



WestConnect

Annual Interregional Information

2026-27 Planning Cycle
2026 AICM
March 26, 2026

2026 Annual Interregional Information

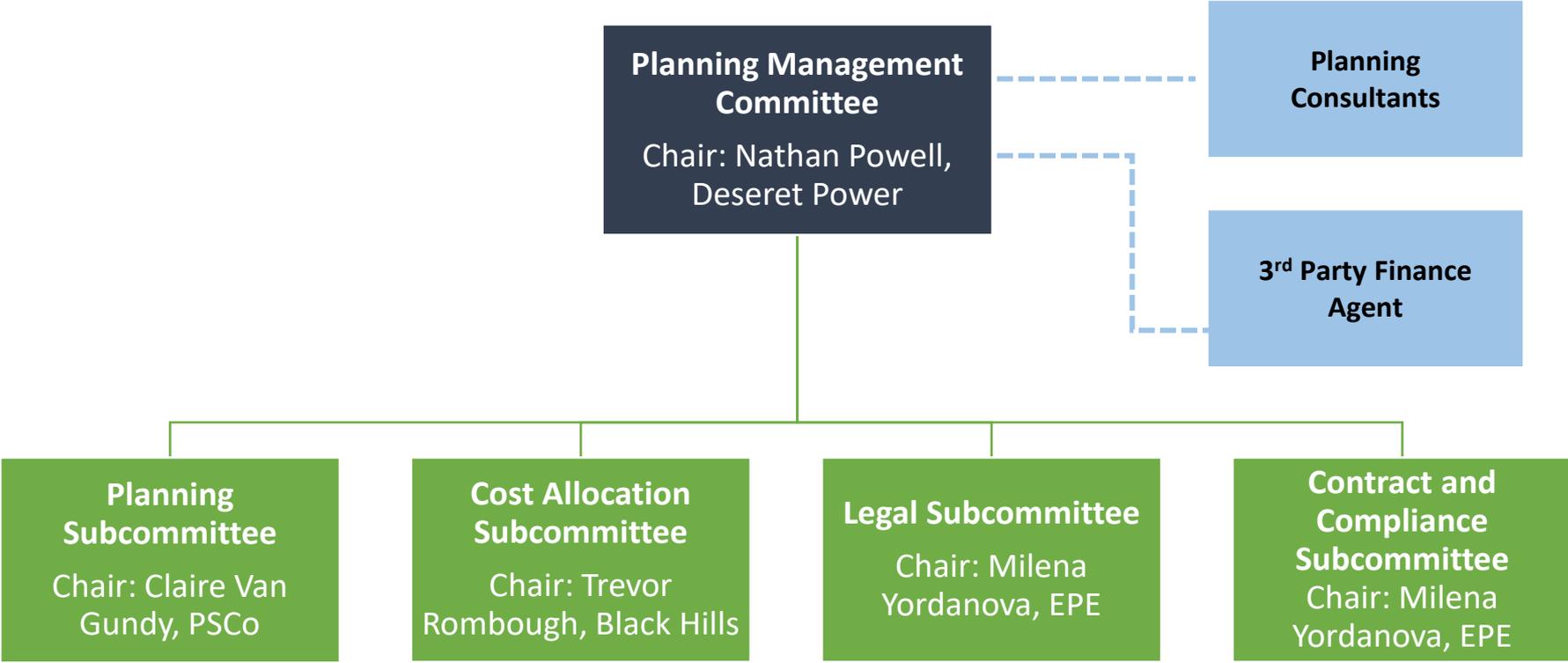
- WestConnect's Annual Interregional Information is posted to its [Interregional Coordination webpage](#)
- 2026 Annual Interregional Information includes:
 - [2024-25 WestConnect Regional Transmission Plan](#)
 - [2026-27 WestConnect Regional Study Plan](#)



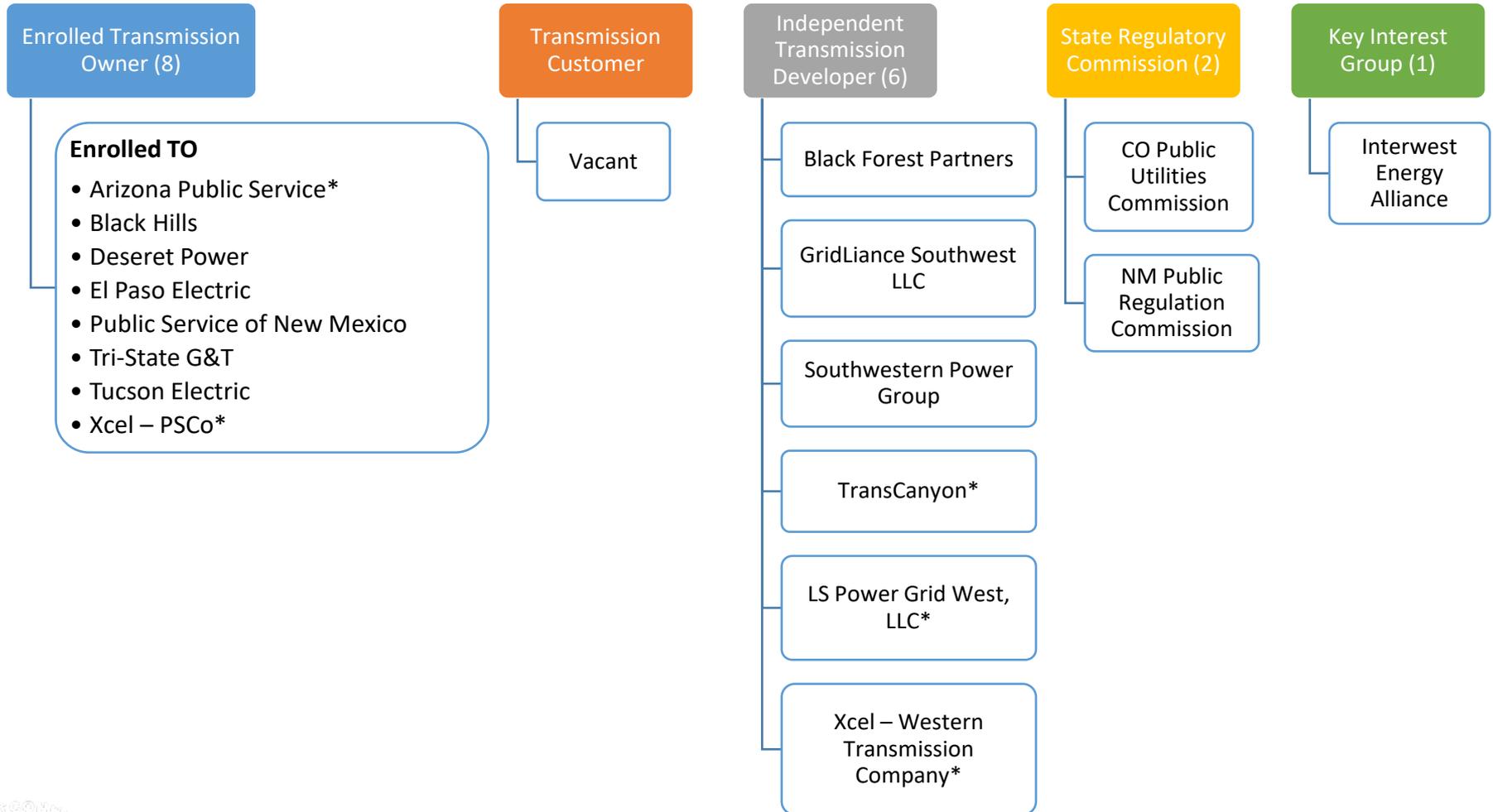
WestConnect Regional Planning Overview

Heidi Pacini, WestConnect Project Manager

PMC Organization

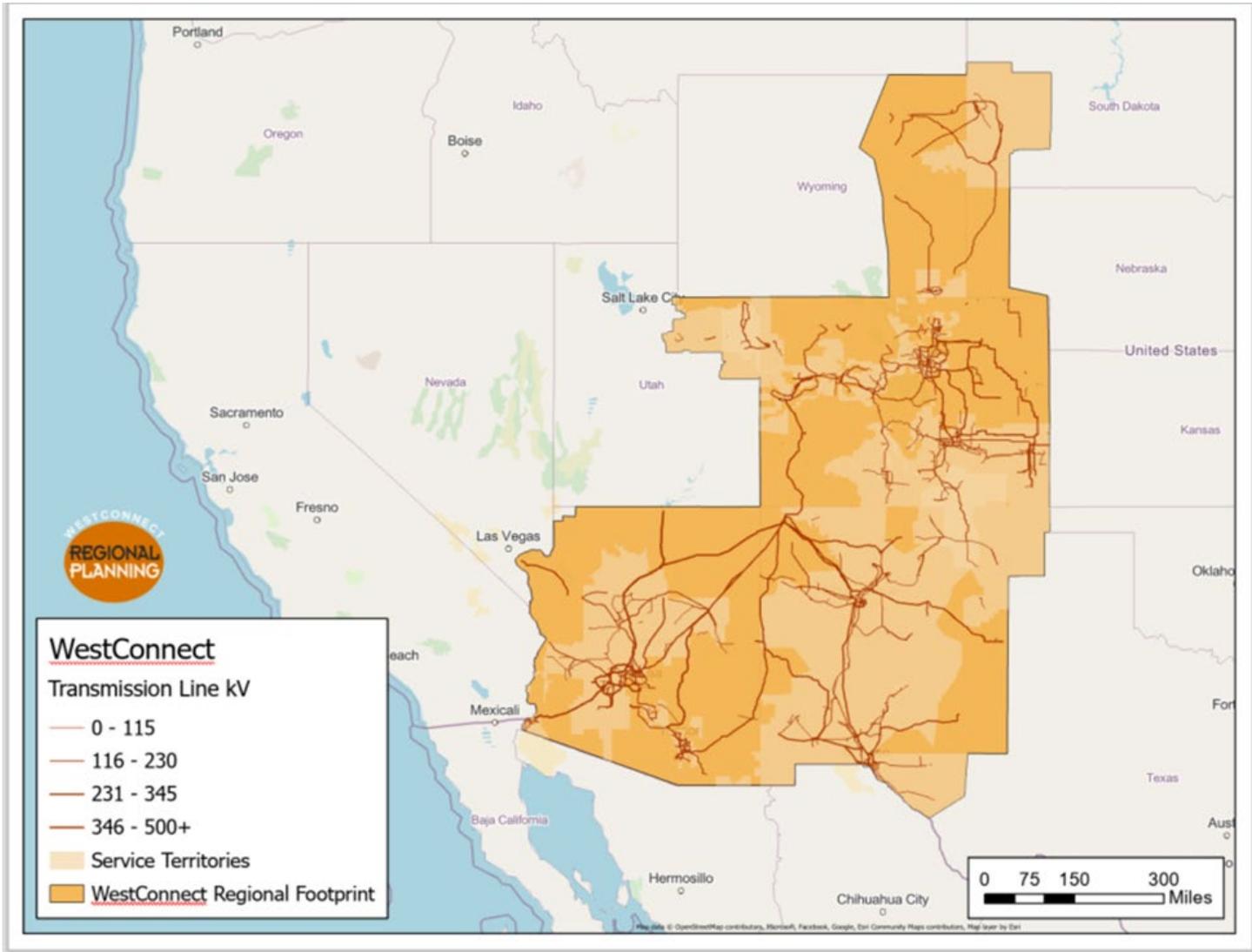


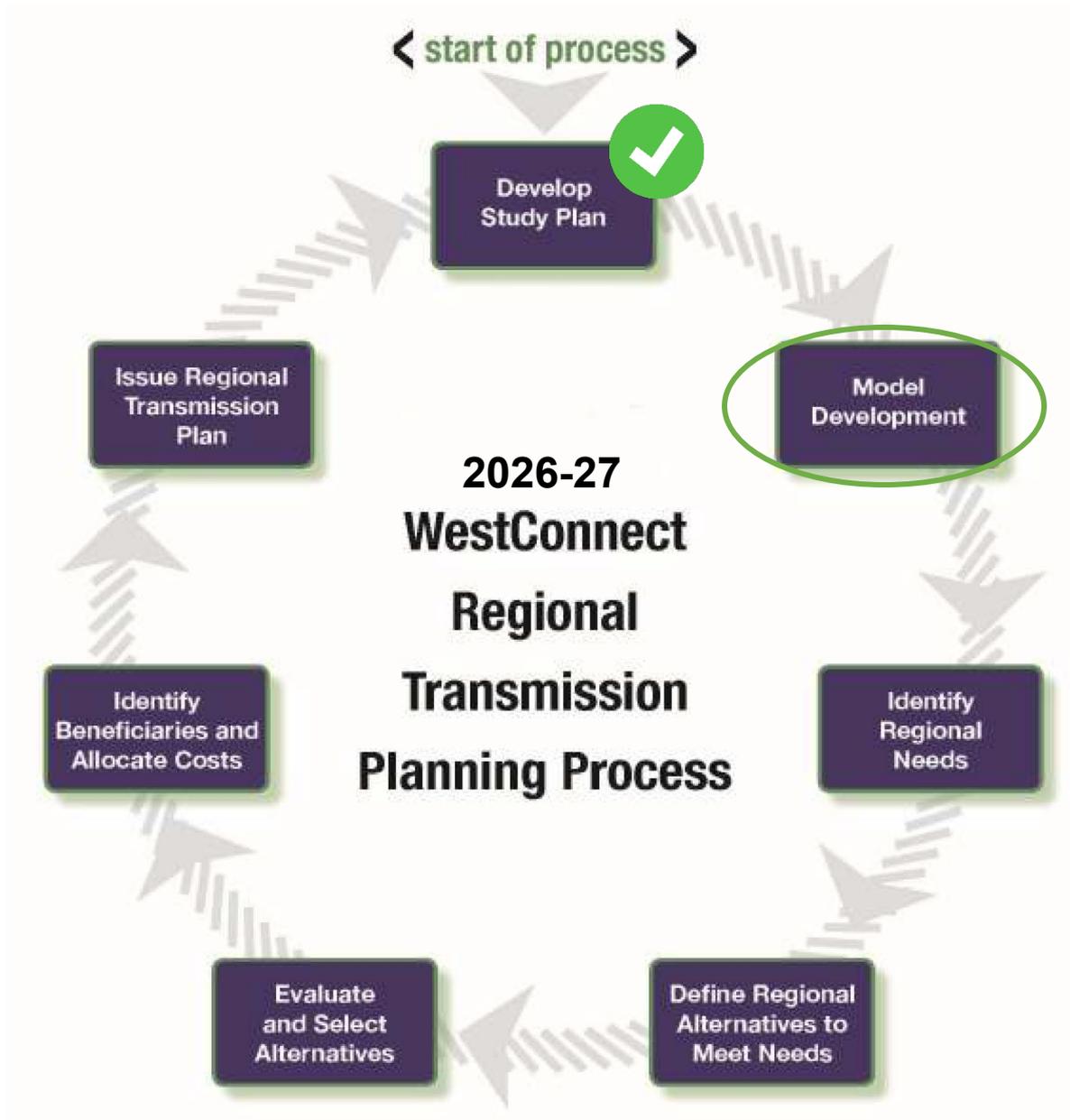
PMC Membership as of 10/16/2025



*2025 Eligible Transmission Developer
Updated 10/16/2025 5

WestConnect Planning Region Map

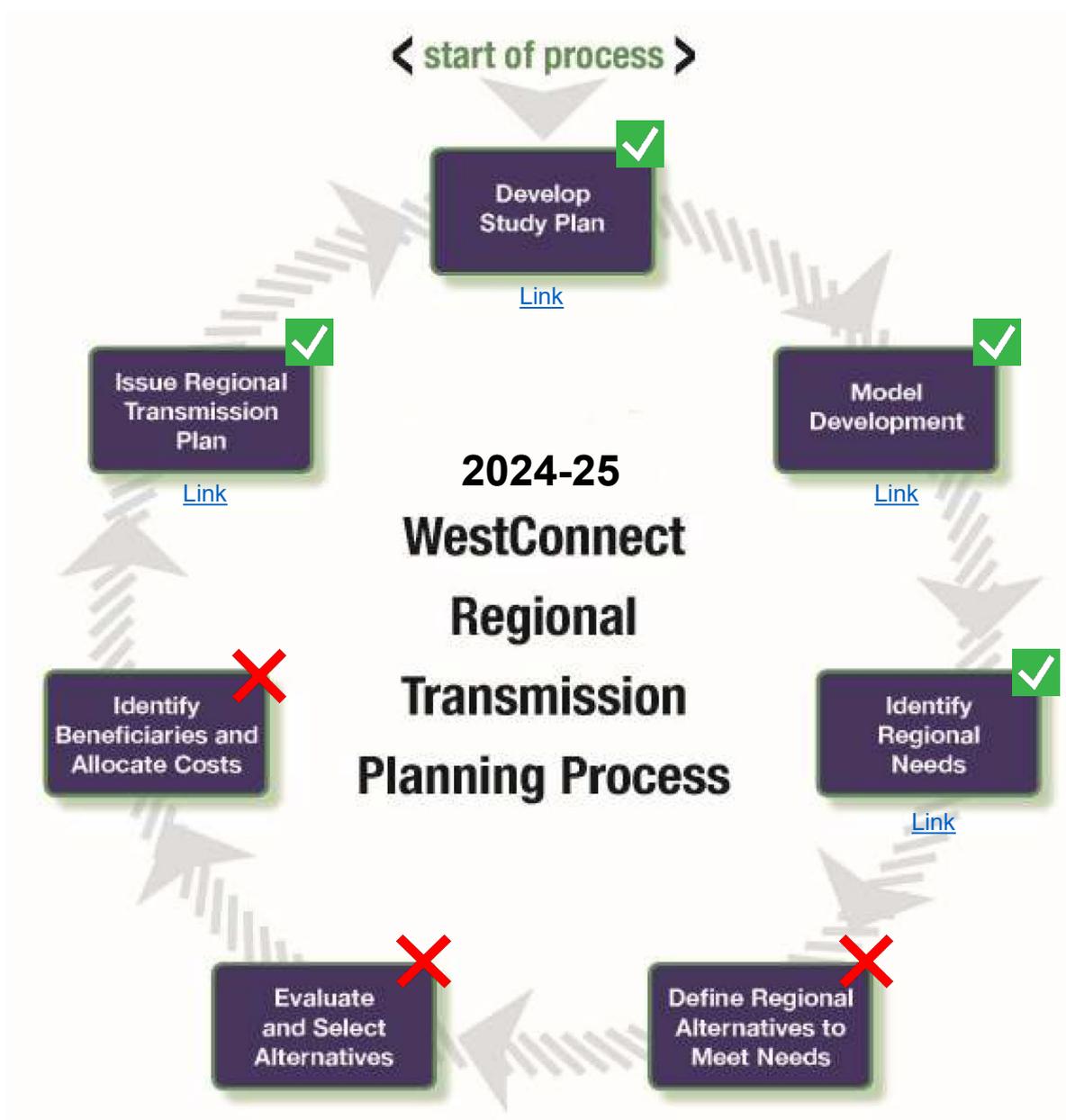






2024-25 Regional Transmission Plan

Tom Green, WestConnect Planning Consultant,
Energy Strategies





2026-27 Regional Study Plan

Tom Green, WestConnect Planning Consultant,
Energy Strategies

2026-27 Study Plan Overview

- Study Plan identifies the scope and schedule of the study work to be performed during the planning cycle
- The subsequent slides review:
 - Study Plan outline
 - Summary of key planning activities and schedule
 - Base Transmission Plan
 - Regional Need Assessments (including key models)
 - Scenario Studies
 - Opportunities for participation and next steps
- Note that the Study Plan does not explain every aspect of the process and the [BPM](#) should be consulted for details not provided (especially when referenced)

2026-27 Study Plan

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WESTCONNECT REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING

2026-27 PLANNING CYCLE

REGIONAL STUDY PLAN

FINAL APPROVED BY WESTCONNECT PMC ON MARCH 18, 2026

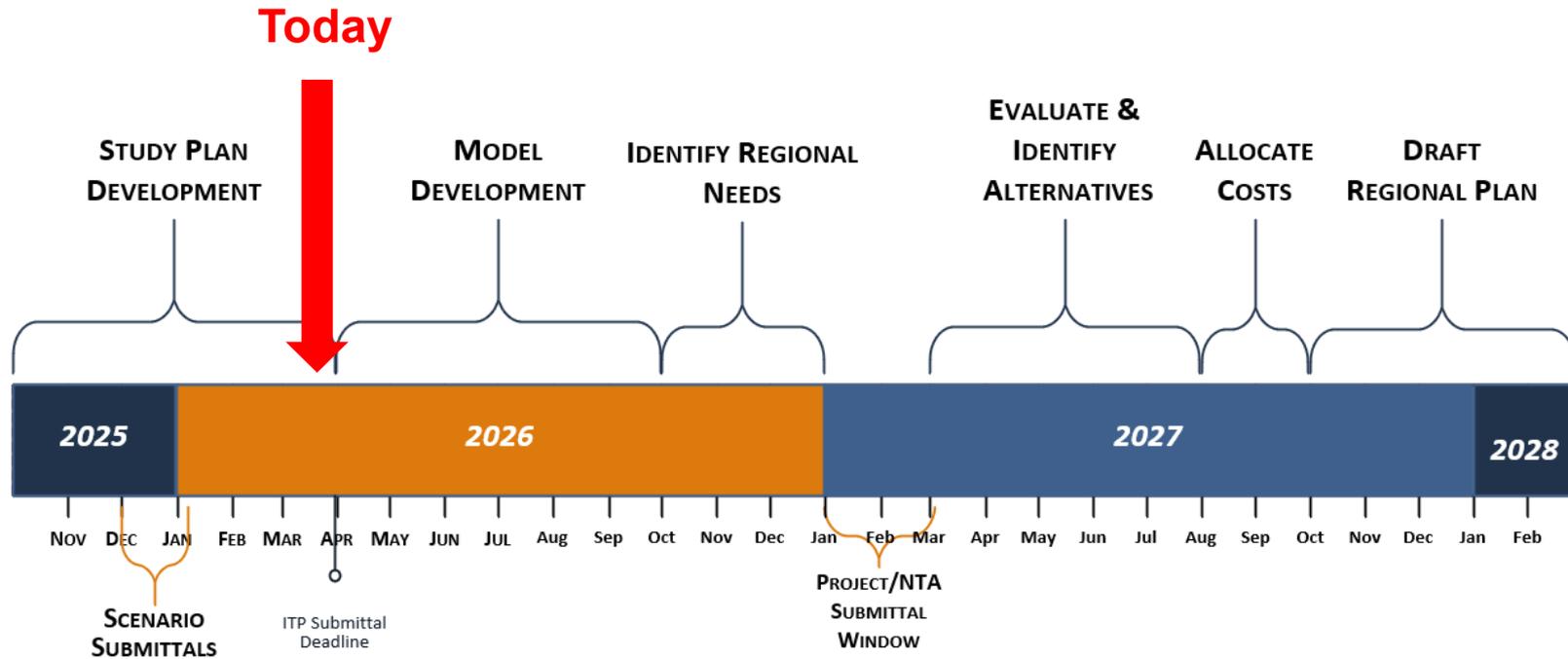


2026-27 Schedule

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Activity</i>
February 18, 2026	Q1	Stakeholder Meeting to present draft Regional Study Plan
February 20, 2026	Q1	Draft Regional Study Plan posted to WestConnect website
March 18, 2026	Q1	Final Regional Study Plan approved by PMC
March 26, 2026	Q1	Interregional Coordination Meeting
March 31, 2026	Q1	Interregional Transmission Project (“ITP”) submittal deadline
September 2026	Q3	Regional models finalized
November 18, 2026	Q4	Stakeholder meeting to discuss identified regional needs
December 2026	Q4	Regional transmission needs determination posted to WestConnect website
January 2027	Q5	Submittal window opens for projects to meet the posted regional needs. Submittal window lasts for no less than 30 days
September 2027	Q7	WestConnect posts listing of projects meeting an identified regional need selected for the purposes of cost allocation
November 2027	Q8	Draft Regional Plan Report posted to WestConnect website
November 2027	Q8	Stakeholder meeting to discuss the draft Regional Plan Report
December 2027	Q8	Final 2026-27 Regional Plan Report posted

*Western Planning Regions' coordination activities require, no later than March 31st, an identification of ITPs submitted into the regional processes of all relevant planning regions. For the WestConnect region, the PMC will not begin evaluating whether an ITP may satisfy an identified regional transmission need in the WestConnect region until after the PMC identifies regional transmission needs at year-end 2026.

2026-27 Process Timeline





2026-27 BASE TRANSMISSION PLAN

Base Transmission Plan

- Base Transmission Plan: transmission network topology that is to be reflected in each of the regional planning models
 - Base Transmission Plan = **Planned TO Projects** + **High probability ITD Projects**
- Based on project information gathered in TPPL for 2026-27 cycle
- Will document Base Transmission Plan in 2026-27 Study Plan (which will be approved by PMC), and **ensure this transmission is included in base models**

Planned TO Projects

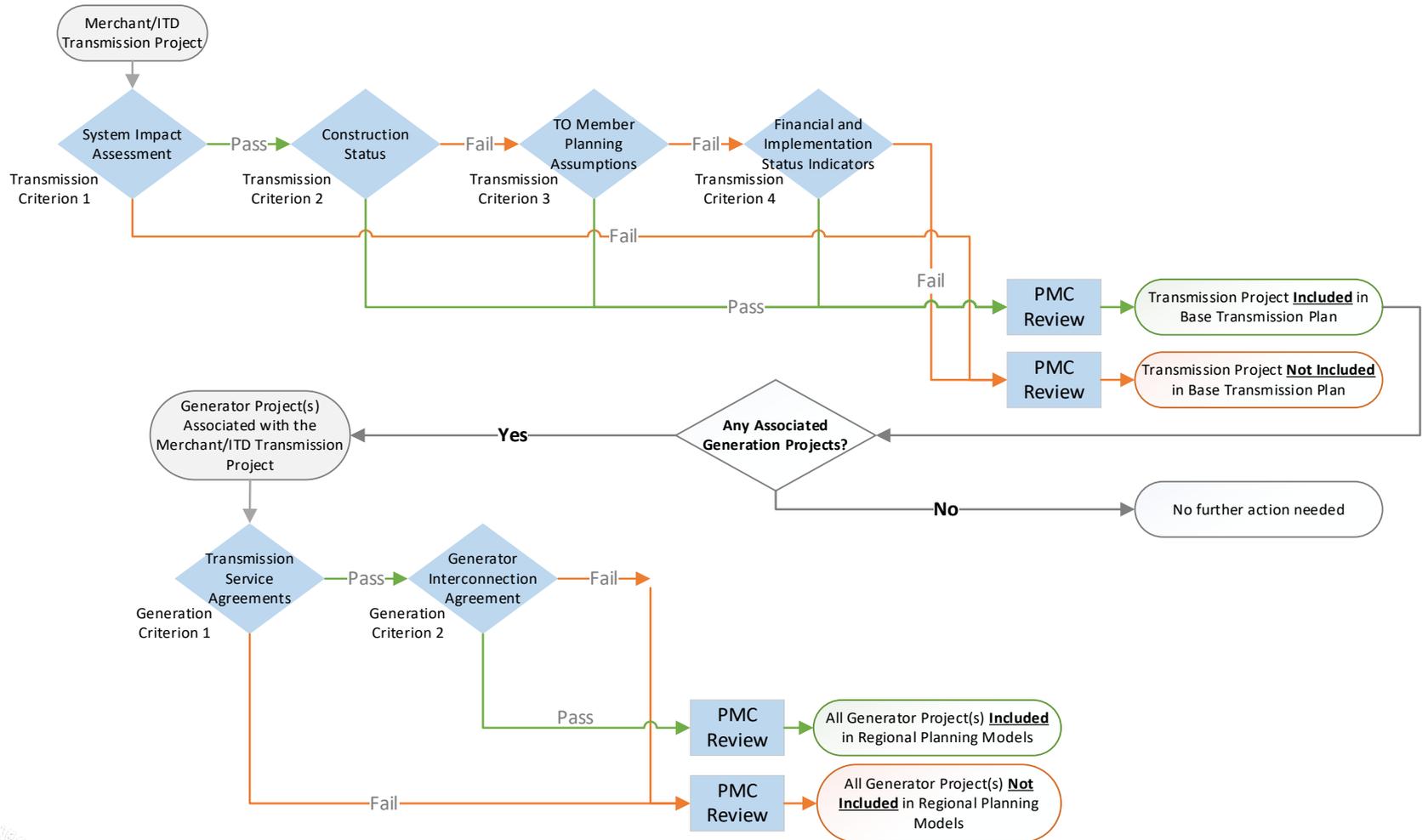
All TO projects designated with a “planned” project status are included in the base transmission plan:

- Expected to be in-service during the approaching 10-years and meets the below criteria within that timeframe:
 - Project is required to meet public policy requirements; OR
 - Project has a sponsor and is incorporated in an entity’s regulatory filings or capital budget; OR
 - Project has an agreement committing entities to participate and construct.

“High Probability” Merchant/ITD Projects

- BPM lays out set of criteria to identify “high probability” ITD projects for inclusion in base transmission plan
 - Criteria uses information gathered in TPPL
- PS compiles initial list and includes it in Study Plan for review and approval by PMC
- Inclusion means that WestConnect has high certainty that the project will be built
 - Would remove project from any evaluation against a regional need since it would be included in Base Transmission Plan

ITD Project Evaluation



Status of Evaluating ITD projects

1. On February 11, 2026, the Planning Subcommittee reviewed the application of the ITD inclusion criteria against two ITD projects submitted to the TPPL
2. Based on the ITD project data currently in the TPPL, there are no ITD projects that pass the criteria, and recommended that the two projects submitted not be included in the 2026-27 Base Transmission Plan.
3. The ITD sponsors that did not submit updates will be removed from the TPPL.

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Regional Needs Assessment Background

- Model Development:
 - Assessments conducted using models developed for year 2036
 - Cases from WECC may be used as seed cases and include the systems of all transmission facilities in the Western Interconnection.
 - As an alternative, the 2034 WestConnect PCM may be used as a seed case.
 - Members update the models to ensure the WestConnect footprint is properly represented.
- The PMC will not evaluate regional transmission needs for systems outside of the WestConnect planning region or non-member TOs within the WestConnect footprint.
- Based on the assessments, the Planning Subcommittee (PS) will identify a list of transmission issues and make a recommendation to the PMC as to which, if any, issues should constitute regional economic, reliability, or public policy needs.
- Public discussions will help determine whether identified Issues are regional
- A Regional Transmission Needs Assessment Report is developed and includes stakeholder feedback

Reliability Assessment

- Conducted to ensure the WestConnect planning region as a whole is in compliance with applicable North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards and WECC regional criteria for the 2036 planning horizon.
- Assessment will include steady state contingency analysis and transient stability analysis.
- Monitoring and violation reporting will be performed for transmission elements above 90-kV outside of the WestConnect footprint and member-identified elements within or bordering the WestConnect footprint.

WestConnect Case	Case Description	Seed Case
2036 Heavy Summer	10-Year heavy summer model	WECC 36HS
2036 Light Spring	10-Year, light load with significant, but reasonable renewable resources	WECC 34LSP1 or WestConnect 36HS

Economic Assessment

- The PS will review of the data and assumptions in the WestConnect 2034 PCM.
- The WECC 2036 ADS PCM will also inform the 2036 Base Case PCM
- Assessment reviews metrics such as congested hours and congestion cost for regional transmission elements greater than 90-kV and WECC transfer paths (or other defined interfaces in the WestConnect footprint) along with any ETO member-specified lower voltage BES elements
- Regional transmission with significant congestion will be identified and verified through PS review, historical benchmarking, and follow-up study
 - Transmission (or paths/interfaces) between multiple ETO member systems;
 - Transmission (or paths/interfaces) owned by multiple ETO members; and
 - Congestion occurring within the footprint of multiple ETO members (congestion in one TOLSO Member footprint reasonably related or tied to congestion in another ETO Member footprint)
- WestConnect will also conduct sensitivity studies on the 2036 Base Case, as necessary

WestConnect Case	Case Description	Seed Cases
2036 PCM	10-Year PCM with updated regional data	2036 WECC ADS PCM or 2034 WestConnect PCM

Public Policy Assessment

Public Policy Requirements: requirements enacted by state or federal laws or regulations, including those enacted by local governmental entities, such as a municipality or county

Regional needs driven by Public Policy Requirements can be proposed in two ways:

1. New regional economic or reliability needs identified during the regional economic and reliability needs assessments are further evaluated to determine if they were driven by Public Policy Requirements; and
 - Regional base models will reflect the Public Policy Requirements, to the extent a plan for compliance with the Public Policy Requirements has been completed by the TOLSO member
2. Stakeholders are given an opportunity to review a list of Public Policy Requirements impacting the WestConnect region and a map representation of the local projects driven by those Public Policy Requirements. Stakeholder can then suggest to WestConnect which Public Policy Requirements may result in possible regional public policy-driven transmission needs.
 - WestConnect will provide stakeholders with (1) the list of Public Policy Requirements impacting the WestConnect region and (2) a list of local public policy-driven transmission projects and a map representation of the projects. Stakeholders review the information and make suggestions

Public Policy Assessment

If any regional needs driven by Public Policy Requirements are proposed, then...

The PMC will select which, if any, of the proposed regional needs driven by Public Policy Requirements will be evaluated in the 2026-2027 planning cycle by considering factors, including, but not limited to:

1. whether the Public Policy Requirement is driving a regional transmission need that can be reasonably identified in the current planning cycle;
2. the feasibility of addressing the regional transmission need driven by the Public Policy Requirement in the current planning cycle;
3. the factual basis supporting the regional transmission need driven by the Public Policy Requirement; and
4. whether a Public Policy Requirement has been identified for which a regional transmission need has not yet materialized, or for which there may exist a regional transmission need but the development of a solution to that need is premature

2026-27 SCENARIO STUDIES

2026-27 Cycle Scenario Submissions

- WestConnect received 2 scenarios submissions during the open window:

Requestor	Description/Name
Ron Belval, Rob Kondziolka	20-Year High Load & Renewable Resource Scenario
Ben Fitch-Fleischmann Interwest Energy Alliance	Full Accounting of Production Cost Benefits

- In January, Interwest withdrew their scenario request and stated support for the 20-Year scenario.
- During development of the 2026-27 Study Plan, there was no consensus by WestConnect members on what scenarios might be evaluated.
- However, the Study Plan indicates that further discussion will take place after the Regional Assessments have been completed in December 2026.



Interregional Transmission Project Submittals

Heidi Pacini, WestConnect Project Manager

Interregional Transmission Project Submittals

- Window is open now through March 31st for Interregional Transmission Project (ITP) Submittals
 - [Submittal form](#)
- Relevant Planning Regions will confer regarding any received submittals and will coordinate to develop an ITP Evaluation Process Plan for each ITP
- Interregional Coordination [webpage](#)



Eligible Transmission Developer Application Window

Heidi Pacini, WestConnect Project Manager

Eligible Transmission Developer Applications

- Eligible Transmission Developers are those developers who will be eligible to be selected to use regional cost allocation granted to projects selected into the Regional Plan for purposes of cost allocation
- Window is currently open through March 31st for new entities seeking to become Eligible Transmission Developers
 - [Application form](#)

Opportunities for Stakeholder Engagement

1. Stakeholders may participate in PS and PMC meetings
 - All meetings are posted to the WestConnect calendar (<http://regplanning.westconnect.com/calendar.htm>)
2. To join email distribution lists, contact Heidi Pacini (heidi@pacenergies.com)
3. The next Stakeholder Meeting will be in November 2026

Next Meetings

- **April 2026 WestConnect Meetings:** *all meetings are scheduled as webinars*
 - **PS meeting:** Tuesday, April 14th
 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MDT
 - **PMC meeting:** Wednesday, April 15th
 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MDT
- 2026 PMC meetings are posted to the [WestConnect calendar](#)

QUESTIONS?

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