Tuesday, February 21, 2023

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84968252278?pwd=Y1E1VjZ4bnZ2WjdVFpSTUgxZHRiQT09

Participants:
Members and Alternates: Aaron Morrow, Amy Biggs, Christy Stangland, Cliff Perry, Daeveene May, Darryl Sierra, Dinah Stephens, Dorene Cornwell, Jacque Mann, Jean Kim, Kari Ware, Mandy Wes, Matthew Cramer, Shawli Hathaway, Sherry Jennings

Partners: Aaron Flaster (Community Collaboratory), Adam Aba-Husain (Seattle ADS), Adam Vance (ORCA), Alison Turner (City of Tukwila), Anat Caspi (UW Taskcar Center), Beth Hamby (Sound Transit), Brock Howell (Snotrac), Christiana Williams (MV Transit), Dean Sydnor (Hopelink RARET), Esther Lee (DCHS), Gabrielle Hodges (CCS Volunteer Programs), Heather Shin (Worksource), John Larson-Friend (City of Issaquah), Julie Burrell (King County Metro), Kim Cooper (City of SeaTac), Margarita Aguando (King County Metro), Mary Pat O’Leary (Seattle ADS), Meg Woolf (Age Friendly Seattle), Nikkole Scott (Compass Housing Alliance), Sara Sisco (Hopelink Education and Outreach), Susan Carter (Hopelink Transportation), Tim Hams (King County Metro), Veronica Bean (City of Auburn)

Presenter: Matthew Weidner (King County Metro Access)

Staff Support:
Bebhinn Gilbert, Bree Boyce, Julio Perez, Roz Novikova, Sandy Phan, Staci Sahoo, Tracie Jones

Cochairs:
Jonny Proci and Penny Lara

King County Mobility Coalition Vision:
A coordinated transportation network that allows all people to move freely around King County and the Puget Sound region.

Meeting Goals:
1) Learn about the Access Electrification Project and accessibility advancements in electric vehicles
2) Rank the priority of projects drafted for the KCMC Action Plan
3) Review project updates from partner agencies.

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

The meeting began at 9:33 AM. Attendees provided introductions via chat. Penny Lara and Jonny Proci opened the meeting with an introduction of the King County Mobility Coalition, its goals and populations of focus, as well as its welcoming statement.
Bebhinn provided an overview of regional announcements and a handful of Coalition administrative tasks.

Announcements:

1. Pierce Transit’s board recently approved adoption of the ORCA LIFT program, which will begin April 1st of this year. ORCA LIFT is an income-based reduced wage, and qualified community members are able to access a $1 fare. More details at this link: ORCA LIFT (link).
2. King County Metro has announced a consolidation and rebrand of all their flexible services under one name and one app. Metro Flex. More details available at this flexible services link.
3. Seattle/King County Public Health (KCPH) has updated the Subsidized Annual Pass Toolkit (link provided). The Subsidized Annual Pass program offers enrolled community members to access King County Metro and Sound Transit services at a $0 fare. The Toolkit helps to explain enrollment qualifications and processes.
4. Bebhinn shared an interesting Urbanist article regarding tentative plans from Sound Transit (ST) to add the potential for retail into their light rail station planning and design. introduced in light rail stations.
5. Valley Medical Hospital has released a Community Needs Survey – our partners at Valley Medical have let us know that they are hoping to hear from across the county regarding barriers to healthcare. Complete the survey using this link.
6. Bebhinn shared one more interesting article from Curbed: Including people with disabilities in the city planning process for accessible and universal cities.

KCMC Administrative Announcements:

1. We are now accepting nominations for the 2023 – 2024 term to be held by a member representing the Human Services perspective. The position is currently held by Jonny Prociv. KCMC Members and Alternates are invited to nominate themselves or their peers for the role. Bebhinn will send out a specific reminder for nominations in follow up to the meeting.
2. King County Mobility Coalition (KCMC) Annual Survey. The annual feedback survey will be shared as a follow up for this meeting. Surveying helps the Coalition to assess our practices and modes of communication with you all. This year, the survey will also include one question regarding the 2023-2025 Action Plan and its drafted material.

The survey has a total of 4 required questions and opportunities to provide anonymous feedback for our work.

Minutes Approval, New Members and Alternates

Jonny received approval to confirm the November 2022 meeting minutes with no edits.

Penny introduced two new partners to our member and alternate roster. Darryl Sierra (NEMT Director) and Victor Londono-Quintero (NEMT Contracts Manager) Darryl is now the member on our roster representing Medicaid Brokerage and Victor is his alternate.
Penny also invited new participants to introduce themselves to the group.

**In Memorial**

Staci Sahoo invited the Coalition to pause and share their memories of Donna Smith, Sound Transit Manager of Accessibility Services, and former Easterseals Project Consultant. Donna recently passed and her presence, advocacy, and passion will be missed.

As Staci spoke of her memories of Donna, she shared this [linked video](#) for Disability Pride

Donate in Donna’s name: [St Jude](#); [Seeing Eye](#)

**King County Metro Access Electrification Project**

Matthew Weidner – King County Access, Electrification Project

Matthew joined the meeting to talk about Electric Vehicles, their capacity to support specialized Transportation users and the Access Transportation System Electrification project.

The slides Matthew used are linked in the [KCMC February Slide Deck](#). For a comprehensive understanding of the presentation and discussion please review both the slides and the notes included here.

To ground the conversation in shared understanding, Matthew began with a list of definitions.

- **EV** - Electric vehicle
- **ICE** – Internal Combustion Engine
- **OEM** – Original Equipment Manufacturer
  - From the factory
- **After-market**
  - Modified by another company after it leaves the factory.
- **Cut-a-way**
  - Vehicle body-built after-market upon an unfinished chassis (e.g., RV)

King County Metro Access’ electrification project began with a mandate set in the 2020 strategic plan – passed May 2021

- 5-year blueprint for County climate action, integrating climate change into all areas of County operations
  - King County Vehicle Emissions by County Agency (2017) – measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide.
    - Solid Waste = 11, 887
    - Sheriff = 9212
    - Bio-solids = 4543
    - Ither = 8,000
    - Total Transit = 151,574
Target: reduction in green gas emissions from King County fleet vehicles, 45% by 2025; 70% by 2030.

Related to these measured total emissions King County Metro has the following goals:

1. 100% zero-emission revenue bus fleet by 2035
2. 67% zero-emission ADA paratransit fleet by 2030
3. 100% zero-emission rideshare fleet by 2030

Regarding the second goal, of a Paratransit Fleet with 67% zero emission fleet. Metro Access has the following targets:

- Total fleet target: 379 vehicles
  - 254 Electric
  - 125 (Renewable) Propane
- Current Fleet consists of 410 cut-a-way vehicles in active service
  - 36 Diesel
  - 173 Gasoline
  - 91 Propane

Matthew mentions that much of this transition to renewable and electric vehicles will require additional transitions in fleet facilities. Of the current 4 major bases that Access uses throughout the county, only one is owned by Metro. The other three are leased. This presents a challenge when it comes to investing in charging and infrastructure changes. The move to EV will also require a mindset shift from the county when it comes to facilities management.

Matthew mentions that the current chassis in use by Metro Access, due to their after-market modifications have a large footprint, they are bulky, and rarely are at passenger capacity. These factors result in a high center of gravity and a less than ideal ride quality for the Access customer. Members of the audience agree with Matthew at this comment. Ride quality does leave something to be desired.

As King County Metro Access looks at EV models that will fit their needs and the needs of their customers, Matthew highlights a few details. The vehicle range and charging opportunities are top of mind for functionality. Charging on route may be required to serve longer routes. Current typical rides on Metro Access fall within a range of 150 miles or less.

Also of note, the agency will need to start their transition to EV and low emissions by 2024.

**Piloting EV for Access**

King County Metro Access will be piloting an EV fleet to test out the transition and understand how this shift will impact customers. The pilot will only be in certain areas and on certain trips (details to be decided). Matthew highlights that Access has selected Ford e-Transit as their pilot vehicle which is a common selection in paratransit services. The estimated range for these vehicles is 85 miles, less than the target Access put forward, but Matthew is optimistic for success because of the opportunities for in-route charging. The vehicles are affordable, flexible, and since they do not have aftermarket modifications, he anticipates an improved rider experience. He also mentions that these vehicles are more likely to be at rider capacity than their traditional combustion engine counterparts.
In addition to the vehicles themselves, the Access EV pilot will also be testing new technology for their interiors. The AbiliTrax flexible seats are more dynamic and can easily be reconfigured by the operator to fit the layout and accessibility accommodations of riders.

**How to get involved**

Outreach opportunities in 2023 are still under design. Community members and Access Customers will have opportunities to share their feedback throughout the pilot.

Exact details of how that outreach will take place are to be determined.

Matthew also mentions the Access Paratransit Advisory Committee (APAC)

*Advises Metro and King County Council on transit issues and policy related to matters of equal access to public transportation for persons with disabilities.*

The APAC is currently seeking members! Contact Mark Nash (mnash@kingcounty.gov) if interested.

**Questions and Comments from the Audience:**

Staci Sahoo (Hopelink): Where may we find public reports, routing averages?

- The information is not published widely, but available as part of the public record. We’re in contact with other paratransit authorities looking at electrification. Matthew notes that although of interest, routing information is not useful for other providers due to differences from organization to organization and different dynamics. We’re also actively talking about including lessons we’ve learned with the micro grids, buy/sell electricity, and needing more infrastructure.

Arron Morrow (Hopelink Board Member and Community Advocate) – How does King County procure land to build bases? Please contact me at a future time to discuss.

John Larson-Friend (City of Issaquah) – I’ve only read and hear positive reviews from regarding the Ford eTransits Portland.

Amy Biggs (SVT) – When will the infrastructure and charging process get up and running?

- Working to get infrastructure up and running. Working with utilities, Seattle City Light, PSE, along with having electrical studies. Also need enough capacity to charge fleet of vehicles, and how to accelerate process.

Amy Biggs (SVT) – Owned vs lease vehicles?

- We need to own vehicles and facilities. Keep improvements to ensure long-term investments best serve us.

Amy Biggs (SVT) – How will the mechanics get up-to-speed?
• It’s hard to training mechanics due to manufactures not sharing information, only dealerships have technology and tools to fix vehicles. Right to repair bills law supports manufacture keeping info proprietary. Therefore, cannot train labor. EVs have 1/10 of parts. Less maintenance. We need to control our own destiny. Things to change in the next 5-7 years. Access to be part of planning. Paratransit has significant infrastructure needs.

Doreene Cornwell (Community Advocate): I’d like to plug the Access Advisory Transit Board. The commitment is 2 hours/month. And, there’s a lot of cool people discussing accessibility needs.

John Larson Friend (City of Issaquah) – How will local charging in the communities work?

• Local charging stations will need to be identified for support, like a gas station fill up. Same thing, we need 3 to 5 years, and consolidate charging networks with commercial accounts. Use at certain charging networks. Tesla will be opening chargers. So, we might look for larger companies to partner.

Staci Sahoo (Hopelink) - Shout-out to Mackenzie Martin with Puget Sound Energy and Phillip James with Muckleshoot Transportation. Battery capacity was a big tech concern for a long time, especially considering the needs of assistive technology. Muckleshoot has piloted EVs in their fleet and are working with PSE grid infrastructure and access. Cost remains a hurdle for many smaller transportation providers and PSE has had their attention on assisting with the cost barrier.

2023-2025 KCMC Action Plan Project Prioritization Review

In advance of this meeting Bebhinn shared several documents related to the King County Mobility Coalition 2023-2025 Action Plan.

1. Literature Review
2. Action Plan Drafted Outcomes

Bebhinn provided a brief project overview of the Action Plan project and why the Coalition is undertaking this effort.

The King County Mobility Coalition uses Action Plans as an essential tool for aligning our work with community needs. They are our roadmap for identifying next steps, coalition priorities, and potential projects.

This process will result in a three-year Action Plan based on findings from the 2021 Community Transportation Needs Assessment, community outreach, and coalition member input.

Project Feedback Timeline

• November
  o Regional outreach and bold brainstorming
• January
  o Ease impact mapping
• February
• Review guiding principles
• Begin prioritization and editing actions

- March
  • Further prioritization and refining, right-sizing.
- May Quarterly meeting
  • Vote and approve for 3-year adoption, 2023-25

KCMC Action Plan Project Prioritization Review

Keep in mind the KCMC Vision: A coordinated transportation network that allows all people to move freely around King County and the Puget Sound region.

Let us know:
  • How are these principles resonating with you?
  • What is missing or needs refinement?

After this meeting, as part of the satisfaction survey, KCMC partners will be able to review each potential action and mark up to 10 actions as “high priority”

Results from Guiding Principle Ranking
  1. Reliability
  2. Mobility is a Right
  3. Inclusive Planning
  4. Mobility Options for All Regions
  5. Affordability
  6. Human Centered Design
  7. Access to Health and Wellbeing
  8. Customer Experience
  9. System Coordination
  10. Flexible and Robust Funding
  11. Multimodal (Robust Infrastructure, Active Transportation)
  12. Cross Sector Advocacy and Planning

Discussion on ranking results:
• Jonathan Prociv: Human Centered Transportation System. Our network has to put people first.

• Brock Howell: As principal, do we need to prioritize and narrow? I ranked these as guidelines rather than principles.
  • Staci responds with a note to be mindful of these guiding principles. These principles will weave within the final product. These rankings will help us with the weaving.

• Dorene Cornwell: Mobility is right that touches everyone in the county. Human centered design. Transportation is not about roads. It’s the people and those who use services. Cross sectional part of
access is to transport, as we migrate to online dispatch. Do people have access to tools they need? I don’t see that reflected in these guiding principles.

- Laura Loe: Reliability is important in giving people confidence, increase ridership. Suggested focus: trust in the network.

Responses for Needed Adjustments to Actions/Guiding Principles

- Are there ways that KCMC can collaborate with the implementation of I-135 to create transit options that are connected to new social housing developments?

- Does our KCMC committee need to directly advocate, or with our city/county representatives?

- Defining, locating, and serving underserved populations, individuals and regions.

- There has to be a regional effort to ensure all systems that are working to provide special needs transport are coordinated in all aspects.

- Work more with elected officials and city comprehensive plans, many of the small cities need help.

- Hire, promote immigrant, people of color, various language speakers. Frequent schedule and safe environments. Better connection with South King County. Secure and more comfortable transit center experience.

- Inclusion of mobility gaps for disabled people as part of all planning processes, ie wheel chairs moving uphill between bus stops, where the sidewalk ends (literally not the book) readers for the blind.

- I am spoiled about grocery delivery. More digital inclusion what is needed so services can come to me whether groceries or telehealth.

- Every wheelchair user and families with kids’ strollers or car seats.

- Shift in commute patterns how affect transport.

- Yes in language and updated info regular refresher.

- More coordination between service providers. Political boundaries burden end user.

- A focus is so key to provide reliability of the network and real options for getting to the critical appointments needed, especially older adults. How can use of transit network truly be as straightforward as having own car?

- Need for Senior Living resources close to transit dependent family members.
• Principle: Freedom of transportation for people of all abilities (everyone) can get where they want, when they want, without advance planning.

• Partnering with the state digital equity forum that WA Commerce is convening or at least engaging with regional partners who are critical in that effort, including librarians.

• There has to be a regional effort to ensure all systems that are working to provide special needs transport in all aspects.

• Adam how much are we investing in non-English speakers. How do we insure no old information at all levels? Immigrants’ elders project. Translated many different projects. Or, how do you keep info up to date when new rollouts are frequent.

Discussion Responses:

Dinah Stephens (KC Aging and Disability Services) - On a macro level, we should all recognize connecting housing and transportation, and how they go hand in hand. We need space to carry out those transport special needs and recognized those spaces.

Mandy Wes (Disability Empowerment Center) - Not enough access. Individuals who deal with severe disabilities are (many times) not able to use public transportation. Also, some people believe they are not able to afford specialized public transit.

Responses for Actions Resonating with Coalition:
These draft actions resonate with me and will advance the KCMC vision. A coordinated transport network that allows all people to move freely around KC and PS. 12 people responded. Score 4.3 74% smiles. 26% love

• Daryll Sierra (Hopelink NEMT) - I selected a smile due to unforeseen circumstances. My challenges are unforeseen and not suspected. Optimistic, but there are things and events one can’t prepare for. Also, hard to say where will things be in three years.

Next steps

• As a follow-up to this conversation, the survey asks everyone to choose up to 10 actions to mark as “high priority”.
• Contact Bebhinn for individual conversations about our aims and goals!
• Advisory Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2023
1:00pm to 3:00pm Register Today
Hybrid: Zoom and Hopelink Redmond
Office (Address: 8990 154th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052)
Partner Agency Briefings

- PSRC, Jean Kim - PSRC submitted final projects list to the state for the 2023-2025 Consolidated Grant--WSDOT will announce funded projects list in spring or early summer of this year. Thanks! More information can be found here: https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/specialized-transportation-funding

- One-Call/One-Click, Staci Sahoo
  - Laura Loe was hired as new program manager.
  - Multi-modal trip planner: senior, rural, tri-county.
  - End-to-end trip planning, user testing launch. Soon branching out to wider community.
  - Customizable search filters. https://www.kcmobility.org/findaride-spring2023-updates
  - Sound Transit’s Digital Assistant and our One-Call/One-Click projects are working closely together!
  - Sign-up to be a beta tester to discover flexible services.

- Beth Hamby, Sound Transit
  - Digital assistance app integration notice; fair payment functions looking for testers. Details to follow.
  - Fare Ambassadors are more customer service-oriented. Training on how to engage with deaf and blind customers. Training available. Video on effective communications with deaf and blind.
  - Recruiting community advisory committee. Starting to go back to in-person. Still working on logistics.
  - Recruiting Manager of Accessible Services (Donna Smith’s position).

- Penny Lara, King County Metro
  - King County Metro Rapid Ride H Line launches March 18, 2023
  - Michelle Allison has been selected to lead agency.
  - On-demand neighborhood Metro Flex transit services launch March 6, 2023.
  - Metro celebrating 50th Anniversary.

- Subregional Coalition Update, Sara Sisco
  - Sandy Phan, South King County Mobility Coordinator, will transition to a new role as Community Transportation Navigators (CTN) Program Supervisor. CTN is a peer-to-peer outreach approach, where people learn directly from trusted community champions, who share similar experiences, languages, cultures, & geography. Additionally, CTN serves low-to-moderate income households, people with limited English proficiency, older adults, immigrants, & refugee populations

- Cross County Travel Study, Julio Perez
  - NKCMMC Project, studying the fluidly and ease of travel across county lines by conducting an environmental scan, identifying and advocating for intersectional county improvements between King and Snohomish Counties, The project and research will be conducted in conjunction with University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, with cumulative conclusions presented during the May 16, 2023 King County Mobility Coalition meeting. Questions, email Julio Perez, jperez@hopelink.org.
• Brock Howell, Snotrac's - Spring Speaker Series events can be found here: https://www.gosnotrac.org/events
  • March 2: "The Future of Transit, with a Focus on Equity and Inclusion," with Paul Comfort
  • April 14: "The Future of Commute Trip Reduction and Transportation Demand Management," with Tien-Tien Chan, Melanie Truhn, and Jessica Roberts.
    June 1: "Clearer Thinking on Public Transit," with Jarrett Walker

• Amy Biggs, SVT - SVT is hiring drivers and dispatcher.

Mandy Wes (Disability Empowerment Center) – We’re hiring an Independent Living Specialist; moving to different Redmond office in same neighborhood, right down the street.

Action Items
• Bebhinn to send out satisfaction and Action Plan survey to all KCMC partners
• Bebhinn to send out Coalition Cochairs nomination reminder to all KCMC members and alternates.

Next Steps
• Save the Date:
  o Action Plan Advisory Meetings
  o Monday, March 13, 2023
  o 1:00pm to 3:00pm
  o Register Today
  o Hybrid: Zoom and Hopelink Redmond Office
  o (Address: 8990 154th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052)

Next Meeting: May 16, 2023, 9:30– 11:30 AM, remote via Zoom

King County Mobility Coalition Contact:

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425-943-6752

For more information on KCMC, contact Bebhinn Gilbert, visit our website kcmobility.org, or sign up for our distribution list here