

## King County Mobility Coalition

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
King County Housing Authority, Snoqualmie Conference Room  
700 Andover Park W, Tukwila, WA 98188

#### In attendance

*Members/Alternates:* William Ayears, Alaric Bien, Rebekah Binns, Dorene Cornwell, Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Tracey French, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Aaron Morrow, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Eileen Rasnack, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, George Smith, Irene Stewart, Suni Tolton, David Waggoner, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart

*Collaborators:* Jason Beloso (call-in), Diana Brackett, Jessamyn Findlay, Jennifer Lemus, Tralayne Myers, Mahinda Werake

*Staff:* Jon Morrison Winters

#### Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Alex O'Reilly opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

#### *New Introductions:*

- Diana Brackett is the new Director of Senior Programs and Transportation at Greater Maple Valley Community Center.
- Jennifer Lemus and Tralayne Myers are with Sound Transit.
- Mahinda Werake is the new mobility program specialist at Hopelink.

#### *Announcements:*

- Jason Beloso announced that he is changing positions at WSDOT. He has been promoted to Rail Planning Manager. Ryan Warner will be filling in as the special needs transportation grants manager for Central Puget Sound while Jason's position is vacant. Coalition members thanked Jason and wished him well in his new position.

#### Consent Calendar

*November 19, 2013 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:

- Tracey French of DSHS to the vacant DSHS Region 4 Representative seat. Tracey noted that DSHS Region 4 has been eliminated and this affiliation should be changed to DSHS Region 2, which now includes King County.
- Dorene Cornwell to the vacant System User Representative seat.
- Aaron Morrow to the System User Representative alternate seat vacated by Dorene.
- William Ayears of Seattle Goodwill Industries to the vacant Business/Employer Representative seat.

### Co-Chair Election Results

Alex shared that Ref Lindmark of King County Metro was unanimously re-elected as Coalition Co-chair for the 2014-2015 term. Ref thanked the Coalition.

### Briefing: Sound Transit South King County Project Updates

Alex introduced the Coalition to Jennifer Lemus of Sound Transit. Jennifer explained that she is Sound Transit's Community Outreach lead on two projects in South King County: the South 200<sup>th</sup> Link Extension and the Tukwila Sounder Station.

The South 200<sup>th</sup> Link Extension is a 1.6-mile light rail segment that will extend Link Light Rail south from Sea-Tac Airport to South 200<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of SeaTac. The project also includes the construction of a new south terminus station, now officially named the Angle Lake Station. Construction on the project is underway, and the new station is scheduled to open in Fall, 2016.

Jennifer described the components of the project, including a new 1100-stall parking structure.

Ruben Rivera-Jackman asked about individuals using the park and ride as airport parking. Jennifer explained that parking enforcement will be designed to keep parking open for transit access. Other comments and questions addressed the size of the parking garage and how this new segment will affect train layovers. Jennifer confirmed that trains will now layover at the new station, rather than at the airport.

Jennifer continued her presentation with a description of the Tukwila Sounder Station, which also serves Amtrak trains. This permanent station, which is replacing a temporary structure, is also under construction, having broke ground in June, 2013. The new station will have 392 surface parking stalls and will be served by Metro's RapidRide F Line. Phase 3 of the construction project, which is the final phase of construction, will begin in April. When completed, the station will have new ramps, shelters, and signage. Other amenities will include a paratransit drop-off and shelter, bicycle ramps and bicycle parking.

Ref commented that the station has gotten much busier over time, with ridership increases driven by Boeing Vanpools. The F Line, which is Metro's final planned RapidRide line, will provide a quick bus connection to the Landing and to Burien.

Tralayne Myers continued with a presentation on the Federal Way Link Extension. This project is currently in the environmental review phase, which will likely last a couple of years, during which impacts to the natural and built environment will be studied. Sound Transit is also working with local jurisdictions to studying the potential for transit-oriented development. There are currently four different alignment options being considered. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled to be released in January, 2015, with a record of decision and preferred alignment selected in 2016.

Tralayne stressed that now is the time for communities to get involved in these planning phases for light rail extension. She is currently doing targeted outreach and general outreach and having community conversations with neighbors before the DEIS comes out. The goal is "not to take people by surprise."

Ref asked for clarification on the funding situation for this project. Tralayne explained that current funding is sufficient to extend Link Light Rail to the Kent/Des Moines station near Highline Community College. Tralayne also addressed coordination with Metro through an interagency working group and other efforts, as well as her focus on bridging the outreach/coordination gap with community members.

Alaric Bien asked whether mitigation existed for effected businesses. Tralayne answered that there are mitigation funds for this purpose.

Additional questions and comments from the Coalition addressed subarea funding and whether Link will ever serve Southcenter. While current light rail planning does not include a line to Southcenter, the RapidRide F Line will connect Southcenter to Link at the Tukwila International Boulevard Station. Ref commented that vanpools are another option for individuals commuting to Southcenter.

The Coalition thanked Jennifer and Tralayne for their presentations.

#### Update: Metro Service Change and Transportation Benefit District Proposal

Ref shared information with the Coalition about Metro's February Service Change. Metro's service change included the introduction of the RapidRide E Line, which has replaced route 358 on Aurora Avenue. Ref noted that this change includes a move to a "proof of payment" system, as with other RapidRide lines. Coalition members asked clarifying questions about how this system is implemented with ORCA. It was suggested that the rules about using ORCA, including when to tap, should be provided by fare enforcement officers.

Ref also provided information on King County's new Transportation Benefit District and the proposal to levy a \$60 car tab fee and a 0.1% sales tax increase. 60% of revenue generated by the TBD is proposed to be used for Metro bus service. Current projections are that this would raise approximately \$80 million in 2015, which would be sufficient to cancel the planned cuts of up to 17% of Metro service. The remaining 40% of revenue would be shared between the County and local cities to fund road maintenance and other road projects. The average fiscal impact to households in King County would be about \$11 per month.

Ref stated that a low-income rebate of the car tab fee is also under discussion [*Update: a low-income rebate is not currently part of the proposal going to voters. However, if the car tab fee and sales tax increase are enacted, a proposed low-income fare will decrease from \$1.50 to \$1.25*].

In order to be enacted, the car tab fee and sales tax increase must be approved by County voters. A special election will be held on April 22.

Dinah Wilson asked about the make-up of the Transportation Benefit District board. The TBD board is made up of members of the King County Council, with no additional membership.

Other coalition members asked about the likelihood of the ballot measure passing. Aaron Morrow stated that he supports the measure as a private citizen and system user, and mentioned a hearing for a proposal to increase Metro fares and enact a low-income fare.

Cindy Zwart stated that April Putney is the campaign manager for MoveKingCountyNow.org.

There is additional information on the Transportation Benefit District at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/Future.aspx>.

Ref continued his update by providing information about the proposed low-income fare. He stated that a low-income fare implementation plan will be coming out. Implementation will require education and outreach about adding value to an ORCA card, since the low-income fare will only be available through ORCA, not on-board cash payments.

Sylvia Fuerstenberg asked about employer passes. Ref clarified that the low-income fare will not be incorporated into employer incentives. Aaron noted that the Access fare is also scheduled to increase from \$1.25 to \$1.75.

The Coalition thanked Ref for providing information about these proposals.

#### Discussion: King County Mobility Coalition Charter Updates

Alex provided background information on the charter update process. Charter updates were initiated at the November meeting. A charter update work group met once and also corresponded through email.

Aaron, who served on the charter updates work group, thanked staff for supporting the Coalition throughout this update process.

Irene Stewart asked whether all projects and issues of discussion that the Coalition is involved with are reflected in the new Purpose statement. She noted that we are not only involved with “services” but also “tools” and “projects.” She asked for more emphasis on mobility and less on transportation services.

The Coalition discussed the last sentence of the purpose statement, which states that we “provide recommendations to improve the system.” Irene stated that it is unclear to whom we make recommendations. She asked whether this information could be added. The Coalition discussed the distinction between making recommendations and endorsing a particular platform. Alex suggested that language, such as “as appropriate,” could be added to clarify this distinction. Dorene Cornwell clarified there is also a distinction between “making recommendations” and educating. She suggested adding language about education.

No opposition was expressed to these proposed changes to the purpose statement, which would include:

1. include language reflecting our role in developing tools and projects;
2. add a clause to the final statement that addresses our role in educating decision-makers, community groups, and the general public.

A revised purpose statement will be sent to the Coalition prior to the Spring Meeting in May, with the goal of approve the charter at the Spring Meeting.

### Quick Briefings

Irene gave an updated on the Livable Communities Committee. The LCC met in January. At this meeting, representatives from the Washington Council of the Blind presented on potential safety issues and access limitations with the proposed design of the Seattle waterfront. Irene explained that, while the committee has not been empowered to sign on to a specific initiative seeking to address these challenges, this presentation raised concerns about whether individuals with disabilities have been included in the design process. Aaron Morrow stated that the Transit Advisory Committee has also discussed the waterfront project and is looking to become more active in the design process. Ref suggested that a good next step would be to invite waterfront project managers to a Coalition meeting and seek ways to educate and work with them to include people with disabilities in the ongoing design process.

Ref provided an update on the work of the Outreach Committee. This committee is working on developing a targeted local travel tool. Our partner on the project is the SeaMar Community Health Centers' Kent Clinic.

Jon provided the Mobility Manager update. He gave a status update on the veterans transportation project that he has been working on. The website component of this project is complete. The new traveler information website targeted to veterans, Vets-Go.com is live. Web development also included a version of the site optimized for mobile platforms.

David Waggoner shared that King County has hired a new Regional Veterans Initiative coordinator, and asked that the Coalition stay connected to this process as it moves forward. Scott Ninneman promised to share the contact info of the Regional Veterans Initiative team. Coalition members expressed the desire to have a briefing at the Spring Coalition meeting on the Regional Veterans Initiative and veterans transportation.

Jon announced a new project funded through King County Metro's Right Size Parking Project that will provide travel training and other mobility management services to residents at senior housing facilities and low-income housing facilities with parking challenges. This project is a partnership that includes Hopelink's Mobility Management team, Coalition member Catholic Community Services (through their housing division, Catholic Housing Services), and Senior Housing Assistance Group. While the Coalition has never focused on parking before, this new project provides an opportunity for innovation in the delivery of mobility management services.

Jon also stated that the Subregional Coalitions are continuing to meet and develop workplans, as well as eagerly awaiting the hiring of a new mobility coordinator to replace Raven Campbell, who is no longer with Hopelink. Finally, Jon announced that Sheila Sloan-Evans has decided to change her career focus and has left her position as Travel Program Manager with Hopelink.

### Next Steps

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 20, 2014** from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the **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>