

King County Mobility Coalition
Subcommittees & Partner Coalitions Update
July 20, 2010

Membership Subcommittee

Scope of work: Fill vacancies on the coalition and review the coalition's composition at least annually. Track outside groups that Coalition members participate in or affiliated with, including ACCT working groups.

Update: The Membership Subcommittee has not had a face-face meeting, but has been busy recruiting via email and phone for the slots that were open on the Coalition. In the meeting materials for July 20, members were given a list of nominated new members and alternates, and a vote will be taken to formally add them to the Coalition. Membership committee members are still recruiting for a representative for the Mental Health Advocate/Service Representative slot, alternates for the North King County City and Eastside City seats.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Alex O'Reilly at:
aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2824.

Government Affairs Working Group

Scope of work: Conduct outreach to elected officials and decision-makers on behalf of the full committee at the regional, state and federal level. Collaborate with ACCT working groups to reduce funding barriers, such as streamlining eligibility requirements for riders on federally and state funded transportation services. Work with local and regional planning agencies to ensure that the transportation needs of seniors, people with disabilities, people with low incomes and children/youth are incorporated in local planning policies and programs.

Update: In May, the Coalition's Co-chairs Bob Sahm and Alex O'Reilly, plus Melony Joyce and Michelle Zeidman, met with Chris Arkills, Transportation Policy Advisor to King County Executive Dow Constantine and briefed him on the King County Mobility Coalition's work. This resulted in the Coalition hosting Executive Constantine as a guest speaker during the Accessible Transportation Coalitions workshop on June 23.

Bob, Melony and Michelle have also been participating in the ACCT's Federal Opportunities Workgroup (FOW), in an effort to reduce funding barriers and develop cost sharing strategies between ADA Paratransit providers and Medicaid Brokers. Currently the FOW is developing a series of pilot projects, including two in King County.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Michelle Zeidman at:
mdzeidman@hope-link.org or 425-943-6737.

Technology Subcommittee

Scope of work: Serve as a resource to agencies who want to increase their use of technology by sharing best practices and focusing on connecting transportation users with each other and with transportation providers through the use of technology.

Update: Meeting was held on July 1 with Michelle Zeidman, Melony Joyce, Aaron Morrow and Ref Lindmark.

1. *New RideshareOnline.com ride matching program:* The Subcommittee discussed how the new program/service was working in the employer environment and ways that it might be used to help organizations, groups and individuals with special needs.

Request to Coalition Members: If you can be thinking of how a ride matching service might help, please let us know. We are working with the developers as they add enhancements to the program. We would like to make sure that your concerns get heard and addressed.

2. *Online Resources:* Melony and Ref from Metro are working with Metro's website team to improve the Transportation Resource Index. The Index is a comprehensive listing of transit and mobility tools from the region. When this review is done, Michelle will share on the KCMC website and at a future meeting.
3. *New Technologies:* The committee is continuing to look at how new technologies can help with travel choices for individuals with special needs. This effort includes reaching out to staff at UW who may have information to share and with local developers who are changing the way people get information (One Bus Away).
4. *Translating transportation providers' websites into multiple languages:* The Subcommittee will explore having Google Translator put on the KCMC website as a beta test. The County has new rules and guidelines around this issue and we want to show how it will work and use our site as a good place to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Coalition Members: Make your website instantly available in other languages for FREE using Google's website translator tool. Instructions and html code are available online at: http://translate.google.com/translate_tools.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Ref Lindmark at: ref.lindmark@kingcounty.gov or 206-684-1104.

Livable Communities Subcommittee

Scope of work: Incorporate livable communities' strategies, such as universal design and complete streets, into the Coalition's work and into the provision of special needs transportation.

Update: The Subcommittee had decided to meet with all of the current King County Special Needs Transportation Grantees to explore with them the following issues:

- What are the specific or general physical barriers that make it difficult for people to use your service(s)?
- What are your ideas for how these barriers can be addressed?
- How can the Coalition support you in addressing these barriers?
- Can you let us know if/when these issues have been resolved?

Members of the Subcommittee have met with all of the grantees except Senior Volunteer Transportation. This interview will occur July 29. When that interview is concluded, the Subcommittee will select a few of the issues raised by the grantees for possible interventions. Here are just a few examples of the tasks ahead of us:

- Providing direct access on dirt roads. (Mt Si has addressed in part by calling riders 5 minutes before van will arrive so they don't have to wait at the street for long.)
- Loading passengers where there isn't a curb. (Can be addressed by keeping stools/steps in each van and having the driver come around to help the passenger into and out of the vehicle. Dispatchers usually know where this is an issue, but is not noted in the system.)
- Loading passengers using the lift when the ground is not level. Perhaps there is a lift/ramp option that works better in rural areas (on uneven ground)?
- Having GPS on buses would make it easier to dispatch same day rides.
- Identified gap in service for riders under age 60 (who don't qualify for Senior Services' Volunteer Driver Program).
- "Temporary disability" – for persons whose "disability" would not exceed the time it takes to qualify for an ACCESS pass. How might we address this problem?
- The biggest issue is land use, particularly with regard to the siting of adult family homes and medical facilities. Siting issues include location (proximity to transit) and design of passenger loading/unloading zones.
- Software to help with dispatching vehicles, including GPS or AVL.
- Need to designate additional pickup and drop-off zones in downtown Seattle (and other cities where on-street parking limits access).
- Transporting people with mental health issues. Is there a way to develop a more specific assessment tool that will enable providers to know when to make allowances or not?
- "Multiple entrances" when picking up passengers.
- "Car seats" for children riding in various vehicles might be more standardized; e.g., car seats are not required in taxis.
- The manner in which ORCA cards are accessed could be more user-friendly.

When new Federal Transportation legislation is passed, there may be added requirements for our funding programs to address the Federal SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE. If and when that happens, we hope to be better prepared here in King County to be ready for the possibility through the work of the Livable Communities Subcommittee.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Margaret Casey at: margaret.casey@seattle.gov or 206-684-0662.

Targeted Outreach Subcommittee

Scope of work: Coordinate efforts to educate riders and human service providers about transportation options available in King County for the special needs population, including planning outreach events. Provide input on other organizations' outreach materials and help develop clear educational information for riders and human services providers.

Update: Meeting was held on June 9 with Gaby Bell, Polly Nelson, Michelle Zeidman and Cindy Zwart. The Subcommittee began planning for the upcoming transportation forums:

- North King County Transportation Forum for human service agencies—late September
- Employment & Transportation Forum—mid- to late-October
- Transportation Forum for Immigrants & Refugees—late January 2011
- Transportation Forum for Veterans—March 2011

For more information or to get involved, please contact Cindy Zwart at:
cindyz@seniorservices.org or 206- 727-6255.

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

Background: Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative was formed 5 years ago to address mobility issues primarily for older adults in East King County. Partners include the City of Bellevue, King County Metro, Sound Transit, United Way, and Seattle/King County Aging and Disability Services. The group meets regularly to initiate and support efforts in East King County to better coordinate and market travel options for transportation disadvantaged people including people with disabilities, older adults, low-income people and youth. With the growing diversity in East King County, even more so than some parts of King County, an additional focus has been outreach to refugee and immigrant populations.

Update: Below are some activities of Polly Nelson, the EERC Mobility Coordinator, for the first 6 months of 2010.

Travel Ambassador: Provided direct training to 54 individuals, 7 Travel Ambassadors, 33 new and 9 repeat Travel Options clients, plus ongoing training for 3 Travel Ambassador volunteers and referred 5 individuals to other agencies for specialized assistance (January – June 2010).

Rural King County Collaboration: Collaborating with Transitions Snoqualmie Valley, Lower Valley-Carnation Transit community activists on improving transportation options for special needs populations in the area. A transportation community needs plan is being developed, including a survey and outreach for implementation in September.

In addition, EERC members participated in community outreach for the Bellevue EZ Rider Connector, a free bus service special needs populations that EERC conceptualized and championed during the program's early development. They also participated in a Timebanking workshop in anticipation of possible EERC involvement in the program.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Polly Nelson at:
pnelson@hope-link.org or 425-943-6769.