

MEETING NOTES

July 27th, 2021
1:00pm-2:30pm
Zoom

Participants: *Anahi Sandoval (King County Metro), Antoinette Smith (City of Kirkland), Corey Holder (King County Metro), Chris Randels (CSB), Christy Stangland (City of Bellevue), Elizabeth Maupin (Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition), Griffin Cole (CCSWW Volunteer Services), Gunner Scott (King County Metro), Gwyn Howard (King County Metro), Hannah Kimball (Bellevue Network on Aging), Jen Boone (Kirkland), Kirk Hovenkotter (Move Redmond), Linda Woodall (Eastside Friends of Seniors), Mark Smutny (Sound Generations), Marie Marquart (Metro Transit Instruction), Michael Ingram (City of Bellevue), Nellie Fishburne (Imagine Housing), Pran Wahi (IACS), Ryan Walker (City of Bellevue), Sam Nigh (SHAG), Sandy Phan (Hopelink SKCMC), Sol Dressa (Move Redmond)*

Staff Support: *Bebhinn Gilbert, Camille Heatherly*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at 1:00PM and attendees shared introductions. Icebreaker: *Where is your favorite place to eat on the eastside?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camille shares updates regarding staff changes and recent Mobility Education & Outreach events (with the transition to in-person outreach and still available virtual options). Travel Ambassador trainings and Public Transportation Options are also still available and helpful as the public returns to more travel. Camille encouraged partners to reach out to her at cheatherly@hopelink.org. Move Redmond and Hopelink Mobility will be attending Redmond Saturday market on August 14th. Camille highlighted the info that can be shared via announcement emails.

EASTRAIL CORRIDOR PLANNING IN BELLEVUE

MICHAEL INGRAM & RYAN WALKER, CITY OF BELLEVUE

Presenters provided a project overview. The heavy rail corridor is 42 miles long, with 7 miles within the City of Bellevue. Some of the area has already developed into a trail. Progress on the Eastrail trail has added 15 miles as of their presentation. The middle of Bellevue has not yet been opened and will be \$60 million in major projects. The project's area of focus runs from Lake Bellevue to Wilburton, the most urbanized part of the trail. This process has been on hold for a few years, but the advisory committee recommendation will be the restarting point of this planning.

Please contact Camille Heatherly at cheatherly@hopelink.org or 425-625-6784 with any corrections or additions to these notes.

Current Initiative:

Considering how the trail can support adjacent development and become more than a simple trail. They want to create a trail that is a comfortable and useful community asset for everyone.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Typically, development along a rail trail has its back to the trail and this is uninviting. Even with redevelopment this may not change, especially if developers do not see value in trail. Bellevue is seeking integration between corridor and adjacent properties, asking the question, “How can we encourage integration?” They are exploring how to use publicly owned space with both immediately and maintenance over time of those public improvements.

Discussion and Questions:

Hosts presented the group with questions (see meeting slides). Responses from members included answers and comments:

Antoinette: “Community activities can be hosted at the trail.”

Hannah: “I enjoy the Redmond trail. It isn’t appealing to bike riders which I like because I feel safe as a pedestrian.” She mentioned that perhaps 25 feet isn’t enough to have space for both uses and mentioned the benefits of meandering and engaging in the things along the trail.

Chris: “It will boil down to size and space. The Google Plaza connection is seamless, making activation opportunities actually an option. Places to pause and gather are important.” He continued to say wayfinding will definitely be important, in addition to finding ways to integrate the public and private amenities with signage so people know where things are.

Marie: Mentioned that places to sit are important as you can catch your breath during these break points. Important to have access to bus stops, especially with connection points to the light rail, need for communication, and signs along the way. Added that trails with ramped entry points are helpful.

Gunner: Wrote in the chat, that there is the need for access to restrooms. Antoinette seconded this point.

Pran: “The Mercer Island trail where both bicycles and walking are common, but the trail is too narrow and feels dangerous as a pedestrian. Cyclists often zoom by without communicating. Rest point and restrooms need to be readily available.

Christy: “Shared that the lack of bikes on certain trails is helpful. Speed limit is important, and cyclists don’t often realize how fast they are traveling. Perhaps prioritizing commuters in a different area and including wheelchair accessible points of entry.

Nellie: “Had there been any research done to connect this trail over to the Eastlake to Sammamish trail so there would be a new loop available in the area?” Ryan responded that there is a connection and conversion point in Redmond.

Kirk: “Lower-level lighting to the trail can help make the trail more accessible.”

Ryan mentioned that a survey will be issued soon, which will be an opportunity for everyone to give feedback. Mike added that broader planning process there will be a role for this group to track that city planning process which will be restarting next year.

Early 2022 will have a framework plan as well as a land use plan to follow. Camille will be able to send along that survey when it is ready. Overtime improvements are expected, and long-term process will be influenced by this planning work.

COALITION PROJECTS UPDATE

Volunteer Driver Programs

Have had some public interest but exploring more ways for engaging with the public. See the [attached flyer](#) to share with networks.

Eastside Advocacy for Transportation Services

This project group which was created in an effort for focused solution-oriented workgroup that would find a way to address some of the missing services for older adults. In June EATS reengaged because the NCMM had a grant opportunity for piloting a service. Team was able to interview 15 community members in support of this application and submitted the grant via Sound Generations, who will own the grant. Our team expects to hear back in September and then the process will move forward in the Fall. By March 2022, learning workshops and planning will be completed. Additional funding would be needed for the supportive service, which would be hosted by Sound Generations.

FY22 WORKPLAN

Could not reach this topic in the meeting due to time constraints. Camille to send out more information on this to the EERC network outside of the meeting. She encouraged the group to reach out if interested.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

King County Metro’s Eastlink engagement expected to begin September 13th with community engagement and surveys. Gunner shared that he is excited to hear from the community about the adjustments which can be made.

Marie asked if that phase can be sooner, and Gunner responded that they will connect outside of the meeting. Camille mentioned that the coalition is always a resource for these presentations or any informational presentations.

Kirk announced that Move Redmond has an event in September for open streets. On September 12th, everyone is invited to join “Walk, Bike, Roll,” and enjoy Redmond streets.

NEXT EERC MEETING

September 28th, 2021

All meetings continue to be held virtually on Zoom until further notice. EERC encourages everyone to participate, regardless of ability. For accommodations or accessibility information, contact Camille Heatherly at least one week before the meeting.

EASTSIDE EASY RIDER COLLABORATIVE CONTACT:

Camille Heatherly, Eastside Mobility Coordinator
cheatherly@hopelink.org
(425) 625-6784

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Mobility Management Team at mobility@hopelink.org or by calling (425) 943-6760.

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