

Eastside Easy Rider COLLABORATIVE

Next Meeting: *Tuesday, November 25th from 1:00 – 2:30pm via Zoom*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83249846276?pwd=WXB1TUlzVUd5cEpBWUpTci82WkQvZz09>

EERC Meeting Notes – September 30, 2025

Attendance:

Arthur Bachus (Sound Transit), Jamie Gruenberger (King County Metro), Angie Kitheka (Volunteer Services CCS), June Palon (Kirkland Senior Council), Tommie Lorene (Connect Bellevue), Pran (ISCS), Roz Novikova (Hopelink), Ramu Ayyaluru (Mini City Hall), Dean Sydnor (RARET), Gazel Tan (Community Member), Alicia Spinner (The Circle), Kurt Ahrensfield (Kirkland Senior Council)

Hopelink Staff: Lyn McCarthy, Heather Clark, Grace Georgitsis

The Circle – Alicia Spinner

- Based in Issaquah, serves all of King County.
- Mission: Provide a **safe space** for individuals and families to learn how to navigate their community.
- Supports:
 - Families new to the community.
 - Families who are familiar but need help accessing services (counseling, tax prep, legal aid, etc.).
- **Programs and Services:**
 - Staff of 12.
 - Monthly Donation Day.
 - Free classes for kids: Zumba, art, music, language.
 - Free classes for adults: driving instruction, first aid/CPR, computer skills, GED prep.

- “Circles” – group gatherings for learning and connection.
- **Transportation barriers:**
 - Metro Flex available only in Issaquah; no direct service elsewhere.
 - The Circle pays for Ubers and other transport when needed.
 - Members come from Kent, Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah.
 - Example: 1 hour 40 min trip from Issaquah to Redmond’s Together Center for free household goods.
 - Many members fear using public transit; safety concerns lead to parents walking children to school.
 - Limited medical facilities in Issaquah – hard for residents to access healthcare.

Discussion:

- Erin: Aims to understand and elevate these issues.
- Heather: Asked about possible use of Sammamish Community Van.
- Pran: Noted ongoing efforts for Issaquah transportation—no solutions yet.

Move Redmond – Mauritzia Lauriano

- Website: www.moveredmond.org
- Advocacy organization promoting transportation equity and alternatives to driving.
- **Week Without Driving:** Sept 29 – Oct 5
 - Encourages drivers to try non-driving transportation for one week.
 - Builds understanding of non-drivers’ daily challenges.
- **Activities:**
 - “Week Without Driving Bingo” & Daily Challenges with prizes.
 - Contact: maritzaL@moveredmond.org
- **Event:** Downtown Redmond Walk & Talk – 4:30 PM at Redmond Senior & Community Center; tour of future Downtown Redmond Light Rail Station.

Sound Transit – Arthur Bachus

Contact: arthur.bachus@soundtransit.org

Title: System Engagement Specialist

- **Link Opening (ST2/ST3 transition):**
 - **Dec 6, 2025:** Grand Opening of the Federal Way Link Extension
 - Kent/Des Moines to Seattle – 42 min
 - Star Lake and Federal Way Downtown stations
 - Trains every 8–10 minutes; 3,200 parking spaces
- **East Link (2-Line):**
 - Crosslake connection testing now; opening early 2026.
 - Will span 34 miles, 23 stations.
 - Transfer to 1-Line at Intl District/Chinatown.
- **Future Stations & Expansion:**
 - Pinehurst Station (1-Line) opening 2026.
 - Voter-approved system (2028–29):
 - 5 Link lines, 2 Sounder lines, Stride BRT connecting Shoreline, Lynnwood, Bellevue, and Tukwila.
- **ST Express Network:**
 - 10 current routes under review.
 - **Public Survey:** Oct 6 – Nov 7, 2025.
 - Results will guide major network changes (implementation post-World Cup).
- **Community Engagement Plan:**
 - 50+ ambassadors at transit centers.
 - 3 CBO open houses (Hopelink is a partner).
 - 5-week multicultural media campaign + social media outreach.
 - Sound Transit emphasized as a “safe agency for all community members.”

Hopelink / EERC Updates

Presenter: Erin Funk

- RARET Tabletop Exercise completed.
- **KCMC Storymapping Project** (with subregional coalitions):
 - Heather Clark: Project restarting after staff transitions.
 - Inspired by Disability Mobility Initiative.
 - Goal: Raise awareness of barriers to accessing healthcare and other essential services.
 - Example: [Disability Rights WA Storymap](#)
 - Partners encouraged to help promote.

Additional Items:

- Sound Transit Community Engagement updates shared.
- City Resources Guide mentioned.

Member Comments

- **Pran (ISCS):** Requested future meetings include Q&A time; presentations were strong but lacked discussion time.
- **Heather:** Offered to connect Pran with Arthur for follow-up questions.
- **Dean (RARET):**
 - Promoted “Access to Health and Wellness” event (Oct 1, 9:30–11 AM).
 - Speaker: Brian Sindel, Washington Cares Coordinator.
- Adjourn

For more information on EERC contact Erin Funk, visit our [website](#) or sign up for our [distribution list](#)

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