

**King County Mobility Coalition
Livable Communities Subcommittee**

MINUTES

Thursday, May 20, 2010, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 5135

Handouts: (1) National Council on Disabilities' October 31, 2006 recommendations for "Creating Livable Communities," (2) Table 1: Summary of Key Challenges and Action Steps from "Blueprint for an Age-Friendly Community," (3) KCMC goals and strategies, (4) KCMC May 18, 2010 Subcommittees Update, (5) King County Programs funded by federal and state special needs transportation grants, and (6) Jessica Renner's Accessibility Checklist.

Project 1. Expanding Existing Grants to Address Built Environment Barriers to Service Delivery

- The subcommittee reconfirmed the steps for this project:
 - 1st Step: Find out what the issues are with the built environment.
 - 2nd Step: Find solutions to those issues.
 - 3rd Step: Develop performance measures so that we can track the impact of any changes to the built environment.

Step 1:

- Our first objective is to learn what these agencies have learned through the delivery of their services.
- The subcommittee brainstormed questions to ask agencies receiving special needs transportation funds through PSRC or WSDOT. These questions will encourage grantees to expand their thinking with regard to making the community more livable:
 1. What are the specific or general physical barriers that make it difficult for people to use your service(s)?
 2. What are your ideas for how these barriers can be addressed?
 3. How can the Coalition support you in addressing these barriers?
 4. Can you let us know if/when these issues have been resolved?
- The subcommittee agreed to meet in-person with representative(s) from each agency: Hopelink, Mt. Si Senior Center, Northshore Senior Center, Senior Services of King County, and Puget Sound Educational Service District.
 - Action Item: Margaret Casey will send an email to grantees requesting a meeting and sharing our discussion questions.

Step 2:

- The subcommittee agreed its goal on this project is to help facilitate agencies reducing the barriers to their clients getting their services. ("Facilitate a Solution")
- The subcommittee agreed to focus on project enhancements that could be achieved in the next grant cycle with minimal additional FTA grant funds or through outside funding or support (such as sidewalk improvements that a municipality or private business could provide, potentially as match for FTA grant funds).
- Solutions will focus on changes to the built environment including:

- Street modification
- Home modification
- Connections between residences and transportation services
- Tangible solutions such as audible crosswalks, benches, etc.
- Opportunities to standardize accessibility features across communities
 - Margaret Casey noted that the 3rd speaker on ESPA's May 19, 2010 Pedestrian Webinar stated that they reissuing standards which could be useful for this project.
 - Action Item: Michelle Zeidman will find out who is reissuing these standards and then try to find them for the subcommittee.
- Gaby Bell noted that Jodi Connell at Harborview's Transportation Resource Center is working to compile resources about who to call to request neighborhood infrastructure improvements, but this is a challenge because they differ in every city.
 - Action Item: Gaby will ask Jodi about this and forward her findings to the subcommittee.
- David Egan also noted that the City of Seattle has a similar contact resource list for improvements within Seattle.
 - Action Item: David will send this resource to the subcommittee.
- The subcommittee discussed whether there is already a checklist for livable neighborhoods that might include features of the built environment critical for accessibility. The subcommittee agreed it would also be helpful to have a fact sheet that explains what differentiates an accessible pedestrian environment from a non-accessible pedestrian environment. Potential sources of this information include Feet First and Easter Seals Project Action.
 - Action Item: Gaby Bell will see if Feet First has a checklist for accessibility.
 - Action Item: Margaret Casey will look at ESPA's May 18, 2010 Pedestrian Webinar presentation for examples.

Presentation: Checklist for Accessibility (for Jessica Renner)

- Jessica Renner presented her Accessibility Checklist to the subcommittee and answered questions about it.
- This Checklist is based on Jessica's experience; she has not yet evaluated how her recommendations compare to the ADA's requirements.
- Jessica intends to expand her work and find other opportunities to present it.
- Gaby Bell noted that the resources regarding accessibility on the Web are very helpful.
- Action Item: Margaret Casey will connect Jessica with Architect Karen Braitmayer (who is part of the Northwest Universal Design Council) to discuss how the Checklist compares to the ADA and discuss opportunities for how Jessica's Accessibility Checklist can be shared with others.
- Jessica will refine her Accessibility Checklist, develop a PowerPoint presentation, and may present it at a later date to a special convening of the King County Mobility Coalition.

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