

King County Mobility Coalition

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4080

In attendance: Gaby Bell, Margaret Casey, Joel Estey, Vickie Foster, Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Doug Hoople, Rick Krauss, Ref Lindmark, Don Mancini, Michael Miller, Lynn Moody, Kathleen Nelson, Polly Nelson, Jim O'Malley, Alex O'Reilly, Pam Piering, Eileen Rasnack, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Bob Sahn, Ruth Tolmasoff, Dinah Wilson, Michelle Zeidman, Cindy Zwart.

Welcome and Introductions

- Alex O'Reilly introduced new members and gave an overview of new seats on the Coalition:
 - *South King County representative:* Dinah Wilson is the Community Development Block Grant Coordinator for the City of Kent and specializes in work with racial and ethnic minority communities, especially groups that work with refugees and immigrants. Dinah is the new member for this seat.
 - *Veterans representatives:* Don Mancini from VFW Post 2995 works throughout King County with veterans and their families and is the member for this new seat. Doug Hoople, a Bellevue Human Services Commissioner and commander of VFW Post 2995, is the alternate for this seat; Doug also serves on the King County Veterans Citizens Levy Oversight Board and is very active in the community. Joel Estey from King County also attended as part of the new veterans' contingent; Joel works with the Veterans and Human Services Levy.
 - *Tribes representatives:* Jake Repin (member) and Fuzzy Fletcher (alternate) from the Snoqualmie Tribes have expressed interest in joining the KCMC.
 - *Affordable Housing representatives:* Linda Weedman (member) and Ruben Rivera-Jackman (alternate) from the King County Housing Authority's resident services will also be joining the KCMC.
 - *North King County representative:* George Smith with the City of Shoreline is working with local elected officials to appoint someone to this new seat.
- Everyone introduced themselves and explained how their work fits with that of the Coalition.

Program Updates

- Cindy Zwart (Senior Services of King County) shared that they have started new Hyde Shuttle service in northeast and northwest Seattle and in Shoreline for seniors and people with disabilities. There are now 23 Hyde Shuttles, with funding provided by Lillian A. Hyde's endowment, as well as FTA's New Freedom program, WSDOT, King County Metro, and Aging & Disability Services. (http://www.seniorservices.org/getting_assistance/all_programs/transportation/hyde_shuttles.aspx)
- Ref Lindmark (King County Metro) shared that the Puget Pass will no longer be available starting July 1. Monthly passes will be available on ORCA cards instead.

- Lynn Moody (Hopelink) asked about progress towards a disposable ORCA card. Ref confirmed that this is on the list of issues to resolve with ORCA, but was unsure of its status.
- Bob Sahn (King County Metro) noted that monthly Access passes will continue to be available.
- Ref Lindmark (King County Metro) also shared that they are expanding Safeway locations for reloading ORCA cards. By June they anticipate there will be 20 Safeway locations with this capability and QFC is interested in talking with Metro about participating too.
- Michael Miller (Sound Transit) shared that on June 1, 2010 Sound Transit's fares will increase by 25 cents for seniors and people with disabilities. In 2011, Sound Transit will eliminate zones within King County. Sound Transit anticipates being able to accept Paratransit passes and/or Paratransit ID cards for full fare on all their services by end of summer. Sound Transit just finished their reporting for JARC and New Freedom grants and noted that there were over 85,000 trips provided by Volunteer Driver Programs in 2009, with about 95% of the trips provided by Senior Services.

Mobility Manager Update

- Michelle Zeidman (Hopelink) passed around "Get Well" cards for Mary Pat Lawlor at PSRC who is going in for knee surgery soon and noted how instrumental she was in getting special needs transportation included in Transportation 2040.
- Michelle shared that Hopelink has hired Micah Babinski to provide analytical support to the Coalition, particularly in support of our needs assessment using GIS to map special needs populations and existing transportation services. Micah is a student at the University of Washington in the Geography Department with a focus on GIS. Micah's work is intended to illustrate where there are opportunities for expanding existing services to new or growing special needs population groups. An update on his work will be provided at the July meeting.
- Michelle noted that she will be presenting King County's mobility management efforts at next week's CTAA Conference. Polly Nelson will also be presenting on a panel about Travel Instruction. Pam Piering requested that Michelle send her presentation to the Coalition.
- Michelle announced that King County was selected to participate in Easter Seals Project Action's Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative. On June 23 and 24, two facilitators from Easter Seals will facilitate an action planning workshop for 25 individuals representing a broad range of special needs transportation providers, purchasers and riders in King County. Over the next year, Easter Seals will provide technical assistance as we implement this action plan. There will be opportunities for everyone help implement the plan over the next year. Michelle encouraged Coalition members to contact her if there are issues they'd like to see included in the action plan.
- Melony Joyce (King County Metro) noted that we are trying to get an elected official, possibly King County Executive Dow Constantine or Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett, to welcome attendees at the workshop and help raise the visibility of special needs transportation. Sylvia Fuerstenberg suggested inviting Rep. Deb Eddy or Judy Clibborn.

Consent Agenda

- *KCMC Co-Chair Election:* Lynn Moody moved and Pam Piering seconded the re-election of Bob Sahn (King County Metro) as co-chair of the Coalition. The motion passed unanimously.
- *SNTC Chair and Vice Chair Nomination:* Ref Lindmark moved and Gaby Bell seconded the nomination of Bob Sahn (King County Metro) as Chair of the Special Needs Transportation Committee and Cindy Zwart (Senior Services) as Vice Chair of the SNTC. The motion passed unanimously. Action Item: these nominations will be forwarded to the SNTC for approval on May 20, 2010.
- *Meeting Minutes:* Alex O'Reilly moved and Ref Lindmark seconded the approval of the February 16, 2010 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.
- *Charter Amendments:* Michelle reviewed proposed amendments to the charter. Michael Miller requested that we list standing committees in the charter. Bob Sahn moved that the charter amendments be approved with Michael's requested addition. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- Bob Sahn explained that all of our subcommittees have met at least once and each subcommittee gave a report on its activities. (*See handout for Subcommittee Updates for summaries of these activities; only additions to those summaries are noted below.*)
- Membership Subcommittee:
 - Alex O'Reilly shared that our new member form will be helpful for outreach to elected officials and establishing the credibility of our Coalition. We are also tracking affiliations of our members so we can get a better sense of the reach of our Coalition. Action Item: Michelle Zeidman will email the new member form to Coalition members and alternates.
- Government Affairs Working Group:
 - Bob Sahn shared that the Coalition sent letters of introduction to Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and King County Executive Dow Constantine. Subsequently Coalition representatives met with staff from Mayor McGinn's office and will be meeting with a Transportation Policy Advisor to Executive Constantine later this week. These meetings are intended to let them know about our Coalition, who we are and what we do.
 - Pam Piering (Aging & Disability Services) shared that the meeting with Mayor McGinn's staff resulted in a proclamation on older adults that includes references to improving quality of life by ensuring access to activities. Margaret Casey (Aging & Disability Services) noted that this is included in the Senior Digest for May (<http://www.poststat.net/pwp008/pub.49>).
 - Michael Miller also noted that the working group decided to not meet regularly, but to convene as needed.
 - Margaret Casey asked whether the working group will be involved with the state legislature during the next session as they move transportation bills relevant to our work. Bob Sahn agreed that the working group will both work to share information with legislators and also to communicate with the Coalition.

- Lynn Moody and Bob Sahm discussed the importance of working with ACCT's working group on federal funding opportunities and noted that Lynn will be working on this.
- Pam Piering shared that funding for the Senior Citizens Services Act was retained in full in the final state budget, due to the persistence of Coalition members and other advocates.
- Bob Sahm noted that funding is going to be even tighter in the next state budget and encouraged members to meet with their legislators now. He also welcomed recommendations for whom the Coalition should speak with.
- Pam Piering offered to get us on the agenda for the Area Agencies on Aging meeting so that we can get included in their legislative agenda and make our voice stronger.
- Technology Subcommittee:
 - Ref Lindmark shared that King County Metro is sharing its data with technology developers and provided a handout that shows some of the third-party applications that Metro now is publicizing on their website: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/MetroTransit/Developers/AppCenter.aspx>
 - Sylvia Fuerstenberg (The Arc of King County) shared that she's excited about the OneBusAway tool and hopes that someday it will be available for Access Transportation too so that we can eliminate redundant trips.
 - Sylvia also noted that the Arc of King County has a Google Translator button on the homepage of their website so people can access their information in over 100 languages at no cost to the agency or the users (<http://www.arcofkingcounty.org/>).
 - *The subcommittee's next meeting* is July 1 at 11:00am at the Exchange Building located at 821 Second Ave in Seattle.
- Livable Communities Subcommittee:
 - Margaret Casey noted that the federal Livable Communities Initiative is about integrating the planning and funding for transportation, housing and the built environment and that this ties to the Coalition's goal to put people first. She also noted that United We Ride is emphasizing livable communities and that this work is supported by Complete Streets principles.
 - Margaret reviewed the subcommittee's proposal to expand existing grants to address built environment barriers to service delivery, and noted that the subcommittee will be meeting with PSRC/WSDOT grantees over the next few months.
 - Ref Lindmark noted that former King County Executive Ron Sims has been instrumental in pushing this interagency approach to livable communities at the federal level through his work at HUD. Ref encouraged Coalition members to think about how their programs connect to the housing and the environment and noted that framing our projects in this way might make us more competitive in the next grant cycle. Margaret Casey agreed with this and reinforced the importance of understanding how our projects fit in this larger national framework for integrated planning.
 - Links to additional information on the federal Livable Communities Initiative:
 - Website: http://fta.dot.gov/publications/publications_10935.html

- One-page flyer: http://fta.dot.gov/documents/Flyer_Livability.pdf
 - Detailed listing of programs that will be included in the Livable and Sustainable Communities initiative:
http://fta.dot.gov/documents/Sustainable_Communities_Programs_4-29-10.pdf
 - *The subcommittee's next meeting* is May 20 at 1:00pm in the Seattle Municipal Tower located at 700 Fifth Avenue in Seattle, room 5135.
- Targeted Outreach Subcommittee:
 - Cindy Zwart (Senior Services) shared that the transportation forums will conclude with a presentation from Polly Nelson on the travel ambassador program and invite interested agencies to sign up for her more extensive travel options training workshops.
 - Cindy also noted that the subcommittee will be supporting Polly Nelson and George Smith's efforts to host a transportation forum and travel ambassador training in North King County.
 - Cindy noted that the subcommittee's next meeting has not yet been scheduled but will be held in the next month. An announcement will be sent electronically.
 - Sylvia Fuerstenberg noted that they have a federal grant to work with immigrant and refugee communities and that it would be great to have the Arc included in both the transportation forum for employment and for immigrants and refugees. Cindy shared that Senior Services has been working with Debbie from the Arc already and will continue to do so. Cindy also noted that they have applied for funding from the Beverly Foundation for a two-day workshop for immigrants and refugees and hopes to hold our transportation forum in conjunction with that workshop, if the grant proposal receives funding.
- Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF):
 - Lynn Moody (Hopelink) explained that the Regional Transit Task Force was appointed by the King County Council and that they are charged with reviewing short-term and long-term objectives for transit investment, looking at funding options, identifying deficiencies, and crafting a strategy for funding transit in the future.
 - The task force has met three times and will be meeting twice a month from June to September on first and third Thursdays at 5:30pm. The public is welcome to attend and there is time for public comment.
 - Past meetings have focused on data and statistics relating to Metro's operations and revenue shortfalls.
 - There are six system design factors the task force will be looking at: land use, social equity and environmental justice, financial sustainability, geographic equity, economic development, and productivity and efficiency. At upcoming meetings, the task force will be discussing these factors and how they should be weighed for system growth and contraction.
 - Lynn welcomed Coalition members to share their thoughts with her regarding the six system design factors that Metro uses to set transit service levels (lmoody@hope-link.org).
 - Lynn also noted that Metro will be looking at their fare structures, especially their discounted fares, which could dramatically impact special needs populations

particularly schools who use public transportation for their students. This was directed by their audit which found that Metro's discounted fares were some of the most generous in the nation. Lynn noted also that if you increase fares, some of the transit riders will stop riding.

- Bob Sahn noted that the audit's finding with regard to Paratransit fares found that their fares could be double that of a regular fare; yet Bob believes that state law would prohibit that.
- Ref Lindmark noted that the audit seemed to overlook the benefits provided by Metro's more compassionate approach to delivering transit service. During tough times, the question is whether we can continue providing those services.
- Melony Joyce agreed that we can only provide special needs transportation if there is sufficient funding and so we need to increase the public's support for special needs transportation in King County. This should be a key thing that the Coalition works on.
- Margaret Casey noted that one of the legislative bills that did not pass last session looked at increasing the percent of state transportation funding for transit.
- Ruben Rivera-Jackman noted that if fares increase, that our transit-dependent populations won't be able to switch to another mode, especially for work trips. Instead they will cut back on other things like medication, nutrition, medical appointments, etc.
- Polly Nelson asked if the system design factors are ranked and Lynn confirmed that they are not.
- More information about the RTTF is available online at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/transittaskforce.aspx>. (See also Lynn's handout on the meeting schedule and the system design factors.)

Discussion of WSDOT/PSRC Grant Cycle

- Michelle Zeidman gave an update of the timeline for the grant cycle:

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| 2010: | |
| July 14 | PSRC Grant Workshop |
| August | WSDOT releases application online. PSRC provides supplemental sheet(s) |
| August or September | WSDOT grant workshop in Western Washington. Date TBD. |
| September | WSDOT Conference: Official call for grant proposals and grant workshop in Spokane. |
| October | *Applications due to PSRC. |
| October - December | Scoring and PSRC committee and policy board actions. |
| December 12 | *Applications due to WSDOT. |
| 2011: | |
| January | PSRC Executive Board action on funding list. |
| Spring | State budget adopted. WSDOT makes award decisions. |
| July | Funding begins. |

**Note: even if you are only applying for WSDOT special needs funds, you must still send in an application to PSRC for ranking on PSRC's Coordinated Grant Program schedule.*

- PSRC's call for projects will have \$3.8 to \$4.0 million in 2009 and 2010 funds to distribute, as well as some possible returned funds from 2006 and 2007.
- The group agreed to postpone the small group conversations until the July Coalition meeting, and instead brainstormed the following topics for future conversations around

innovative program and project ideas to achieve the Coalition's vision and goals for coordinated special needs transportation. *(See diagram on following page.)*

Next Steps

- At July meeting, we will break into small groups to discuss these topics in further detail and develop strategies for funding them in the next grant cycle.

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

Grant Projects Brainstorming Session:

