Meeting Notes

Date:

Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87178941077?pwd=WFFiOFpYVjUrYlgwbnFHN3NTN3dOdz09

Participants (19): Grace Georgitsis (Hopelink), Heather Clark (Hopelink), Lyn McCarthy (Hopelink), Ysabel Yu (Hopelink), Arthur Bachus (Sound Transit), Alexis LaFlamme (CCS), Angie Kitheka (CCS), Chris Andree (City of Tukwila), Kent Hay (City of Burien), Roz (Hopelink), Meg Cronister (Hopelink), Teresa Doe, Tim Obrien, Veronica Bean, Daeveene, Lissette Molina, Laura Loe (Hopelink)

Staff Support: Ysabel Yu (Notetaker), Lyn McCarthy (Meeting Admission)

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Grace Georgitsis, South King County Mobility Coordinator

- Grace reads the SKCMC statement of gratitude and goes over the agenda for the meeting.
- SKCMC Partners introduce themselves
 - Heather Clark (She/Her), Program Manager of Coalitions at Hopelink Mobility
 - Lyn McCarthy (She/Her), Program Supervisor for King County Mobility Coalition at Hopelink
 - o Arthur Bachus (He/Him), Systems Engagement Specialist at Sound Transit
 - Ysabel Yu (She/Her), North King County Mobility Coordinator at Hopelink
 - Meg Cronister (She/Her), Program Specialist for Community Transportation
 Navigators Program at Hopelink
 - Tim O'Brien, Board Member of the Enumclaw Plateau Community Association, Trails and Bicycle Mobility Advocate
 - o Roz Novikova (She/Her), Mobility Specialist at Hopelink Mobility
- First Announcement: SKCMC will begin hosting in person coalition meetings in 2026.
 - Meetings will alternate between in-person and virtual.

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- Virtual meetings will maintain a similar format, with in-depth presentations on specific topics, while in-person meetings will be a space for roundtable discussions and networking
- SKCMC has a survey to gauge partners' preferences for in-person meeting times - https://forms.office.com/r/Vi324Npwkg
- Question (Veronica): Where will the in-person meetings be hosted? Will they change or just mainly at the same place?
 - Answer (Grace): We are currently considering hosting these meetings in library meeting spaces. We are considering the Federal Way Library to be a regular site as it has a large meeting space and is pretty central in South King County.
- Question (Alexis LaFlamme): is there an option to attend virtually to the inperson meetings?
 - Answer (Grace): We will probably keep in person and virtual separate for now.
 - Heather: We try to do hybrid meetings, but it takes more staff and effort to do that, but we can accommodate. We are trying to focus on in-person now.
- Second Announcement: Quarterly travel ambassador trainings provided by Hopelink coordinators
 - o These trainings will be free, open to the public, and held on Zoom.
 - o First SKCMC quarterly training will be January 29th, 2026, from 3-4pm on zoom
 - Coordinators will be promoting these trainings and providing the Zoom access information in their newsletters.
- SKCMC Quarterly Travel Ambassador Trainings will be held on the last Thursday of the first month of the quarter from 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- Third Announcement: Rural transportation advocacy project updates
 - This project is a joint effort between the South King County and Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalitions and overseen by the King County Mobility Coalition.
 - The project consists of five main deliverables:
 - An educational and networking event at North Bend City Hall on Sat March 14th, 2026;

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- An educational and networking event in rural South King County (location and date TBD) in the summer of 2026;
- A page on KCMobility website providing information and curriculum from the in-person events;
- Swag and rack cards for outreach distribution.
- SKCMC is seeking input from partners on these topics:
 - What support are transportation advocates in rural South King County seeking?
 - What barriers to mobility/advocacy exist in rural South King County?
 - Do SKCMC partners have any fun ideas for swag that is related to this project?
- Arthur Bachus responds that bike lights or reflectors could make for good swag options.
- Tim responds that there are very little connected bike trails/regional trails. Theres also really only one bus route to take.
- Laura Loe responds that there is not great physical transit infrastructure in Southeast King County and few options for cross county transit between South King County and Pierce County.
- Tim adds that there is no Sound Transit connection between King County and Pierce County, but a large flow of people in Enumclaw
- Daeveen adds that there are some transportation options, but it can be difficult to get there. The closest Sound Transit Bus stop to Enumclaw would probably be Bonny Lake, but it could be difficult to get there.

KCMC Storymapping Project

Heather Clark, Program Manager of Coalitions, Hopelink Mobility

- From King County Mobility Coalition's 2023-2026 action plan
- In partnership with Disability Mobility Initiative (DMI) and inspired by DMI's storymap.
 - The link to the storymap was shared in the chat: <u>Transportation Access For Everyone Storymap Disability Rights Washington</u>
- The King County Mobility Coalition would like to create a similar storymap of successes and challenges to accessing healthcare in the King County region.

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- Stories on the map will be provided by community members who face the highest barriers to meeting their travel needs.
- The map will be shared with decision makers to improve available resources and programs.
- Desired Outcomes of the Storymapping Project
 - KCMC members and partners understand what elements of our mobility landscape are well connected with health and wellness destinations and which are not.
- What we need from partners and members
 - Connect us with community members who might want to share their story
 - o Let us know if there are organizations we should reach out to
 - Help promote our request for stories among your networks
- Discussion Questions
 - Alexis: Are you looking for specific stories from any region in King County?
 - Heather: Yes, any region

Federal Way Link Extension, ORCA Fares, and Sound Transit 2026 Service Plan

Arthur Bachus, Systems Engagement Specialist at Sound Transit

- Arthur Bachus introduces his presentation on Link ligh rail system expansion, fares on Sound Transit modes, safety on Sound Transit Modes, and the 2026 Service Plan
- The Federal Way Link extension will open on December 6th, and there will be three new stations
 - Kent Des Moines:
 - access to Highline College, 3 new landscaped streets to enhance accessibility for walking, rolling biking, and transit
 - 2 large plaza areas with landscaping, seating, and public art
 - Food truck plaza
 - 500 space parking, 20 spaces in bike racks, 8 bikelink lockers
 - Star Lake
 - 1100 space garage replacing surface parking (expected to be commuter station), 20 spaces in bike racks, 8 bikelink lockers
 - Rebuilt section of South 272nd street improves vehicle/bus access
 - Included pedestrian/bike path to existing freeway bus stop
 - o Federal Way Downtown
 - Located next to Fed Way bus loop

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- Elevated station for integrated bus and rail service
- Expansion of existing parking garage
- Transit oriented development
 - There will be more affordable housing and development for mixed-use by the Kent Des Moines and Federal Way stations
- The Crosslake Connection will open in early 2026, and they will have more information on this at the beginning of next year
 - 1-Line riders will be able to transfer to the 2-line at International District station
 - The opening of the Crosslake Connection will include two new stations opening: Mercer Island and Judkins Park
 - o 2-line will have combined service with 1-line from Intl District to Lynnwood
- Federal way link extension opening day will be December 6th. There will be activities starting around 9am and a ribbon cutting at 11am. Service on the Federal Way Extension will begin after the ribbon cutting.
 - Passengers can ride from the Federal Way Downtown station to SEA in 16 minutes, and to International District in 45 minutes
- Arthur Bachus also gives information on the entire voter-approved Sound Transit system
 - This system includes 5 lines of Link light rail, totaling 116 miles in length and 83 stations. These 5 lines are the 1, 2, 3, 4, and T Lines
 - It also includes the N and S lines of the Sounder Trains, which cover 91 miles in length and has a total of 14 stations
 - Soon Sound Transit will begin work on the Stride bus rapid transit routes,
 which will include three lines and cover all of I-405 and SR 522
- There are multiple ways to pay on Sound Transit Modes including ORCA cards; one
 way, return, or all-day rail tickets; cash, credit, or debit at ticketing machines; the
 TransitGO app; or cash on ST Express busses
- The fares on Sound Transit depends on the mode. Link light rail and ST Express Busses each have a flat \$3 fare, while Sounder N and S lines have distance-based fares, ranging from \$3.25 to \$5.75
- You can reload your ORCA card at myORCA.com, on the myORCA app, at the ticket machines at stations, over the phone, or at the customer service desk at QFC, Safeway, or Fred Meyer
- There are multiple programs for reduced fares

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- Youth under 18 ride for free on all regional transit, including Sound Transit.
 Youth can enroll to get a free youth ORCA card in person, online, by mail, or on the phone.
 - While youth are not required to have a pass, it is recommended to get them in the habit of using an ORCA card
- Regional Reduced Fare Permit allows for seniors and/or those living with disability to ride transit for only \$1
 - Seniors will need to show proof of age online, on the phone, by mail, or in person to enroll
 - To get the disability Regional Reduced Fair Permit you must qualify for medical disability
- There are also reduced fair programs based on income. You can enroll in these programs in person or online
 - ORCA LIFT reduces fairs for those living in low income households.
 The cost of most transit is \$1 per trip with ORCA LIFT
 - The subsidized annual pass allows users to ride transit for free.
 Income must be at or below 80% of the federal poverty line to qualify
- In South King County, the nearest in-person office to enroll in these program is the Metro Seattle office on South Jackson, the Skyway Resource Center, and the Federal Way office.
- Arthur also gives an overview of safety on Sound Transit modes
 - Sound Transit's Passenger Care (Customer Service) line is 888-889-6368.
 Passengers can also email main@soundtransit.org or go to soundtransit.org/feedback. These lines are open Monday-Friday from 8am to 6pm
 - The Sound Transit Security line is 206-398-5268 and the email is <u>security@soundtransit.org</u>. The after-hours line is 206-296-3311. Passengers can call or text these numbers to report safety threats, suspicious behavior, or messes.
- Aurthur closes his presentation with an overview of the Sound Transit 2026 service plan
 - Link light rail will provide expanded service to areas now served by buses
 - Sound Transit is updating ST Express bus routes to improve connections to 1 and 2 lines and reduce redundancy across the system
 - o ST Express service changes will begin in the fall of 2026

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- The Sound Transit 2026 Service Plan Survey collected rider feedback on the proposed changes, and got over 4400 responses, more than double the previous record!
- Discussion Questions
- Veronica: Are the parking lots at stations still going to have the 24-hour parking limit?
 - Arthur: Yes, the parking will be free but beginning sometime next year we'll start testing reserve sections for reserved spaces for people who want to guarantee a spot (can be done through an app). Paid parking pilot in 2026

Action Items

- South King County Mobility Coordinator will share information on the SKCMC Quarterly Travel Ambassador Trainings in her newsletter closer to the first training.
- The South King County Mobility Coordinator will share more information on the time and date of in-person SKCMC meetings as these details are determined.

Next Steps

Next Meeting: January 8th, 2026

South King County Mobility Coalition Contact Information

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For more information on the South King County Mobility Coalition contact Grace Georgitsis or visit our website South King County Mobility Coalition (SKCMC)

Please contact Grace Georgitsis at ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org for any errors or omissions in these notes.