

Eastside Easy Rider COLLABORATIVE

Next Meeting: *Tuesday, July 28th from 1:00 – 2:30pm*

[EERC meeting Zoom link](#)

Meeting Notes

Date: May 26th 2026, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Attendees / Presenters

1. Hannah Kimball (Bellevue Network on Aging)
2. June Palon (Kirkland Senior Council)
3. Karen Hartman – Kirkland Senior Council
4. Susan Prows– (Kirkland Senior Center)
5. Grace Georgitsis (Hopelink)
6. Evelyn Newman – (City of Bellevue)
7. Pran Wahi – IACS
8. Erin Funk – Hopelink

Staff Support: Heather Clark, Nicole Ross,

Agenda:

1. Future of EERC
 2. FY27 Workplan planning
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Future of EERC

1. Relevance of Newsletter

- Erin requested feedback on the EERC newsletter and asked whether it is useful to partners and the community.
- Positive feedback was shared:
 - The newsletter is appreciated and regularly shared with the Kirkland Senior Center.

- Hannah shared that she distributes the newsletter through the Bellevue Network on Aging, with neighbors, and with the Kirkland Senior Center. She noted that the information is relevant and useful.
 - Erin asked for ideas on how to further expand the newsletter's reach.
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2. Increase in Representation & Outreach

- Discussion focused on broadening representation from community organizations and advocates.
- Recent outreach has included organizations such as The Circle and Pride Across the Bridge.
- EERC aims to better engage smaller nonprofits, community advocates to help bring transportation information and resources into the community.
- Metro and city government partners continue participating, but the group wants to expand beyond traditional partners.

Geographic Gaps & Aging in Place

- Concerns were raised about older adults aging in place without transportation access or community connections.
 - Examples mentioned included Mercer Island and Issaquah.
 - Erin noted that much of the recent focus has been on Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland, and that Issaquah may need more attention moving forward.
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3. Accessibility Discussion

Accessible Materials

- PDFs can be difficult to access with screen readers and may take too long to navigate.
- Word documents were identified as the easiest format for screen reader users.

Meeting Descriptors & Inclusivity

- Discussion around verbal descriptors and accessibility practices:
 - Some participants noted that descriptors can be controversial and context-dependent.
 - It was suggested to ask blind or visually impaired participants directly whether they would like visual descriptions during meetings.
 - Concerns were raised that extensive descriptors can consume meeting time.
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4. EERC Name Change Discussion

Current name: Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

Proposed name: East King County Mobility Coalition

Potential reasons for change:

- Creating a stronger regional identity

- Improve accessibility and clarity
 - “Easy Rider” may not translate well into other languages and may not have a specific meaning to non-English speakers.
 - Adding “Mobility Coalition” may better communicate the group’s purpose and focus
 - Adding “East King County” may better reflect the geographic area served
 - The addition of “King County” may give more authority
 - The new organization - East King County Human Services Collaborative (The Collaborative) – may create confusion
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EERC Workplans

FY2026 update

- City Resource Guides were completed for:
 - Bellevue
 - Kirkland
 - Redmond
 - Mercer Island
 - Issaquah/Sammamish
 - Guides were translated into:
 - Chinese
 - Russian
 - Spanish
 - Erin asked organizations serving those language communities to review the guides for tone and word choice accuracy.
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FY27 Planning & Ideas

Potential Project Idea

“Create a video geared towards and featuring older adults navigating public transportation (bus/light rail) including a speaking circuit to organizations geared towards older adults (55+ living communities, Medicaid spend down assisted living, community centers)”

Discussion

Public Transit Orientation Feedback

- Erin previously conducted a Public Transportation Orientation (PTO) for the Bellevue Network on Aging.
- Hannah shared that the training was very helpful.

Transit Challenges Discussed

- Transfers at the International District station were identified as especially complicated during current light rail operations.
- Ongoing “first mile/last mile” transportation challenges were discussed.

Reaching Isolated Older Adults

- Karen shared concerns that many older adults in Kirkland stay home because they feel they have no transportation alternatives.
- Erin suggested that gaining access to residential locations could create “train-the-trainer” opportunities.

Community Questions Raised

- Susan asked:
 - How do people get to the light rail?
 - Where do buses connect?
 - How can residents understand available services in their neighborhoods?
- Karen noted that some residents cannot walk even two blocks to a bus stop.
- Erin acknowledged that social isolation and transportation barriers are significant issues in Kirkland.

Signage & Awareness Ideas

- Karen suggested simple yard signs with phone numbers at the end of cul-de-sacs or near bus stops.
- Suggested locations included:
 - 100th Ave NE & 124th
 - Fred Meyer
 - Safeway
 - Evergreen Hospital
- Heather shared that the City of Redmond has used grass signs promoting bus connections to the 2 Line with QR codes.

Additional Suggestions

- Susan mentioned low-income housing apartments off 132nd as locations where outreach may be needed.
- Lyn suggested flyers advertising grocery delivery services for residents who rarely leave home.
- Grace asked whether the outreach campaign should focus on a specific service or program, noting that transportation resource lines can be difficult to promote broadly.

First Mile / Last Mile Discussion

- Hannah noted that:
 - Many people do not understand available transportation options.

- Park-and-rides are limited due to insufficient parking.
 - First mile/last mile transportation remains a major issue.
 - Heather highlighted existing programs such as BellHop and Redmond's Red Link, though both have limited service areas.
 - Hannah shared that while she does not mind riding transit, she sometimes feels uncomfortable or unsafe at certain transit locations.
 - Lyn recommended including "first mile/last mile" terminology in the proposed video so residents can better communicate their challenges to transportation professionals.
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Next Steps

- City Resource Guide final translation submitted to KCMC website by June 30th.
 - Erin will summarize discussion FY27 ideas and begin moving the workplan forward in July.
 - A draft plan will be presented at the July meeting.
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May 26th 1:00pm - 2:30 on Zoom

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

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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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