

Tuesday, November 18th 2025

9:30am-11:30am on Zoom

Facilitator: Lyn McCarthy, Program Supervisor, King County Mobility Coalition

emccarthy@hopelink.org

Presenters:

Staci Sahoo, Director of Mobility Management, Hopelink

Arthur Bachus, System Engagement Specialist, Sound Transit

Anna Zivarts, co-founder of Nondrivers Alliance

KCMC Co-Chairs:

Aaron Morrow (system user and advocate), Anny Smith (City of Kirkland), Lorrie Alfonsi (King County Metro)

Attendees: Kunal Mehta (UW), Veronica Bean (City of Auburn), AJ Flint (GoGo Grandparent), Mandy Wes (Disability Empowerment Center), Amy Biggs (SVT), M Facery, Chris Lovings (Dept of Commerce), Katie Schneider, Anna Smalley (Commute Seattle), Dwight Sanders (MV Transportation), William Khadivi (Commute Seattle), Adam Vance (ORCA), Angie Kitheka (CCS), Anne Marie Jehle (King County Metro), Belen Herrera (SDOT), Gerina Hatch (Community in Motion), Jacque Mann (PSESD/RTI), Karen Hartman, Kelly Sunagel (NWHRN), Shereese Braun (KCADSD), Suleiny Altamirano (Snotrac), Traci Adair (King County DCHS), Laura Milstead (City of Bellevue), Mary Herman (King County Metro), Matthew Cramer (WSDOT), Michael Woo, Nou Lee (Renton Technical College), Jean Kim (PSRC), Sam Orbach (Crisis Connections), Ben Atwell (Crisis Connections), Chris Andree (City of Tukwila), Cliff Perry (North Shore Senior Center), Daeveene May (Pierce County), Dinah Stephens (KC Aging and Disability services), Beth Hamby (Sound Transit), Brock Howell (Snotrac), Judy Brown (Northwest Hospital), Tom Hewitt (SDOT), Anat Caspi (Taskar Center), Phirun Lach (Sound Generations), Adam Halpern (JFS Seattle),

Dean Sydnor (RARET/Hopelink), Ysabel Yu (NKCMC/Hopelink), Sandy Phan (CTN/Hopelink), Meg Cronister (CTN/Hopelink), Natalie Sharp (Community Van/Hopelink), Roz Novikova (TRL/Hopelink), Chelsea Nelson (Find a Ride/Hopelink), Chitra Subramanian (Community Van/Hopelink), Darryl Sierra (NEMT/Hopelink), Laura Loe (Find a Ride/Hopelink), Sara Sisco (MEO/Hopelink)

- **Introductions:**

- Lyn McCarthy background (Community Van, SVMC) transition to KCMC role
- What the KCMC does:
 - Share information
 - Assess Needs
 - Provide recommendations

- Educate decision-makers, community groups and the general public
- **Coalitions Team Meet and Greet**
 - Subregional coalitions offer specific expertise on their geography of focus
 - Heather Clark HClark@hopelink.org Program Manager of Coalitions
 - Guidance and support for the team
 - Grace Georgitsis GGeorgitsis@hopelink.org South King County Mobility Coordinator
 - MEO and Coalition work
 - Rural transportation advocacy project
 - Ysabel Yu YYu@hopelink.org North King County Mobility Coordinator
 - New to the role and keen to make more regional connections
 - Erin Funk EFunk@hopelink.org Eastside Easy Rider Coalition Coordinator
 - 2-Line familiarization and outreach
- **Project Updates**
 - RTAP - Rural Transportation Advocacy 101
 - SKCMC Project funded by RTAP
 - Goal to get rural areas equipped to advocate for transit solutions in their areas
 - Networking and educational events
 - 1 in North Bend and 1 in South King
 - Modeled off the earlier Duvall Event
 - Online resource on the KC Mobility site
 - Outreach materials and swag for distribution
 - Coalition Compensation Plan
 - Intention to bring more voices with lived experience
 - Issue that federal funds cannot be used to compensate community members
 - Work with WSDOT to receive mini-grant to carry out this plan instead
 - Office of Equity provided guidance and we will implement and share lessons learned.
 - Access to Health and Wellbeing Story Mapping
 - Staff transition delays but carrying on the work
 - Inspired by Disability Mobility Initiative work on their advocacy tool
 - Focus on those seeking access to and from medical care in King County
- **New Shared Mobility Summit; Seattle Change Leaders Team – Staci Sahoo**
 - Shared Use Mobility Center
 - Video Overview
 - Seattle Change Leaders
 - Phirun Lach, Anat Caspi, Matthew Wiedner, Tom Hewitt, Kirk Hovenkotter, Darryl Sierra, Cecila Black, Anny Smith
 - Challenges
 - Money
 - Access

- Structure
- Our future
 - Transportation that is a user-focused, joyful, stress-free experience that builds community and social connections
- Some concrete Ideas
 - Same day wheelchair accessible pilot
 - Meeting delivery needs
 - Remove administrative burdens with state contracts
 - Universal design specs (accessible loading zones)
 - Free ORCA cards for Veterans
 - “Driver’s Ed” model for non-drivers in schools
- Some key themes
 - Build Relationships first and foremost
 - Coming together more in-person
 - “Take your colleague to work day”
 - Focus on the customer
 - Be a radical bureaucrat
 - Play the long game
 - Slow Lane by Sacha Haselmayer
- Questions and comments
 - Aaron Morrow
 - Thank you, great job representing our region
 - Brock Howell
 - Lot of great ideas, on playing the long game, what about innovation and pilots in the short term?
 - Comparing the Tri-Met and ORCA Cards, tech implementation lagging despite similar systems
 - -Staci, yes-and there is a long game to make radical changes but we want to see what can be done now.
 - Amy Biggs
 - What is a radical bureaucrat?
 - Tom Hewitt: be willing to challenge comfortable ruts, at SDOT we are trying pilots and things that are not standards yet. Tactile wayfinding is a good example. Listen to the community and mesh it into your workflow
 - Judy Brown
 - Waymo presentation at WA Council of the Blind, could ORCA or other tools be used to access these services?
 - Staci: interesting subject and the concept of mobility wallet is a big thing to unpack and discuss, would love to explore this further

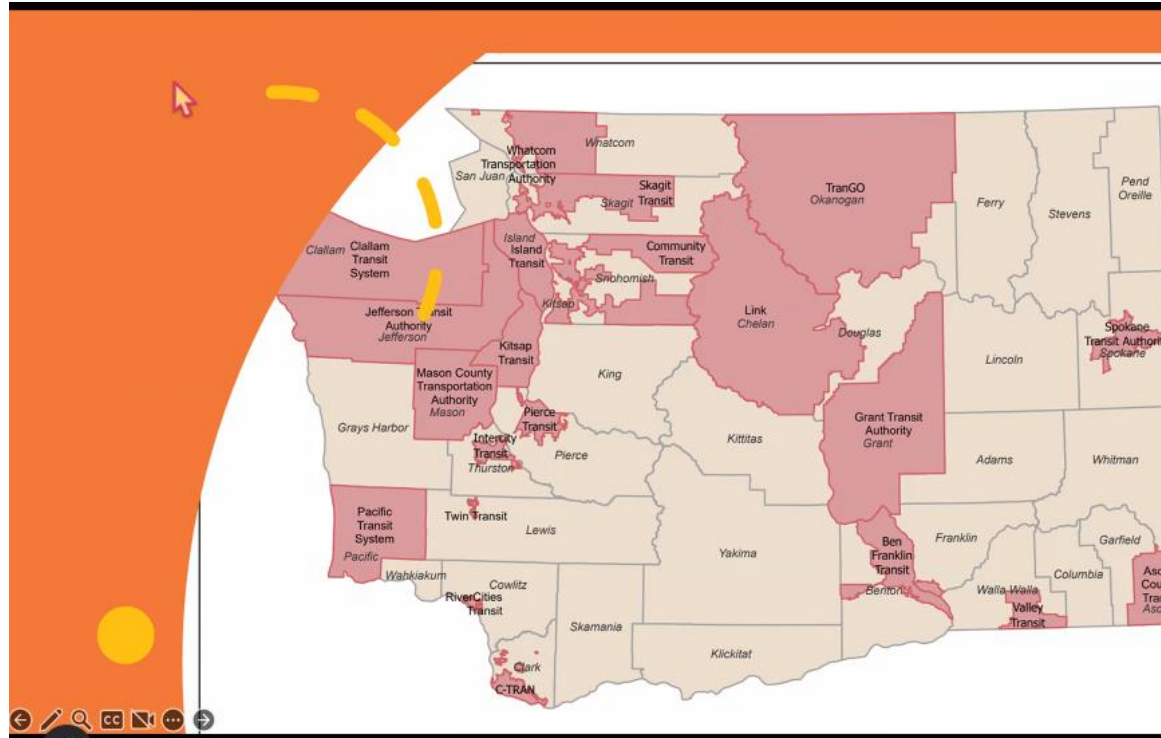
- Antoinette Smith
 - Joy in transportation is important as we always hear about the negative. As a Metro user, often it is the one connection to community. There are barriers and it creates anxiety and fear.

- **Sound Transit Updates – Arthur Bachus, System Engagement Specialist**

- System Expansion
 - Federal Way Extension Opens Dec 6th
 - 3 new stations: Kent Des Moines, Star Lake, Federal Way Downtown
 - Trains every 8-10 min
 - Transfer to 2 Line at Intl District Station
 - Federal Way to Seatac airport in 16 min
 - Federal Way to Intl District in 45 min
- Crosslake Connection
 - Early 2026, far along in the testing process
 - 34 total miles
 - 23 stations
 - New ones at Mercer Island and Judkins Park
 - Combined service with 1 line from Intl Station to Lynnwood City Center
 - Transfer to 1 Line at Intl Station
- Voter-approved system
 - Link light rail lines (1-4 +T)
 - Five lines
 - 116 miles
 - 83 stations
 - Sounder Trains (N S)
- Kent Des Moine Station
- Star Lake Station
 - 1,100 space garage
 - Rebuilt and enhanced pedestrian/bicycle path
- Federal Way Downtown station
 - Integrated bus and rail service
 - Increased parking capacity
 - New street grid to enhance access and provide opportunity for development
- Transit Oriented Development
 - Kent Des Moines Station
 - Mercy Housing will deliver 233 units
 - Federal Way Downtown
 - Development on four parcels

- Fares
- Multiple Ways to Pay
 - Ticket Machines
 - One your phone
 - Apple wallet coming soon
 - Cash
 - ST express accepts
- Adult Fares
 - Link 1 & 2 are \$3 as are ST Express
 - T Line is \$2
 - Sounder Service are distance based
- Tap your ORCA card (once except on Sounder)
- How to reload your ORCA Card
 - MyORCA.com or app
 - Ticket machines
 - By phone (888) 988-6722
 - Customer Service office
- Transfer to/from Link light rail with ORCA
 - 2 hour window
- Free youth transit pass
 - Technically not required to ride but if they are near 18 it helps make it easier to travel
- Reduced fare options for seniors
 - RAFP
- Free and reduced fare options based on income
 - LIFT and Subsidized annual pass
- Customer Service
 - Passenger Care
 - 888-889-6368
 - main@Soundtransit.org
 - General questions, lost and found, etc.
- Safety and security
 - If it is an emergency call 911
 - But for all other security matters call or text 206-398-5268, after hours 206-296-3311 (1-5am)
- 2026 Service Plan
- What is the service plan
 - Expanded service to new areas by Link to areas now served by ST Express
 - Sound transit is updating express routes to reflect this
 - Service plan considers community input
 - ST Express Service changes begin fall 2026

- Engagement Timeline
 - Full year, began in April with rider preferences survey in Phase 1, completed in April
 - Now between phase 3 and 4 to refine the proposals and once we hit phase 4 we will present the final 2026 service proposals before review and approval
- ST Express Survey
 - Oct 6 – Nov 11th
 - Shared proposals, over 4300 survey responses
 - Hopelink and others helped with open houses
 - Collected rider feedback
 - 3 open houses
 - 75 ST staff ambassadors
- Questions and Comments
 - Chris Lovings
 - For the Federal Way event when does it start and when is the first train?
 - First train departs at 11:00am
 - Speeches start at 9:30am
 - Celebrations at all 3 stations
- **Nondrivers Alliance - Anna Zivarts**
 - Experience at Disability Rights WA and worked on the Disability Mobility Initiative project
 - Lots of frustration that transit leaders had little or no experience as transit riders
 - Public transit benefit areas determine who is on the boards of transit agencies, usually local elected officials
 - Some exceptions, Intercity Transit and Mason Transit examples
 - Suburban city geography makes it hard for transit users to rise to local office in many cases
 - 3-year legislative campaign that passed HB 1418 to create the option to add two voting members who are transit users to the governing body of Public Transportation Benefit Areas (PTBA's)
 - Map of PTBA's



- Nondrivers Alliance working to make this happen and get these members on boards
- Questions
 - Cliff Perry
 - Why is King County not red on the map?
 - Not organized in Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA), King County Council members are the main deciders, Sound Transit, Everett Transit also not covered by PTBA structured. Additional advocacy would be required to get positions added to their boards.
 - Aaron Morrow
 - Zoom and Teams have opened engagement avenues for non-driver advocacy, can you touch on relationship building?
 - Yes, during COVID it actually became a new norm and this helped
 - Knowing people and building relationships critical as a skill to get results.
- **Partner Updates**
 - Sound Transit -Beth Hamby
 - Maintenance related service disruptions
 - Annual Passenger Experience Survey (link in chat)
 - Signage rolls out with federal way opening
 - Snotrac – Brock Howell
 - New hire for community affairs, Suleiny

- Meeting this Friday
- ORCA – Adam Vance
 - New ORCA LIFT website
 - Map online for retailers exists, 300 locations
 - 2025 ORCA customer survey open until Sunday
 - Open payments coming next year for standard adult fares
 - Staci-callout Judy question about Waymo and ORCA for non-public transit options
 - Adam Vance – talk for years about integration with services like Lime Bike, still exploring it
 - Aaron Morrow – Access Paratransit and other ADA paratransit being able to use the new technology too is important.
- PSRC -Jean Kim
 - PSRC Virtual Regional Transportation Planning Meeting is on November 20, from 5:30–7:00pm. Please register to receive the Zoom link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/psrc-regional-transportation-planning-4462333>. Live captioning will be available during the event. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Please contact Skylar Benson at skylar@uncommonbridges.com with any accommodation requests.
- RARET – Dean Sydnor
 - <https://www.kcmobility.org/winter-2025-preparedness>
- CTN -Sandy Phan
 - New WSDOT grant resources
 - Funds new Dari-Farsi-Pashto outreach with contractors
- **KCMC Quarterly Meeting**
 - Feb 17th, 2026 9:30-11:30am on [zoom](#)
- **Access to Health and Well Being Workgroup**
 - Dec 3rd, 2025 9:30-11:00am on [zoom](#)