

South King County **MOBILITY** COALITION

Meeting Notes

Date: 09/11/2025

Zoom Link:

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

Participants: Heather Clark, Laura Loe, Lyn McCarthy, Mackenzie Kneeland, Erin Funk, Sandy Phan, Natalie Sharp, Rozalia Novikova, Bella McLaws(EPCA), Tim O'Brien (EPCA), Daeveene May (Pierce County), Nic Morin (Reconnect South Park and EWorks), Jaque Mann (PSESD/RTI), Angie Kitheka (CCS Volunteer Services), Sher Mehryar (Poresh Policy Institute), Alexis LaFlamme (CCS Volunteer Services), Kahdijah Jackson (King County Metro Community Van), Dominique, Shun-Jen Hsiao (KCLS), Laura LaBissoniere Miller (King County Metro), Lluvia Ellison-Morales (King County Metro), Janine Robinson (King County Metro), Remona W

Staff Support: Notetaker – Laura Loe

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

- Grace Georgitsis welcomes attendees to the South King County Mobility Coalition (SKCMC) meeting and goes over the agenda
- Participants discuss transportation challenges in South King County, including the closure of the Buckley bridge and the need for easier access to funding in rural areas.
- Grace Georgitsis announces that SKCMC will be partnering with Snoqualmie Valley and Transportation Choices coalitions to put on a rural transportation event in South King County in the summer of 2026 (exact date yet unknown).
 - Grace encourages those interested in this topic to connect with her. In the next year she will be helping to determine what topics should be covered in the event and what partners would be interested in attending.
- Tim O'Brien from Enumclaw Plateau Community Association shares an announcement about the need for better bus service and evacuation routes in and around the Enumclaw Plateau.

Please contact Grace Georgitsis at ggeorgitsis@hopelink.org or 425-625-6836 for any errors or omissions in these notes.

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- Daeveene May shares that in response to the Buckley Bridge closure there will be a coordinated effort between Pierce Transit and King County Metro to provide additional service to those in the area, particularly at peak hours.
- Daeveene also shares that there will be a Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition meeting next week, September 18th, 2025, from 9:30am-11:00am.
- Heather Clark (she/her) shares information about a free shuttle service in Buckley, Pierce County, starting today.
- <https://piercetransit.org/routes/buckley-connector/>
- Daeveene May-Pierce County (he/him) provides details on the shuttle service, including pick-up locations and collaboration with Metro.

Presentation: Rural Transportation Advocacy Project

Lyn McCarthy, Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coordinator

- **Links:**

- <https://www.kcmobility.org/rural-transportation-advocacy-101-workshop>
- <https://resources.kcmobility.org>
- <https://www.nationalrtap.org/Home>
- <https://wsdot.wa.gov/>
- <https://disabilityrightswa.org/>
- <https://transportationchoices.org/>
- <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro>
- Lyn McCarthy discusses transportation challenges in Snoqualmie Valley, WA, such as lack of transit services.
- Lyn McCarthy highlights the challenges of providing public transportation in the Snoqualmie Valley due to limited ridership and service guidelines.
- McCarthy emphasizes the need for more bus services in the valley to meet the demand of visitors and residents.

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- She shares that SVMC and Hopelink are advocating for unique transportation solutions in rural areas.
- McCarthy: Rural communities face challenges in participating in advocacy initiatives like Disability Rights Washington's "Week Without Driving," as they often have few options for transportation outside of driving themselves.
- Lyn McCarthy and team advocate for rural transportation solutions, educating residents on how to advocate for change.
- The Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition led a workshop on rural transportation advocacy in the Snoqualmie Valley, teaching participants how to create testimony and speak up for improved transit.
 - The workshop aimed to build capacity for local residents to advocate for better transportation systems, demonstrating that collective action can lead to positive change.
 - The workshop also included a speaker panel with King County Councilmember Sarah Perry, CEO of King County Metro Michelle Allison, Rep. Osman Salahuddin, and Anna Zivarts from Disability Rights Washington.
 - Panelists shared insights on advocacy, including why it's important and how to do it effectively.
- Transportation advocacy is especially important for non-drivers, particularly in rural areas.
- Participants at the event discussed the need for coalitions and facilitating a community vision to address transportation challenges.

RapidRide I-Line Project Updates

Lluvia Ellison-Morales - Senior Community Engagement Planner, Janine Robinson - RapidRide I Line Project Manager, Ian Kowalski - RapidRide I Line Lead

- Representatives from King County Metro RapidRide came to speak to SKCMC about upcoming construction of the RapidRide I-line which will be replacing the King County Metro 160 bus route connecting Auburn to Renton. This project will essentially be

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updating the 160 bus route with more frequent service and connections to light rail and other transit hubs.

- Ian Kowalski provides an overview of the rapid ride I line project, including its benefits and timeline.
- Janine Robinson and Lluvia Ellison-Morales share updates on the project's community engagement and construction progress.
- Ian Kowalski (King County Metro) highlights the I-Line's increased frequency and connections to major transit hubs.
- Lluvia Ellison-Morales (Metro) discusses the project's continuous community engagement and partnerships.
- Improving bus service in King County, including faster and more reliable routes, upgraded stations, and safety improvements.
- Metro's I-line project will upgrade 82 stations with new features for safety, comfort, and convenience.
- Major investments will be made beyond bus stops to keep buses moving, including transit priority lanes and improved intersections.
- The project aims to improve safety and accessibility for all customers along the corridor.
- Ian Kowalski and Janine Robinson discuss public art initiatives for the I-Line project.
- Construction on the 17-mile corridor between Renton and Auburn will be mostly during the day but will include some nighttime and weekend work.
- Detours and relocations will be provided for bus stops impacted by construction.
- The project will provide service King County Housing, improving access to high-density apartments and reducing congestion.
- Visuals provided on the slides highlight areas along the route where construction can be expected in orange.
- Janine Robinson outlines transit plan for Kent and Auburn areas.

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- Metro's community engagement team is actively engaging with the public and providing customer support during the construction phase of the rapid eyeline project.
- Metro Ellison-Morales discusses virtual office hours and community engagement.
- Community can reach out to Metro and the team with questions or concerns.
- Lyn McCarthy and Bella McLaws share how bus stops in rural areas often lack shelters or benches

Discussion and Questions

- Tim O'Brien asks if there is any intention for this line to connect to the Tukwila station to allow connectivity with Sounder and Amtrak.
- Ian Kowalski explains that the rapid ride route was planned to terminate in downtown Renton, rather than connecting directly to the Tukwila station.
 - To go all the way to Tukwila, the route would become very long and expensive
 - RapidRide often prioritizes having their routes run along straight corridors so service is quick and reliable, and this wouldn't be the case if the I-Line went into Tukwila.
 - Janine Robinson adds that the RapidRide I-line will connect to the RapidRide F-line, which serves Tukwila station, and that both of these lines are very frequent.
- Grace Georgitsis asks the Coalition for announcements
- Nic Morin announces that he is at the meeting representing Reconnect South Park, a community engagement project seeking to reconnect the Seattle neighborhood of South Park which is bisected by SR99.
 - Morin also shares that RSP is seeking opportunities to connect with others in SKCMC
- Bella McLaws from EPCA shares that she is interested in getting bus service reconnected to Enumclaw from Black Diamond and Renton. She notes that buses used to run on that route but no longer do, and it would be beneficial to residents to restart this service. She also shares the concern Tim O'Brien had noted earlier in the meeting that there are limited transportation options on the Enumclaw Plateau in the event of an emergency.

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- Heather Clark from Hopelink provides information on the RARET (Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation) coalition and encourages meeting participants with emergency preparedness concerns to attend RARET meetings.
- Shen-Jen Hsiao shares that 10 King County Library Branches have power wheelchair charging stations and KCLS plans to add these charging stations to more library branches.
 - Hsiao seeks input on which branches KCLS should prioritize for adding power wheelchair charging stations, specifically in regard to where there would be the greatest need.
 - The KCLS branches that have charging stations already are listed on the KCLS website <https://kcls.org/accessibility/> and a list is shown below:
 - Auburn
 - Bellevue
 - Bothell
 - Burien
 - Carnation
 - Covington
 - Federal Way
 - Redmond
 - Renton
 - Shoreline
- Daeveene May-Pierce County discusses transportation options for White River area residents, including a shuttle service by Pierce Transit which was announced earlier in the day and services by King County Metro which will be announced soon.

Next Steps

Next Meeting: November 13th, 2025, 10:30am-12:00pm, on Zoom:

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

SKCMC Contact Information

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

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