Welcome, Introductions, Context-Setting:

The Roundtable session began at 1:05 with welcome and introductions, attendees shared their agency, affiliation, noted the perspective they were bringing into the conversation. Our icebreaker question for the session: What is your favorite school mascot?

After introductions Bebhinn provided some background and context for the conversation.

To begin the session, there was a brief celebration of the Free Youth Transit Pass. Area transit agencies have all adopted a policy of zero fare for young riders, this includes King County Metro, Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, Everett Transit, and Community Transit. Washington State Ferries will move to fare free for youth riders beginning in October. These policy adjustments are due in large part to the Move Ahead Washington transportation legislation which was passed into law earlier this year.

Bebhinn mentioned this landmark change as it will lower and remove barriers to younger people accessing transit in their communities. She also noted the connection that this change had to past Access to Work and School and King County Mobility Coalition efforts. She mentions that coalition and coordination work can often feel slow or incremental, but that systems change like removing the fare barriers becomes possible when projects like: the King County Fare Structure Needs Assessment (2018), The Youth Find Your Freedom Project (2019), and even in the creation of resources like Which ORCA Card is right for you card.

These resources and research, and the coalition building that they represent help to form the conversations that lead to change, they build momentum.

Bebhinn began the Roundtable Conversation with this context so that attendees can set their energy toward big picture ideas and eventual large-scale change.

The Roundtable Conversation will focus on the transportation needs, gaps, and existing assets for college and university campuses. This includes student and staff transportation patterns and needs.

Panel Discussion:

Two regional experts joined the Roundtable Conversation to provide data and experience to the conversation of campus transportation needs. Melissa Brown, Interim Manager, Commute Options & Planning at the University of Washington and Crista Shaw, WorkForce Education Worker Retraining Specialist.
Melissa provided an overview of transportation patterns and assets of the University of Washington. Presentation Slides are available for review in addition to these notes.

The University of Washington acts as not only a transit destination for University staff and students, but also acts as a regional transit hub. Current transportation assets unique to the University include, the UPass program (transit passes provided to students and staff), a biking program, mobility vendor agreements on/near campus. In a recent survey of University stakeholders the current known mode split is, Transit 25%, Drive 17%, Walk 22%.

Melissa mentions that the University has a Master Plan that includes a goal of 12% Single Occupancy Vehicle use rate by 2028 and a reduction of available parking stalls by 25% by the same year.

To meet these goals Melissa and her team have engaged in learning opportunities to hear from community members about their travel patterns and any barriers they experience. Melissa mentions that a key element of this work is to identify and assess the availability of transportation choice, Melissa mentions that the current transportation system does not provide equal opportunities for all users. She notes that the work of mode shift is different for a user who has access to frequent transit and a personal vehicle and another user who lives far from transit or is limited due to cost or travel hours.

Recent outreach efforts have drawn forward a strong support for expansion of UPass program to all employees, a challenge for essential employees working outside of traditional peak commute hours, highlighted a difficulty of connecting to first mile transit connections, and the challenge of balancing childcare and caregiving responsibilities with transportation options.

Recent surveys data highlights:
- Not frequent enough 28%
- Unreliable 24%
- Takes too long 42%
- COVID 64%

As the University continues the work to reduce transportation barriers they have highlighted several upcoming initiatives including:
- Partner with childcare facilities near transit to encourage the use of transit or carpooling
- Revamp emergency ride home guarantee program
- Facilitate carpool/vanpool matching for commuters with limited transit access
- Reduce barriers to bike ownership for UW students and employee

Questions:

Q: Any more information on childcare efforts?
A: This is a long range initiative that will be rolled out in phases, currently in conversation phase

Q: Does the University have a Ride matching service or do you use the rideshare online platform?
A: Currently using online share platform online

Q: Since parking spots will be reduced is there an opportunity for single day spots, daily parking?
A: Yes, there is a transit for pay per use model and will require some infrastructure updates. Potentially moving away from the quarterly payment modal to something more short-term.

Renton Technical College
Crista Shaw from Renton Technical College led a discussion on transportation and equity barriers that she sees in her work with students and community members.

She begins by saying that the student population is traveling from the entire county. As the College works to connect students to training and retraining programs she has seen a hidden barrier arise: digital equity.
For many of the community members and students she works with, barriers to employment often encompass transportation access, but also access to information about their options and choices. The transportation system is often inaccessible or daunting to someone with limited English proficiency and to people who can not easily find routing or service information on the internet or via apps. While she sees plenty of employers hiring, she also sees the barriers listed above standing in the way of her students and these opportunities.

She suggested the need for strengthening communication channels and use those channels to promote and share information in an accessible way. This includes low-tech and linguistically diverse ways. She suggests that at its root many of these barriers are a customer service concern.

She also asks to the group – how can we connect with employers diversify their travel requirements for employment. Again she emphasizes that there are several employment opportunities in the region, but the reliability of transportation is a barrier for many potential applicants.

**Group Discussion and Sharing**

The Roundtable Conversation and discussion portion was rooted in this question: As we envision a connected community, what specific systems can we strengthen for riders connecting to campus?

**Bring:**
What resources do we already have available for this work?

1. Not tangible, but we have the belief that transportation could be better, a way for people to get home safely,
2. Offering riders or new students to show them how to use transit,
   a. Welcome Week at UW have professional trainer to share and revamp that opportunity
   b. Mobility Management has outreach and education opportunities to reduce fear and reticence around transit.

**Build:**
What resources can we create together and what ingredients do we need to create them?

1. building more insight for community feedback and how decision are made
2. defining people’s perception on the gaps and needs
3. Understand need in, and build partnerships with unincorporated parts of SKC (skyway or white center)

**Buy (advocate)**
What big picture ideas can we advocate for? What changes do we need decision makers on our side for?

1. Free Youth Fair to expand to all college students
2. outreach and information sharing/ with a navigators model?

**Closing & Next Steps**

**Next Meeting:** December 13, 2022, from 1pm to 3pm, remote
**Topic:** Rural Transportation Solutions

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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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