

RTAP Meeting Notes

3/20/26

Attendance: Jim Ribail (Mayor of Carnation), Amy Biggs (SVT), Marianna Hanefeld (WSDOT Public Transportation Tribal Liaison)

Staff Support: Heather Clark, Grace Georgitsis, Staci Sahoo, Lyn McCarthy, Nicole Ross

Announcements:

- Jim Ribail is part of the King County Council's Regional Transportation Committee. In their discussion in May, talked to Michelle Allison (GM of KC Metro) and Sarah Perry (King County Council). He is pushing to have Snoqualmie be a connection point for light rail and transportation hubs, and believes the valley should be included in Metro's upcoming work plan.
- Lyn McCarthy – The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) counts rural communities as an underserved population
- Amy Biggs – Snoqualmie Valley Transit Riders Coalition is a new Facebook group started by Elijah Vincent. It is a place for people to talk about transit in Snoqualmie Valley and Elijah will collect this information to present to Metro.

Project Timeline (see slide)

Discussion -

- Marianna asks if it might be worth it to push the date of the South King County event back a bit to September to avoid competing with end of summer activities.
 - Staci responds that the late August timeframe makes sense for Transportation Choices Coalition, the contractor for these events, and that the Mobility team would be fine with any of those dates for the event.
 - Staci also shares that Muckleshoot Tribal Transit would be interested in hosting the event and we are currently working with them to get the details ironed out.
- Marianna mentions that the National RTAP and National Transit and Indian Country conferences are looking to cite themselves in the Seattle area in 2027.

Rescheduling considerations

Heather Clark shares with the group that the Snoqualmie Valley Rural Transportation Advocacy 101 Workshop has been rescheduled due to inclement weather. The Mobility team and TCC are looking at rescheduling this event for the end of April or beginning of May. We are also looking at changing this event to be a weekday evening event and possibly a working dinner situation, probably around 5-8pm. We are hoping a weekday evening will be better for getting community members involved. We will keep the venue of the event at North Bend City Hall and are working with them to see what dates are available. We will have to trim down the presentations a bit to make the event 3 hours instead of four, and we might have a half hour of informal networking time at the end.

Discussion -

- Marianna – May timeframe could be tough with CTANW in the middle of May; there is also a conference for the Bureau of Indian Affairs the prior week. Both of those conferences are early in the week so later in the week could work better.
- Grace – We were thinking about a Thursday. Many of our team members will be at CTANW so we will be avoiding those days for sure.
- Marianna – Snoqualmie Casino is another option for a venue
- Staci – In terms of dates, 6 weeks after we determine a date, location, and new panelists would help give us time to promote. Probably should not consider any April dates.

Rack Card

- New layout is derived from feedback from the RTAP group
 - More visually appealing, less text on the card, QR code to a link tree with information and resources
- The rack card on the slide has a couple of errors that we fixed before printing (wrong SVMC logo and url is not under the QR code)
- The five talking points are now in a document on the link tree. They have been expanded to include more information as well as sources.

Adjusting outreach strategy to encourage more community registration

- Thinking we could work with community organizations to find community representatives to attend the workshop and this could help create buy-in.
- We would also formally acknowledge community partners at the event to ensure that they don't feel out of place if they found themselves in a room full of transportation professionals.
- We were thinking we would engage with senior centers to request representatives and were wondering what other organizations who would be good to reach out to?

- Nicole – is there a rider from SVT who would want to attend?
- We would also do personal invitations to the members of certain community organizations.

Discussion -

- Amy Biggs: Smartest things you can do is go to where someone works and ask them to put something on their calendars. EERC has a model where there are representatives (e.g. Kirkland Senior Council) and they go back to share information with their council. Snoqualmie Valley doesn't work like that. Transit Riders Coalition uses social media well. Personal invitations would work best. Far East Senior Hub – even though there are representatives, it can be overwhelming. Going to an organization and making an announcement would be most effective.
- Amy/Staci on stipends – Amy – stipends haven't typically been an incentive for advocates. One thing that does motivate Valley residents is the "us vs. them" (rural vs urban) aspect.
- Staci – make it worth their time. We want to honor their time and stipends is one way to do that.
- Amy – at the last event, the panel universally told the people that there is a mechanism and this is the way to do it, which lost a lot of the people in the room. People have given feedback to elected officials and it hasn't worked. People are fatigued. We are underserved because of the way transit measures efficacy (numbers)
- Staci – a lot of our presentation is still focused on developing testimony for King County Council. There are things that have changed (e.g. Jim Ribail on the Regional Transportation Council).
- Grace – for SKCMC workshop – "Let people get bent out of shape" Show a map. Let people show what isn't working. What are the barriers you face? Bring those ideas to this event.
- Lyn – with the tourism summit, steering people toward the discussion of how people cannot access key destinations without a car, so steering the conversation toward transportation was helpful.
- Advocacy is coordination, feeling included, heard, as a collective, make your voices heard.
- Amy – generations of people who have lived in the Valley are frustrated from following the rules and getting nowhere. Advocacy is exhausting. The thing that keeps advocates going is some degree of success.
- Lyn – successes include:

- Weekend/evening service
- Community Van
- Monroe-Duvall Shuttle
- Amy – there are so many things to advocate for (healthcare, transportation, childcare, etc)
- Transportation impacts all of it which is how I try to keep people engaged.
- Grace – coming back to letting people get bent out of shape. Lean into the indignation
- We could do this as part of our outreach
 - Amy notes that if you are going to channel people’s frustrations you should also give them a productive place to point those frustrations
- Heather via chat: Maybe opening with the validation of frustrations and give examples of successes that have been achieved
- Staci suggests that a potential fun swag item for this event could be squeaky wheels
 - Marianna – those could be fun door prizes

SKCMC Event Planning

- Grace asks workgroup participants what time of day the SKCMC workshop should be held that will reach community members.
- Lyn - there is a lot of competition on weekends in the summer, another weekday evening event might be best.
- Marianna – I like the idea of Muckleshoot but it is hard to get to. Evening traffic could be a problem. Saturday morning could actually be easier for SKC
- Staci – evening event does make it harder timewise (3 hours vs. 4 hours and amount of content we need to cover) OR. Late morning on a Friday.
- Amy/Staci – would be good to reach out to Maple Valley Senior Center to loop Maple Valley into the event. Maple Valley is a transit desert.
- Grace – have not reached out to the senior center but am hoping for Maple Valley UAC to be in attendance.
- Marianna – Key Peninsula – they are getting organized. Pull people from Kitsap/Pierce counties/Gig Harbor – pull these people in too as they might have interest. They already have a lot of motivation.
- Staci – we do plan to pass this information along. Grace – we do have conversations and involvement from people in Kitsap and Pierce Counties.
 - If we are going to have people coming from very far away, it makes sense for it to be a longer event (4 hours instead of 3)

- Grace & Heather – maybe involve people from Kitsap, Pierce, Greater Maple Valley area on the panel
 - Learn from the advocacy they are already doing
- Amy – do you work with Rainier Hills Wellness? Grace, familiar with them. Targeted outreach with them would be good.

Next Steps:

- For Mobility Staff
 - Secure the venue for SKCMC event
 - Finalize new date for North Bend event will share
- For workgroup partners
 - Next meeting May 15th 10:30am-12:00pm