
Date: 9.29.26

Zoom Link:

Participants:

Alison van Wandelen (Sound Transit) Karen Hartman (Kirkland Senior Council), Annabell Xiong, Evelyn Newman (City of Bellevue), Pran Wahi (IACS), Parvathi Pi (IACS), Kurt Ahrensfield, Kevin Futhey (CT), Ramu Ayyaluru (Mini City Hall), Antoinette Smith (KCMC Co-chair), Alan Bruckner (SVT), Ellie Anderson, Jamie Gruenberger (King County Metro), Mandy Wes, Maritza Lauriano (Move Redmond), Tommie Lorene (Connect Bellevue), Aniya Beck, Konrad Hoernke (Circuit), Lynne Uyehara.

Staff Support: Erin Funk, facilitator Nicole Ross, notetaker Heather Clark, Lyn McCarthy, Grace Georgitsis, Maria Calderon, Dean Sydnor, Ysabel Yu, Randall Hoxie

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

- Erin Funk

Circuit- Bellevue Light Rail Shuttle

Konrad Hoernke, Operations Manager, Circuit

- Launched Aug 3rd
- No app required
- 2 vehicles operating, M-F 8AM-6PM
- Data Points: 1909 passengers since 8/3, about 1400 rides total, Bellevue Square and Amazon buildings in the area are the hotspots, lots of usage
- Supporting some of the smaller businesses in the area (Lexus, target, Aritzia), supporting local infrastructure and local businesses

Questions:

Erin: Q: Are they giving \$30 airport rides? A: Eagle Transportation is an airport shuttle.

Q: How has it impacted wait times for Bell Hop?

A: Seeing a wait time reduction in rides for Bell Hop

Bellevue light rail shuttle is a one-way ride from shuttle to other locations, drivers hand out a card w/ QR code that lists all transportation options in one place

Can exit light rail station and jump on BLRS

Please contact Erin Funk at efunk@hopelink.org or (425) 495-3191 for any errors or omissions in these notes.

Meeting Notes

Currently not providing ADA accessible vehicles, looking into options, drivers are trained and coached on how to help people in and out of vehicles

Comment: Mandy shared experience with getting in/ out of Redlink vehicles

A: Currently working with a company that works with retrofitting vehicles.

Q: Why not just add more BellHop?

A: BLRS is fully funded by Amazon.

Q: Karen, a little confused about BellHop. Couldn't upload app until she was in Bellevue. Can she park at Bellevue Square and call Bell Hop for a ride somewhere else? Can she call multiple times in a day?

Konrad: There is a P&R at the Presbyterian church where you can park and get rides around Bellevue.

Q: Is this a pilot or here to stay?

A: It is a pilot, but it's doing very well. The hope is to extend it. Expecting to see addition of vehicles and expansion of service.

Mandy: Wait times have increased with Redlink, are you planning to expand service?

A: Having conversations to increase funding, it's a large service area, hence the longer wait times?

Maydenbauer Bay to Presbyterian church on 17th, Spring District, to Botanical garden, all of old Main and that region as well. Download RideCircuit app, pinch and zoom to see the service area.

Find A Ride

Grace Georgitsis, Program Supervisor Partnerships and Engagement with Find A Ride

- One Call One Click Program for King, Pierce and Snohomish counties
- One place to check eligibility and submit a centralized application,
- Phase 2 platform, set to launch Fall 2027, working on specifications,
- Key activity = prototyping and user testing, lo-fi prototype, currently analyzing info from user tests,
- Working on process flow for applications, centralized platform for eligibility application,
- Difference between active site and prototype, prototype is only to test user experience and design of website itself
- Next steps: build backend, reach out to early adopters, create mid-fi prototype

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Meeting Notes

- Next Find A Ride meeting Monday 11/9 from 1-2PM on zoom, giving updates on what the back-end of the website will look like, very technical.

Questions:

Erin: What feedback are you seeing? Any major issues?

Grace: Explained that some users are having some trouble navigating certain areas, some minor issues, but helpful to have all of these things noted

- Mandy: How can we become testers? A: Technically done with official user testing but if you want to explore the site feel free to send feedback to Grace Georgitsis at ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org. Prototype: <https://rideready-prototype-uiux.lovable.app/>

Stride Bus Rapid Transit

Alison van Wendelen, Senior Community Engagement Specialist

- 2016 ST3 Voter Approved package, Ballard, W. Seattle, Everett, Tacoma, Kirkland, Issaquah, Downtown Redmond
- Pinehurst station is part of this package
- What is Stride? A BRT (bus rapid transit) that is fast, frequent and reliable, every 10-15 minutes, 17+ hours a day
- Roadway improvements include bus only lanes
- Will link to light rail at various locations
- Getting lots of time savings, to get that there is a ton of construction!
- Construction: Safety! Workers are in the road, really encouraging people to avoid drinking and distractions, plan ahead to accommodate slowdowns.
- S1 Line (Bellevue to Burien), currently in heavy construction, WSDOT will be doing a lot of this construction, Tukwila Int. BLVD will be slightly delayed, will be heavy impacts when construction starts
- 100% battery electric double decker buses, when they layover they will kneel- down and be charged by inductive charging pads
- All Stride stations will be installed by a third contractor, be built modularly off site and then they'll be installed, first one should go in early next year

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Meeting Notes

- Renton transit center is moving to corner of Rainier and Grady Way
- S2 line, most of this work is being done by WSDOT. This part of Stride is set to open in 2029
- Currently retrofitting Bellevue Transit Center to accommodate double decker buses, working on better signage there, work is still scheduled to be completed by EOY
- Charging pads are going in by Bellevue Library
- October 5 work starting in Lynwood for charging pads
- In late November power will be cut for a full weekend to work on installing charging pads, will impact elevators and escalators
- Additionally, work on Poplar Way on/ off ramps, will be going out for contractors to bid on shortly
- Stay up to date on WSDOT construction by emailing to sign up for alerts.
- S3 Construction
- Earliest bus impacts Dec 2026, most impacts coming in Spring 2027, sidewalks are very narrow in this area
- Sign up for listserv for all notifications
- Drop-in info session for property owners in the Bothell Way work zone
- Last project: Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility, set to open in 2027
- A video and blog post forthcoming about the bus charging
- Pedestrian access projects, Kirkland project is opening in early October
- Station Art is very cool! One artist doing all S3, one artist doing all S1 and S2, some stained-glass panels
- Heather: Will there be station opening events? A: Ribbon cutting for 85th, when we open station lines there will be a full celebration! Will have big station openings, will be using some stations before service starts.

Updates

Erin shared update on work plan, editing will take place in mid-October, aiming to have video ready by mid-November.

Next steps, looking for some senior focused organizations for presentations

Next Steps

Next Meeting: 11/24/26, Time: 1PM – 2:30PM, Zoom

EERC CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information on EERC contact Erin Funk or visit [EERC website](#)