicited applications
• Q&A session
• Blogs & social media posts
• Translated materials
• Presentations throughout the region
Summer 2021

• Reviewed 34 applications
• Conducted 27 interviews
Regional Representation

Counties

• King: 7 members
• Kitsap: 3 members
• Pierce: 4 members
• Snohomish: 5 members
Race / Ethnicity

- AAPI
- Black
- Latinx
- Multi-racial
- Native American

https://www.psrc.org/committee/equity-advisory-committee
Gender

- Men
- Women

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Compensation: Barriers and Benefits

Members not compensated by employer eligible compensation ($125 per meeting)

• Barriers limit participation from marginalized groups
  • Time
  • Childcare
  • Travel
  • Food

• Benefits of compensating participants
  • More participation from underrepresented groups most impacted by policies and plans
  • Valuable data and holistic understanding of problems
  • More effective strategies
What will the EAC do?
Regional Equity Strategy
The strategy could include components such as:

• Creating and maintaining **tools and resources**, including **data and outreach**, to better understand how regional and local policies and actions affect our region's residents, specifically as they relate to **people of color and people with low incomes**.

• Developing strategies and **best practices** for centering equity in regional and local planning work, including inclusive **community engagement, monitoring**, and actions to achieve equitable development outcomes and **mitigate displacement** of vulnerable communities.

• Identifying implementation steps, including **how to measure outcomes**.
The strategy could include components such as:

- Identifying mechanisms to *prioritize access to funding* to address inequities.
- Developing a plan and committing resources for an *equity advisory group* that can help provide feedback on and *help implement the Regional Equity Strategy*.
- Developing and adopting an *equity impact tool* for evaluating PSRC decisions and community engagement.
Regional Equity Strategy

**Capacity Building**
- Learning Opportunities
- Prioritizing Equity
- Inclusive Procurement
- Hiring and Retention

**Data and Research**
- Equity Analyses
- Equity Tracker
- Structural Racism StoryMap
- Data & Analysis

**Community Engagement**
- Equity Advisory Committee
- Anti-Displacement Organizations
- Inclusive Engagement Guidance

**Best Practices**
- Equity Impact Tool
- Equity Planning Resources
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Community Engagement

• **Anti-Displacement Organizations**
  • Directory to connect members with CBOs addressing displacement
  • Explore potential funding opportunities

• **Inclusive Engagement Guidance**
  • Innovative strategies to center equity in outreach
  • Consult, involve, and collaborate with underrepresented communities
• **Equity Tracker**
  • Public-facing dashboard
  • Track progress on equity related policies
  • Drill down from regional to local level

• **Structural Racism StoryMap**
  • History of racist policy in the region
  • Highlight relevance to current conditions and root causes of disparities
Best Practices

• **Equity Planning Resources**
  • Strategies to reduce disparities
  • Housing, transportation, and other policies

• **Equity Impact Tool**
  • Incorporate equity in decision-making process
  • Series of questions asked evaluating policies and plans
• What does the data tell us about disparities between different groups?
  • Equity Tracker

• What has your engagement process told you about the burdens or benefits for different groups?
  • Inclusive Engagement Guidance

• What are your strategies for advancing racial equity?
  • Equity Planning Resources
Project Selection
• PSRC has project selection authority over specific sources of federal funds
  • Competitive project selection process of PSRC’s federal funds required
  • ~$90 million of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds per year
  • ~$200 million of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds per year
• A Project Selection Task Force is convened prior to each process
• Volunteers solicited from each of PSRC’s four Boards:
  • Transportation Policy Board (TPB)
  • Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)
  • Economic Development Board (EDD)
  • Executive Board
• Task Force makes recommendations to TPB on Policy Framework; Executive Board makes final decision
Over 40 board members met between April and November 2021 to review the policies and procedures for the upcoming 2022 project selection process

Recommendations include:

• Strengthening criteria related to equity and safety
• Retention of previous procedures and set-asides
• Development of a new Equity Pilot Program, in collaboration with the EAC
• Releasing the draft Policy Framework and recommendations for public comment
Stand-alone criterion with increased point values (10 points)

Expanded elements:

- Additional focus groups: People with limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees and transit dependent populations
- Disparities / gaps in the transportation system
- How community outreach will / has influenced project development
- Mitigation strategies in place for potential displacement

Expanded guidance and resources
New set-aside for an Equity Pilot Program

- Funded with 5% set-aside of FHWA funds ($6 million)
- Work with the EAC on development of the program from the beginning
Begin the development process in September 2022, specifically to:

• Evaluate the outcomes of the 2022 project selection process and the effectiveness of the equity and safety criteria revisions;
• Advise on the scope, eligibility and criteria for the equity pilot competition;
• Advise on procedural roles and responsibilities for conducting the competition; and
• Ultimately advise on next steps and the 2024 project selection process.
Schedule and Next Steps

• January 2022 – Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds adopted
• February 2022 – Call for projects launched
• July 2022 – Project funding recommendations presented to PSRC boards
• September 2022 – Public comment period on full 2023-2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including project funding recommendations
  • Begin Equity Pilot Program development with EAC
• October 2022 – Adoption of 2023-2026 Regional TIP
• January 2023 – Federal and state approvals
Questions?

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