

Thursday, July 8, 2021

10:30am – 12:00pm

Zoom Call-in

Participants: Adrian Down (Port of Seattle), Alison Turner (City of Tukwila) Camille Heatherly (Hopelink), Chris Andree (City of Tukwila), Joy Scott (City of Auburn), Lizette Carrasco (King County Metro), Sam Nigh (SHAG)

Staff Support: Bree Boyce, Bebhinn Gilbert

Welcome, Introductions, & Announcements

The meeting began at 10:30 with welcome and announcements. Bebhinn shared that the Hopelink Mobility team's Program Specialist, Catalina Gomez, who has been spearheading the Coordinated Vaccine Transportation Helpline has been promoted to our Organizational Excellence team in an outreach position. Bebhinn herself will also be transitioning to a new role on the team as the Program Supervisor for the King County Mobility Coalition. She remains the point of contact for South King County throughout this transition period.

Other regional announcements were shared with the attendees. Puget Sound Energy has a funding opportunity available for non-profits and public housing authorities to install solar equipment. The application closes on September 1, 2021. More information can be found at www.pse.com/greenpowergrant and questions can be directed to psegreenpower@pse.com.

King County Metro's Subsidized Annual Pass program launched in October 2020 and covers full fare for customers for a year who are enrolled in various state benefit programs. Metro has recently updated promotional material for this program which can be found at this link: <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f7f37d00-3226-49f4-a556-c4fe87001ab6>.

As of July 3rd, 2021 most transit providers are operating at full capacity. However, masks are still required of riders and drivers on all public transit options until September 2021.

Mobility Education and Outreach Updates:

As part of the effort to increase outreach for harder to reach populations and in conjunction with the Education and Outreach efforts of the Mobility Management team Bebhinn has conducted a number of outreach events in South King County in the last 2 months including:

Community member focused Getting Around Puget Sound outreach events offered virtually at the Auburn Community Court and Resource Center and the conclusion of the Transit Chat series. Bebhinn has also begun a partnership with the Renton Municipal Court which is establishing a virtual community court and resource center as well. As part of our outreach efforts Bebhinn also provides training to staff and service providers, she recently worked with Refugees Northwest to update their staff on services available in our region.

If you would like a Mobility team member to provide outreach materials or a training feel free to reach out to Bebhinn Gilbert at bgilbert@hopelink.org or Sara Sisco at ssisco@hopelink.org

Volunteer Driver Program

Camille Heatherly, EERC

Camille Heatherly the staff support for the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) joins our meeting to update our coalition on their volunteer driver program project. The EERC has taken on a project this year to support with the recruitment of volunteer drivers across all programs in King County as well as help encourage more riders to utilize these services. This project's deliverables can be found at <https://www.findaride.org/volunteer> and include:

For drivers: Quick reference tables and a driver guide to help potential volunteer drivers decipher which program best fits their interests and how to get started. Camille supports with connecting interested drivers with volunteer driver programs through the end of August. They can leverage this service by either contacting Camille at 425-625-6784 or cheatherly@hopelink.org or filling out the [Volunteer Driver Interest Form](#).

For riders: Quick reference table and a rider guide for community members to determine which existing programs they are eligible for and may fit their needs.

The project also created a social media toolkit and resources for volunteer driver program supervisors to promote their programs.

As this project does have a regional scope, SKCMC partners are encouraged to spread the word about these resources

SKC Project Updates and Roundtable Series Conclusion

Bebhinn then moves the meeting to an update section on all SKCMC projects. She begins with an update on the recent Roundtable Conversation series. To recap, the series was established as a project following the challenges of 2020, with the goal of sharing lessons learned/best practices, and to identify solutions and priority projects for the region moving forward. Topics included community access to resource, advocacy, and transportation coordination. This series was a huge success as it allowed us to connect with new partners and networks in addition to coordinating and collaborating on solutions and next steps. At a high level we connected with around 40 partners, many who were new partners, including a connection with Councilmember Dave Upthegrove and his staff.

High level findings include the need and importance of shared resources that are centralized, easily accessed, and available both on the sector specific and in general/region specific ways. Our conversations often highlighted the importance of building community trust in the information we provide and reducing barriers and steps that a community member needs to take to access any resource. There's a need for service providers to be talking behind the scenes and have strong connections to make this as low-barrier as possible for the community.

The next steps and conclusion of this project include a final report which will compile summaries of the conversations, action items, and networking information for attendees. This will be finalized and distributed by the end of July.

The next project under discussion was the proposed needs assessment measuring transportation assets in South King. A Needs Assessment was identified and loosely defined as some way to measure the transportation resources available in SKC so that we can begin the work of building a culture of abundance and then slowly build on the advocacy pieces. More planning and determining of the scope of this project will begin Summer 2021. This is also in alignment with the Mobility team switching it's work plans to be on a fiscal year schedule rather than annual calendar. The coalition's work plan will also be in alignment with our agency's Strategic Plan and the Mobility team's Tactical Plan.

This project has a number of scoping options and so Bebhinn requests that we convene a taskforce to flesh this out more in one meeting. Attendees expressed interest in this taskforce including Sam Nigh and Chris Andree. Bebhinn will follow up with a scheduling request.

Following the announcement of her transition Bebhinn requests that attendees provide feedback and ideas related to future projects and meeting topics. Bebhinn asks if attendees have any community needs they would like to see elevated?

This coalition has two more meetings scheduled for the calendar year on September 9th and November 11th. Bebhinn asks if any presentations come to mind for attendees or desired discussion topics. Attendees mention that the combination of COVID and Rapid Ride restructure in SKC has resulted in a lot of service changes. Attendees would like more opportunities to be exposed to these updates and understanding the current network in SKC. Especially considering the 2024 expansion of Light Rail entering SKC and we should anticipate in future changes in service related to this. Attendees would like to discuss if we do anticipate changes in available service then where are the opportunities for folks like this coalition to advocate for the needs of essential workers, local trips for healthcare, shopping, church, etc. to meet all community needs. There is a desire to understand what the process is and where the coalition could fit in to advocate for the needs of the community.

Bebhinn suggests and attendee agree that inviting transit agencies to share in more depth about their service changes at the September meeting when they will be launching new service changes anyways would be a strong next step.

Future outreach options and meeting topics could focus on talking to employers and Chambers of Commerce to hear about their concerns as they relate to transportation needs and access.

Coalition members would like to learn more about how Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition has been approaching engagement with cities and what success/lessons learned they have.

Discussion: Vaccine Rates + Mobility

The meeting then moved to a brief discussion of COVID-19 vaccine rates in our region. Data from Public Health still shows disparity in vaccination rates in the region in terms of geography and race/ethnicity. Projected timeline to meet 70% vaccination rate in SKC is in late August/early Fall

Adrian Down mentions that they had a vaccine clinic open at the airport for airport employees and a lot of people got vaccinated this way. However, this ended already since demand had decreased. He mentions that it wasn't open to community members and this may have been an opportunity to get more community members involved and expand access to vaccines in general

It would be great if there were other resources they could point folks to now for COVID vaccinations. Coalition members mention that a lot of people don't have a primary care provider so may not have as many regular touch points for COVID information and access to vaccines.

Bebhinn mentions that the Mobility team has been convening a COVID Vaccine Transportation Taskforce for the last few months to coordinate efforts between transportation and Public Health. The goal of this taskforce is to ensure transportation is not a barrier to accessing the COVID vaccines.

The Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation (RARET) has also been piloting the Transportation Provider Network in tandem with our Coordinated Vaccine Transportation Helpline (425-943-6706) to ensure the community is provided with free transportation options to get vaccinated.

KC Metro's Via service is connecting riders to vaccination locations within Via to Transit service areas in SE Seattle (Othello, Rainier Beach) and Tukwila - predominately pharmacies
more info: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/programs-projects/innovation-technology/innovative-mobility/on-demand/via-to-transit.aspx>

If you're interested in participating in these taskforce meetings please contact Bebhinn Gilbert at bgilbert@hopelink.org

Discussion: SKC Summer Outreach

Bebhinn then transitions the meeting to the discussion of outreach in South King County. Opening the conversation with the fact that community partners including the Mobility team are beginning to transition back to in-person outreach methods. Bebhinn would also like to be strategic and partnering with other agencies on outreach efforts so we can offer more wrap-around services at each event. Below are current plans for outreach this summer:

- Tukwila and Renton Farmer's Market as well as others in SKC
- Past outreach partners to offer staff trainings and tabling/information sessions
- Virtual engagement
 - Mostly in South King the KCLS (5 libraries in SKC) has a new scheduling assistant that they are offering to community partners where a community member can use the library as a location to schedule meetings and 1:1 sessions with service providers/clients. This helps to reduce technology barriers for community member and KCLS will consider expanding this model through their library system.

Bebhinn then requests that suggestions for outreach for Mobility to take on be directed to her.

Attendees mention the potential for partnering with the Duwamish River Clean Up Coalition in South Park – who will be doing their Duwamish Festival soon. <https://www.duwamishcleanup.org/duwamish-river-festival-2021>

Next Steps, & Commitments

- Bebhinn to follow up/document on staff transition
- Bebhinn and Lizette to connect regarding Metro updates
- Bebhinn to schedule a taskforce meeting for interested SKCMC partners

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 10:30am-12:00pm

Location: Zoom

South King County Mobility Coalition Contact:

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

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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