King County Mobility Coalition
Livable Communities Subcommittee

MINUTES

Friday, March 19, 2010, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, Rm 5135

<u>In attendance:</u> Margaret Casey, David Egan, Melony Joyce, Alex O'Reilly, Michelle Zeidman.

<u>Handouts:</u> (1) NACO fact sheet on Livable and Sustainable Communities Initiative, (2) Kit Mitchell's article "Get Moving: Mobility in Europe and North America," and (3) KCMC goals and strategies.

Margaret Casey welcomed everyone to the subcommittee and shared several documents which set the context for this group's work. Margaret noted that theme 4 from the United We Ride Final Report focuses on coordinating with the federal livable communities initiative and suggests developing sidewalks and other infrastructure to increase access to transportation services. The subcommittee agreed that these themes will serve as the basis for this subcommittee's work.

The subcommittee reviewed the KCMC's goals and strategies and discussed how this subcommittee's work fits into these larger strategies. The subcommittee concluded that livable communities are tied to the Coalition's strategies for integrated planning, better amenities, better connections and targeted outreach.

The subcommittee selected the following two focus areas for this year:

Project 1. Expanding Existing Grants to Address Built Environment Barriers to Service Delivery
- Review programs run by Coalition members and funded by PSRC or WSDOT monies to see if there are opportunities to enhance access to these services through improvements to the built environment, such as providing bus stop enhancements along the Bellevue EZ Rider Connector line.
- <u>Step 1:</u> Submit proposal to the Coalition requesting their support in carrying out this project.
- <u>Step 2:</u> Subcommittee members contact project managers about opportunities to expand their grant proposals to address challenges in the built environment, increase access to their services, and enhance their delivery of services.
- <u>Step 3:</u> KCMC members adapt their grant proposals to include strategies to address challenges with the built environment in their delivery of services.
- In future grant cycles, this project could be expanded to include efforts to reduce barriers in the built environment for all of the services listed in our county-wide Inventory of Services (beyond on those services provided by members of the KCMC).

Project 2. Educating the Public about Existing Accessibility Features
- Conduct targeted outreach and educate people about existing accessibility features that make our communities more livable, such as Sound Transit's talking signs project.

- The subcommittee discussed potentially focusing on the use of technologies in educating people, such as starting a community mapping project to show where certain features are in place (such as talking crosswalks) and/or creating a YouTube Channel with videos showing how people benefit from various accessibility features in King County.
- The subcommittee also discussed using social networking tools to get volunteers to make videos of what's working with regard to increasing accessibility for seniors, people with disabilities, youth, parents with strollers, etc.
- The subcommittee agreed to focus on what's working to start, rather than on problem areas.
- The subcommittee expressed interest in reaching out to people with disabilities in particular, and David suggested the Washington Council of the Blind could help.

The subcommittee also discussed other potential focus areas related to livable communities:
- Looking at sidewalk hazards and how they affect mobility
- Expanding the Hyde Shuttle to other areas of the county
- Creating a guide to built environment features that make cities more accessible to a broad range of people, and compiling an inventory of accessibility features available in each city within King County.
- Participating in planning opportunities that occur prior to new developments being built and advocating for accessibility features in those developments.
- Working with local governments to standardize the characteristics of certain accessibility features, such as the timing of crosswalk lights.
- Working with state and local governments to ensure accessibility and livable communities' principles are included in policy frameworks, so that when additional resources are available projects that increase accessibility can be considered for funding.

Resources:

Livable and Sustainable Communities Initiative:
- Federal website: http://fta.dot.gov/publications/publications_10935.html
- NACO fact sheet: http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Community_and_Economic_Development&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=33147

Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide, a report by the World Health Organization, October 2007, http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr53/en/index.html

A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages, a report by the National Association for Area Agencies on Aging, May 2007, http://www.aginginplaceinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=47.

Opportunities for Creating Livable Communities, a report by the AARP Public Policy Institute, April 2008, http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/liv-com/housing/articles/2008_02_communities.html.

United We Ride Final Report, February 2010, http://www.unitedweride.gov/.

Get Moving: Mobility in Europe and North America, an article by Kit Mitchell, 2005, http://www.aarp.org/family/articles/get_moving.html

Next Steps:
- The subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, May 20 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. in Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 5135.
- <u>Action Item:</u> Margaret Casey will speak about the subcommittee's work at the May KCMC meeting.
- <u>Action Item:</u> Subcommittee members will look at the 2009-2011 list of PSRC/WSDOT-funded projects and start casual conversations with Coalition members about including enhancements to the built environment in their grant proposals, as outlined in Project 1 above.