

King County Mobility Coalition

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 9:30 to 11:30 AM
King County Housing Authority, Snoqualmie Conference Room
700 Andover Park W, Tukwila, WA 98188

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Hamdi Abdulle, William Ayears, Alaric Bien, Amy Biggs, Dorene Cornwell, Tracey French, Cecile Henault, Erica Horn, Melony Joyce, Francois Larrivee, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Jenn Ramirez Robson, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Jim Seeks, Irene Stewart, David Waggoner, Kari Ware, Ryan Warner, Caitlin Wasley, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart

Collaborators: Rob Beem, Elisa Elliott, Tom Hanson, Cassie Marshall, Nick Ramirez, Amy Shumann

Staff: Jon Morrison Winters

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Ref Lindmark opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

New Introductions:

- Cecile Henault is the Transportation Operations Manager at Solid Ground.
- Rob Beem is Community Services Division Manager at the City of Shoreline.
- Elisa Elliott is a Planner at King County Metro in Paratransit/Rideshare Operations.
- Tom Hanson is with Washington State Department of Transportation.
- Cassie Marshall is the new AmeriCorps VISTA at Hopelink. Cassie will be working on Veterans Transportation projects during her VISTA appointment of the next year.
- Nick Ramirez is the Kent Clinic Manager at SeaMar Community Health Centers
- Amy Shumann is with Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Announcements:

- Dorene Cornwell announced a “Hack the Commute” event on February 21.
- William Ayears announced a career fair at Seattle Goodwill Industries.
- Hamdi Abdulle announced the new early learning campaign of Somali Youth and Family Club.
- Irene Stewart announced that a documentary film has been created about the history of Aging and Disability Services. The documentary played on Thursday, February 19.
- Nick Ramirez provided a copy of the one-page travel tool that the Outreach Committee created for the SeaMar Kent clinic and provided an update on the project.

Co-Chair Election Results

Ref shared that Alex O'Reilly of the City of Bellevue was re-elected as Coalition Co-chair for the 2015-2016 term. Alex thanked the Coalition for the opportunity to continue serving in this capacity.

Briefing: Transportation and Health

Amy Shumann presented on the topic of Transportation and Health. Amy presented statistics on the importance of transportation access and access to opportunity as a determinant of health. In the context of King County, many geographic areas have lower-than average scores on several metrics of access to opportunity. This is especially true in South King County.

The Coalition's role in improving opportunity could include engaging with stakeholders around these issues and continuing some activities in the region that have focused on reducing health disparities and improving equity in our region. One example that Amy spoke to was the upcoming opportunity at the PSRC level to submit a program of Pedestrian/Bike projects to the TIGER program. Pedestrian and Bicycle infrastructure is important, from a Public Health perspective, due to the increased opportunity they afford for active transportation, which can improve overall health.

Hamdi asked a clarifying question about how equity is defined for the TIGER grant application. Amy replied that equity scores are higher for projects that are located in areas of concentrated poverty, as well as communities of color.

Coalition members shared personal experience regarding the importance of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for personal safety, and spoke to the value of investing in non-motorized transportation infrastructure. Members also discussed the process for the PSRC application. Additional clarification was provided by Amy and Ref, who serves on the regional Bike/Ped Advisory Board.

The Coalition thanked Amy for her presentation.

Consent Calendar

November, 2014 Meeting Minutes: The Coalition approved the meeting minutes as drafted.

New Members and Alternates: the Coalition confirmed the appointment of the following members and alternates:

- Eric Horn of Hero House to the vacant Mental Health Advocate Service Representative seat.
- Cecile Henault of Solid Ground to the vacant Non-profit Transportation Agency alternate seat.

Briefing and Project Update: Access to Healthcare (A2C)

Alex introduced Francois Larrivee of Hopelink and provided context on the Access to Healthcare (A2C) project. The project was developed by the Coalition's Livable Communities Committee in 2011. The committee, which included members of Seattle Children's Hospital, Hopelink, and Harborview Medical Center, applied for a Special Needs Transportation grant to fund implementation. The project has been on a contingency list for some time, and implementation of a scaled back project that includes Children's and Hopelink has just begun.

Francois provided additional context and reported on the current status of the project. The project is in implementation and we have provided rides to patients. The target population is patients and families who are not eligible for transportation through the Medicaid Brokerage, and yet have a transportation barrier due to income. A process has been worked out that involves the Hopelink desk at Children's, Children's staff, and Hopelink Brokerage and Mobility Management staff.

Ref commented that his agency has seen specific gaps that may be have a cultural component, as when large families desire is for all family members to travel to the hospital together. This pilot project is one potential model that may help fill some of these gaps.

Dorene Cornwell asked whether the cabulance companies and similar services that the Brokerage uses have been connected to the Washington Access Fund, which can provide low-interest loans.

Ryan Warner asked about the end date of the grant. All grant funds must be spent by June 30, 2015, so this will be a short pilot.

Alex mentioned that one reason for the grant was to get better data on mobility barriers to healthcare. Ref added that additional data would supplement our understanding of the gap around access to healthcare and other non-commute trips.

The Coalition thanked Francois for his presentation.

Discussion: 2015-2020 KCMC Action Work Plan

Ref introduced the topic by explaining that, now that our Charter has been updated and we have completed our needs assessment, the next step in the Coalition's Action Planning process is updating our 5-year Action Work Plan.

Jon Morrison Winters added additional background information, and took notes on a flip chart while the Coalition co-chairs facilitated a discussion around work plan items for the 2015-2020 period.

The "low-hanging fruit" for this period will be Veterans Transportation and Coordination with Emergency Management, as the Coalition will have additional staff resources, at least for the next two years, to focus on these issues. There was general consensus around forming work groups or additional Coalition committees to focus on these issues. Additional discussion around Veterans Transportation focused on the diverse needs of veterans, connecting to existing efforts and coordinating with other agencies. Members suggested the need for a Veterans Transportation summit, and coordinating with 211.

Emergency Management efforts will focus on coordination of needs. We will be working with the regional work group focusing on transportation for "vulnerable populations," which are defined similarly to individuals with mobility challenges. Members noted that additional preparedness efforts are needed for Coalition member agencies. Emergency plans should be coordinated, and we should have MOUs in place in anticipation of an emergency or disaster scenario. There was also a recognition that this is new work for the Coalition and, as such, we should set realistic expectations and small goals over the next few months and years.

Finally, there was a brief discussion of other challenges/opportunities. Discussion points included:

- Issues around jurisdictional boundaries (e.g. traveling from Duvall to Monroe is difficult)
- Conducting surveys to understand transportation needs
- Barriers to healthcare access
- The need for better data (Rob Beem suggested BFRSS as a potential data source)
- Focusing on the Communication Gap, including technology barriers.
- There is more we can do around positive imaging/marketing
- We need more/better data to understand the problem and the best solutions.

The next steps of this process will include following up with existing committees and reach out to Coalition members to determine their interests. We will return to this discussion at the next meeting.

Quick Briefings

Ryan Warner provided an updated on the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Process. WSDOT received \$4.4 million in grant requests from the PSRC area from a pool of \$61 million of requests statewide. There is only \$38 million in state funding available, so some projects will not be funded. The state process is ongoing and Ryan will provide additional updates when more information is known.

Ref provided an update on the ORCA LIFT, low-income fare program. LIFT will be implemented as of the March 1 fare change. Irene noted that the RRF is cheaper for those who are eligible. Tracey French noted that DSHS is not distributing LIFT cards.

Jon provided additional updates on the work of committees and subregional coalitions. The SeaMar travel tool is being implemented and appears to be successful so far, although we will continue to track its use in order to understand the overall impact. Jon also spoke to the National Center for Mobility Management Healthcare Access Mobility Design Challenge grant opportunity. He will be working with Coalition members and others over the next month to develop and submit an application. If funded, this project will provide \$25,000 in planning funds to develop an innovative mobility project to solve a healthcare access challenge.

Jon also noted that Hopelink will be hiring additional staff in Mobility Management in order to handle the increased workload with the Emergency Management project. Ref requested that Jon should send the job listing to the KCMC in order for members to be aware of the opening and to help with recruitment.

Next Steps

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 19, 2015** from 9:30 – 11:30 AM at **Shoreline City Hall**, 17500 Midvale Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133 in the Council Chambers (located on the First floor).

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>