

# South King County MOBILITY COALITION

## Meeting Notes

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Date: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86225257490?pwd=ogNBQoPqxmFIP96Cga8hlll8RBLwae.1>

**Participants:** Daeveene May (Pierce County), Davina Miller-Leach (PSESD), Alexis LaFlamme (CCS), Guest, Kahdijah Jackson (King County Metro), Kim Cooper (City of SeaTac), Kyle Serquina (VMP), Laura Loe (Hopelink), Meg C (Hopelink), Phillip James (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe), Rachel DeCordoba (King County Metro), Robert Hanlon (KC Wastewater Treatment Division), Roz (Hopelink), Sandy Phan (Hopelink), Tara Sheldon, Veronica Bean (City of Auburn), Erin Funk (Hopelink), Bella McLaws (Enumclaw Plateau Community Association), Angie Kitheka (CCS), Dwight Sanders (MV Transportation), Lyn McCarthy (Hopelink), Chris Lovings,

**Staff Support:** Heather Clark, Ysabel Yu (notetaker)

### Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:

- The meeting began with a round of introductions coalition members and guests who introduced themselves included:
  - Daeveene May, Heather Clark, Roz Novikova, Robert Hanlon, Kyle Serquina, and Erin Funk
- The SKCMC Coordinator then made the following announcements:
  - The Rural Transportation Advocacy Working Group will have its first meeting Fridau, January 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30am – 12:00pm. These meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every other month. This workgroup will help to inform the work being done on the Rural Transportation Advocacy Project.
  - The next SKCMC Meeting will be held in-person at the Kent library on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to 12:00pm. SKCMC meetings will alternate between being online and in-person in 2026, and will maintain the same date and time.
  - SKCMC Annual Achievements for 2026 have been posted and highlight both the work done in SKCMC and the partners who were engaged throughout 2025.
- Robert Hanlon announced that Reconnect South Park will be launching a survey soon that they would like to share with SKCMC.
  - SKCMC coordinator will share this survey in a future newsletter

Please contact Grace Georgitsis at [ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org](mailto:ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org) or 425-625-6836 for any errors or omissions in these notes.

## **Beyond the Borders**

*Daeveene May*

Daeveene presented on his work with Beyond the Borders in Pierce County and specifically about a project to expand an existing Beyond the Borders Route to include the White River area. Key points in this presentation include:

- The importance of improving transportation in the White River area, considering the number of people who live in or commute through this area and the current lack of transportation in the area.
- An overview of the current Beyond the Borders routes including one from Spanaway to South Hill, Sumner to Bonney Lake, and a shuttle that provides transportation access to a veterans tiny home village in Orting.
- To improve access in the White River area, Daeveene plans to extend the Sumner to Bonney Lake Beyond the Borders route to the White River Bridge in Buckley.
- Daeveene also noted that in planning Beyond the Borders routes he tries to ensure they connect to other transit systems to increase connectivity in the area.
- Phillip James asks what the Beyond the Borders ridership looks like, and Daeveene responds the Sumner to Bonney Lake route gets about 15 riders per day and his Orting route serving a tiny home village for veterans gets around 500 riders per month, despite only operating three days a week. He also notes they are looking to increase the Orting route to five days a week.
- Laura Loe asks Daeveene how long the Beyond the Borders application and intake process takes, and Daeveene responds that the average intake takes about three days and a client should get a call on the fourth day.
- Laura also asks about Beyond the Borders eligibility requirements and Daeveene responds that to ride Beyond the Borders you must be a person with a disability, 65 years or older, a veteran, a youth aged 12 to 17, or low income. He also points out that the eligibility requirements can be found on the “About” page of the Beyond the Borders website. ([Beyond The Borders | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#))
- Grace asks if Daeveene was planning on connecting this route to the Auburn transit center and Daeveene responds that he is exploring that and that he will be meeting with someone from WSDOT to see how to make it happen, given that Auburn spans both Pierce and King counties.

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- Veronica Bean, a transportation planner at City of Auburn, offers to connect with Daeveene regarding this project in the future.
- Bella McLaws introduces herself as a member of the Enumclaw Plateau Community Association and asks Daeveene if he does outreach at schools to let kids know about the service. Daeveene responds that since he is a one man show he presents to school districts and they are then responsible for passing the information along to students.
- Bella asks how exactly Daeveene gets information across to school districts, and Daeveene responds that he encourages the districts to attend his coalition meetings and also passes out presentation boards about the service as well as Rack cards.
- Daeveene also shares about the Key Peninsula pilot project he started in December in partnership with the District 7 councilmember, Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and WSDOT. This project is a public fixed route (meaning open to anyone) that runs Monday through Friday from 5:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 8:30pm.
  - Daeveene notes that service starts at 5:30am so that riders can make the 6:36am Sound Transit bus from the Purdy Park and ride to Seattle.
  - He also notes that the pilot project is planned to run through August or September of 2026 but could potentially be extended to December of 2026.
  - Daeveene is also taking comments from the community and may change the route in a few months to better suit the community's needs.
- Heather remarks how impressive the Key Peninsula project is and asks how many drivers it has. Daeveene answers that they have contracted Around the Sound and that there are two vehicles running the route Monday through Friday and one vehicle on Sunday.
- Davina Miller-Leach and Kim Cooper also remark on what great work Daeveene is doing in Pierce County.

### Relevant Links:

[Beyond The Borders | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#)

[Sumner-BtB-Schedule-covid-update](#)

[Spanaway-BtB-Schedule-covid-update](#)

[Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#)

[Peninsula Transit | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#)

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## Road to Independence Program

*Davina Miller Leach, PSESD Road to Independence Coordinator*

Davina Miller-Leach presents on the Puget Sound Educational District's Road to Independence Program, a transportation program which serves clients in Pierce County as well as bordering communities in South King County.

- Davina begins her presentation by describing the Road to Independence program, which provides critical job-related transportation for its clients while simultaneously providing paid training, learning opportunities, and training for a CDL B license to drivers in the van program.
  - Once drivers have graduated from the Road to Independence program with a CDL B license, they are often given the option of becoming a school bus driver for the Puget Sound Educational Services District, or pursuing other opportunities.
  - The Road to Independence program also emphasizes customer service skills and professionalism to make their interns competitive candidates in the job market.
- The Road to Independence program strengthens the community by providing transportation access to job-seekers in North Pierce and South King Counties, providing workforce development, and strengthening community resilience.
- Davina mentions that Road to Independence is looking to expand their training program and train more drivers.
  - Because the program is designed to funnel drivers through to the workforce, the Road to Independence van program which provides transportation access to clients usually only has a few drivers at any one time, and often only one driver.
- Heather Clark mentions that she used to be a Mobility Coordinator on the Eastside and had heard of the service, but that Davina's presentation helped her understand it. Davina replies that program currently only stretches about as far North as Enumclaw, but that she would support growth of the program further North if possible, given they are one of the few programs that can cross county lines. She notes that additional drivers would be needed to make this happen.
- Lyn McCarthy mentions that there are many people who work in the Snoqualmie Valley area but can no longer afford to live there, and many of them live in South King County. She also mentioned that the Snoqualmie Valley School District is one of the largest

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school districts in the state, and are often in need of bus drivers, many of whom live in South King County.

- The SKCMC Coordinator asks if there are specific eligibility requirements for the program, and Davina responds that they typically work with case managers and social workers when intaking clients.

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### Roundtable Discussion

- Lyn McCarthy and Grace Georgitsis remind the group that the Rural Transportation Advocacy Workgroup meetings will begin with a meeting next Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30am to noon, and if anyone is interested in joining to reach out to [ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org](mailto:ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org).
- Heather Clark mentions that Hopelink's Mobility Coalitions recently migrated their Coalitions Contact Database, and that there may have been some mistakes. Partners who either begin receiving communications they don't usually receive or are missing communications they usually receive, to please reach out to a member of the coalition's team to update their information accordingly.
- The South King County Mobility Coordinator shared that Catholic Community Services in in need of volunteer drivers and encourages partners to direct people looking for volunteer driving opportunities to CCS Volunteer Transportation.
  - Angie Kitheka, the Transportation Coordinator for Catholic Community Services, responds that they are always in need of drivers and encourages meeting participants to refer potential volunteers to her (email: [AKitheka@ccsww.org](mailto:AKitheka@ccsww.org))

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### Next Steps

#### Next Meeting:

The next SKCMC Meeting will be held in-person at the Kent Library (212 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Kent, WA 98032) on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

#### SKCMC Contact Information

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*For more information on SKCMC contact Grace Georgitsis, visit our website*

<https://www.kcmobility.org/skcmc>