King County Mobility Coalition

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, August 20, 2013, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108
450 110th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Gaby Bell, Alaric Bien, Amy Biggs, Dorene Cornwell, Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Eileen Rasnack, Matthew Rohrbach, Allison Scott, Suni Tolton, David Waggoner, Cindy Zwart

Collaborators: William Ayears, Jason Beloso, Ben Cotton, Doug Hodson, David Hull, Aaron Morrow

Staff: Jon Morrison Winters

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Everyone introduced themselves, including the following new collaborators:

New Introductions:

- William Ayears of Seattle Goodwill Industries is Goodwill's Job Training and Education Community Liaison.
- David Hull is the new Supervisor of Accessible Services at King County Metro.
- Doug Hodson of King County Metro served as the project manager for the Low-Income Fare Options Advisory Committee.
- Ben Cotton of the US Department of Transportation Volpe Center is currently working on a project to improve transportation access to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The project is focusing on visitors accessing the forest from the I-90 corridor.

Announcements:

- Cindy Zwart announced that a new van was just added to Hyde Shuttle service in Federal Way.
- Jason Beloso announced the upcoming public transit conference in Spokane, sponsored by the Washington State Transit Association. The conference took place August 25-28.
- Ref Lindmark announced that Metro is beginning a new project that was funded through an Urban Centers grant to create "hyperlocal" materials with the theme "We'll Get You There…" Metro is creating localized maps and mailers that will include references to ancillary transportation services. The project website, which contains maps and materials for Kent, Auburn, and Federal Way, is here: http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/get-you-there/
- Ref also announced that the conversation is beginning for the planning of up to 17% cuts to Metro service that will be required if no additional sources of funding are identified. Metro is looking at options for funding relief.

Consent Calendar

February 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes: The Coalition approved the meeting minutes as drafted.

May 21, 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:

- Irene Stewart of Aging and Disability Services to the City of Seattle Representative member seat previously held by Rosemary Cunningham.
- Suni Tolton of Aging and Disability Services to the City of Seattle Representative alternate seat vacated by Irene.
- Matthew Rohrbach to the PSRC alternate seat previously held by Dick Callahan.

Jon noted that Melony Joyce ought to have been listed as the King County Metro alternate, but had not been listed due to an administrative error. Jon will update the official roster to list Melony as Metro's alternate.

Briefing and Discussion: Low Income Fare Options

Co-chair Alex O'Reilly introduced Doug Hodson of King County Metro. Doug presented information on the work of the Low-Income Fare Options Advisory Committee.

- Doug recounted that the conversation about low-income fare options was spurred by the elimination of the downtown Seattle ride-free area. It was recognized that the elimination of the ride-free area, as well as recent fare increases, has created an access issue. The County Council established a citizen commission to provide recommendations on low-income fare options.
- Through a consensus process, the Low-Income Fare Options Advisory Committee arrived at a list of eight recommendations, reprinted here and also include in the Advisory Committee's report at http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/LowIncomeOptions.aspx:
    1. A low-income fare program should be created.
    2. All fare categories, and the policy bases for them, should be evaluated in an effort to rationalize the fare structure and ensure greater equity.
    3. The Human Services ticket program should be maintained due to its important role in providing mobility for the homeless and those with no income through distribution of free tickets.
    4. A low-income fare program should minimize the burden on Metro, other agencies, and the people served.
        a. Rather than create a new entity, existing eligibility verification systems run by third-party agency partners that determine eligibility for existing benefit programs should be leveraged.
        b. An option to verify eligibility based on income should be made available for those not enrolled in other benefit programs and explored with agencies that already verify income or that would be willing to provide this service.

5. Multiple funding sources should be evaluated to offset the financial impacts of a low-income fare program, including revising the existing fare box structure and other revenue sources.
6. A low-income fare program should be considered as a beneficiary if the County has new or increased revenue.
7. The Low-Income Fare Options Advisory Committee report should be transmitted to the heads of the agencies included in the ORCA Joint Board.
8. King County and Sound Transit should coordinate on the implementation of a low-income fare when it is approved.

- Doug noted that Metro is looking at a low-income fare in the context of a fare increase that is called for by 2015 in Metro's Financial Plan.
- Sylvia Fuerstenberg asked whether the revenue generated by additional riders gaining access to the system by fares becoming more affordable was accounted for in projection models. Sylvia also asked whether Metro could implement a family pass. Doug answered that the model did consider increases in ridership, which could be large.
- David noted that many routes are currently operating at capacity, which could limit the size of a ridership increase.
- Dorene Cornwell echoed the need for a family pass or a day/weekend pass in order to improve access and simplicity for riders and asked about implementation.
- Doug answered that one example of implementation is Kitsap Transit, which uses a debit card-type service. Ref added that verification of income will be required.
- Alaric Bien asked a general question about the status of the state transportation revenue package. Doug answered that the discussion about new revenue is on-going at various levels.
- Members discussed comparisons with other transit systems in major metro areas, questioned the sustainability of funding sources, and asked about coordination with Sound Transit.
- Gaby Bell expressed gratitude that the Advisory Committee did not recommend eliminating the Human Service ticket program and pointed out that the Solid Ground Shuttle, which was also a response to the elimination of the ride-free area, has been successful. The shuttle service will be extended for another year and may be expanded.
- Coalition Members thanked Doug for his presentation and for all his work with the Advisory Committee.

<u>Vulnerable Populations Disaster Planning Follow-up</u>

Co-chair Ref Lindmark introduced the topic of disaster planning for vulnerable populations and the role of transportation providers. This is a follow-up discussion from a spring conference and from the May KCMC meeting.

- Ref reported that an emergency managers transportation taskforce has been looking at this issue and has asked about the role of the King County Mobility Coalition in the event of a disaster.

- Jason Beloso added context to the discussion: The emergency managers taskforce has been doing some planning around adverse weather preparedness. The emergency managers for King County, Vernon Owens and Stephanie Supko, are heading up the planning effort. There is a draft "Concept of Operations" handbook that says how we will communicate in an emergency or during adverse winter weather. The King County Mobility Coalition has been identified as a conduit of information and as a liaison to special needs populations.
- The question before the Coalition is: is it appropriate for the Coalition to take on this role? Ref noted that information sharing is an important part of our coordination role. Can we relay information to help in the case of a winter storm or emergency? Ref suggested that Jon, as mobility manager, could be part of the emergency managers transportation taskforce and send updates to the Coalition.
- There was discussion from Coalition members about the specifics of our participation and how information would be different than what is already out there.
- Ref asked whether there was consensus to move forward with participating on the taskforce with the anticipation of taking on the role of information conduit. Members expressed consensus to move forward.
- Amy Biggs suggested that the Coalition's discussions would be aided by sending questions such as this to members prior to Coalition meetings.

<u>Coordinated Plan Inventory of Services Updates</u>
Matthew Rohrbach shared a quick update about the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan revision process. Updates to Appendix C, the Inventory of Services, are needed now. Revisions to Appendices E and F, Demographic/Geographic Analyses and SMART Corridors Analysis are also being finalized.

- Gaby Bell asked whether members should e-mail updates and changes for the Inventory of Services to Matthew. Matthew responded that members can send changes to Jon.
- Allison asked whether small programs should be included in the plan. Matthew responded that the inventory should include as many programs as possible, including small programs.

<u>Quick Briefings</u>

- Jon provided an update on the North King County Mobility Coalition. The Coalition's current work entails engaging with the light rail planning process and continuing to work with community members to ensure that the process is as inclusive as possible. Senior Services recently held two outreach events in Shoreline. The Coalition is considering ways to work with Senior Services and other stakeholders to build on the momentum from our listening session at Paramount House and the two Senior Services events.

- Amy Biggs gave an update on the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative. In June, Amy and EERC member Haley Williamson of Encompass visited the Vehicle Licensing Office in Snoqualmie Valley in order to encourage people to donate their Transit Incentives Program tickets to human services. Over 50 people decided to donate tickets. The second year of the program ends on June 30, 2014. The EERC will be deciding whether they will

do additional outreach events or pursue other projects. Recent EERC meetings have focused on the East Link Light Rail planning process.

- Allison gave the update on the South King County Mobility Coalition. The two Coalition Committees recently met for the second time. The Policy Committee is moving forward with the development of a white paper which will present information on demographics and transit-dependency in South King County. The Projects Committee has selected their first project, which will involve working with Sound Transit and possibly Metro to plan the use of the two Mobile ORCA units that have recently gone into service. Ref provided clarifying information on the mobile units.

- Gaby gave an update on the work of the Livable Communities Committee. The "benchmarking" subcommittee, which had been working under the LCC, has drafted a letter, which they are sending to the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board and Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, regarding the need to remove barriers to the placement of benches in community locations. Gaby reported that the subcommittee will be unable to continue their work unless additional capacity is identified. Please contact Gaby if you would like to volunteer to take a leadership role in this work. The Livable Communities Committee is moving to an "as needed" meeting schedule while we pursue other projects.

- Ref updated the Coalition on the work of the Outreach Committee. With the redesign of King County's website, the multi-language videos will be moved up on the page, which will improve the visibility of the videos. Additional videos are being finished up. In addition to adding additional languages, there is a new video on fare enforcement. There was some discussion about fare enforcement, with members expressing customer service concerns. David Hull stated that Accessible Services is currently doing outreach around the theme of "We Are Metro" to coincide with National Disabilities Employment Month in October. The Outreach Committee is also currently working with health care providers, specifically SeaMar Community Health Centers, to develop a hyper-local tool with customized content for center employees to use with patients.

- Jon provided the Mobility Manager's update. The One Stop Access Veteran's Transportation Project is moving forward. Jon is working with a potential vendor to create the "one-stop" website and mobile tools. Jon has hired a Mobility Coordinator, who will staff the sub-regional coalitions. Raven Campbell will be joining the Mobility Management team on Monday, August 26. Jon has also been active on the Growing Transit Communities Equity Network Steering Committee, which is transitioning to a regional equity network.

<u>Next Steps</u>
The planned discussion about updates to the KCMC charter was held for a future meeting.

Matthew announced that the FTA has released a circular and is looking for comments on the changes to 5310 Special Needs Transportation funding under MAP-21.

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, November 19, 2013** from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the **Seattle Municipal Tower**, 700 Fifth Ave, Seattle, WA 98104 in Conference Room 4080

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

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