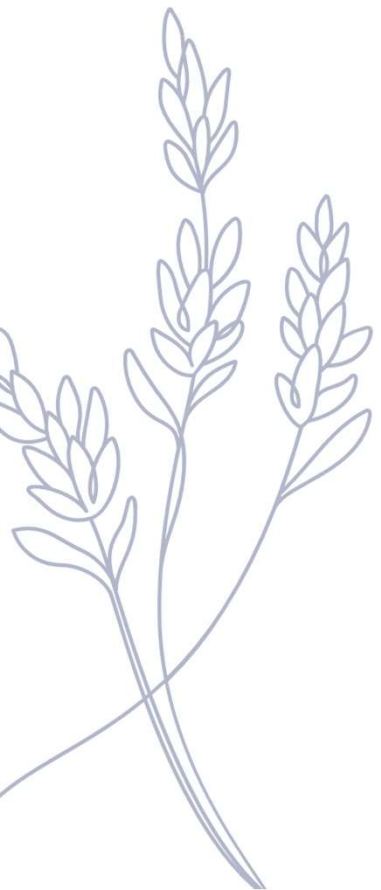




South King County Mobility Coalition Meeting

September 11th, 2025



GRATITUDE

The South King County Mobility Coalition welcomes and values all communities. We value, respect, and honor the identity and experience of all members.

We encourage everyone to participate, regardless of ability. We are committed to listening, learning, and improving in this process.

We acknowledge that the work we do takes place on the traditional land of the Coast Salish and Duwamish peoples, among others, as the first people of this land. We honor with gratitude the land itself as well as the past, present, and future of these tribes.



A view of the Puget Sound from Saltwater State Park in Des Moines.

MEETING AGENDA

10:30am - 10:45am: Welcome, introductions, and announcements

Grace Georgitsis, South King County Mobility Coordinator

10:45am – 11:00am: Rural Transportation Advocacy Project

Lyn McCarthy, Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coordinator

11:00am – 11:45am: RapidRide I-Line Project

Lluvia Ellison-Morales, Senior Community Engagement Planner

Janine Robinson, RapidRide I Line Project Manager

Ian Kowalski, RapidRide I Line Lead

11:45am – 12:00pm: Roundtable Discussion & Close

INTRODUCTIONS

- If you are comfortable, please share your:
 - Name
 - Pronouns
 - Organization/Affiliation
 - Title
- Icebreaker question: If you had a magic wand, what's one transportation challenge you would solve in your community?

If you are new to SKCMC- Welcome!
Please share your name and contact information in
the chat to be included in our newsletter distribution
list!

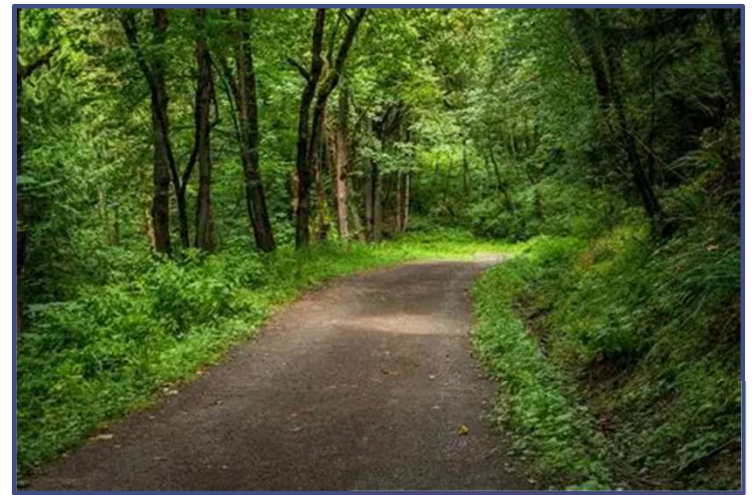


Image of the O'Grady Trail in the Green River Natural Area in Auburn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

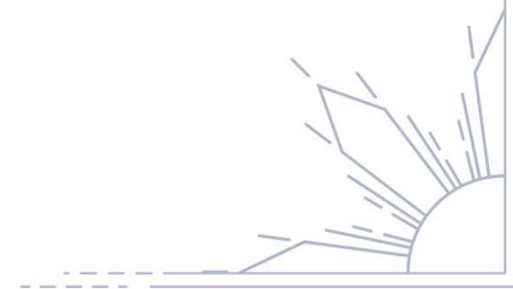


SKCMC will be partnering with the Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition (SVMC) and Transportation Choices Coalition to host a Rural Transportation advocacy event in South King County!



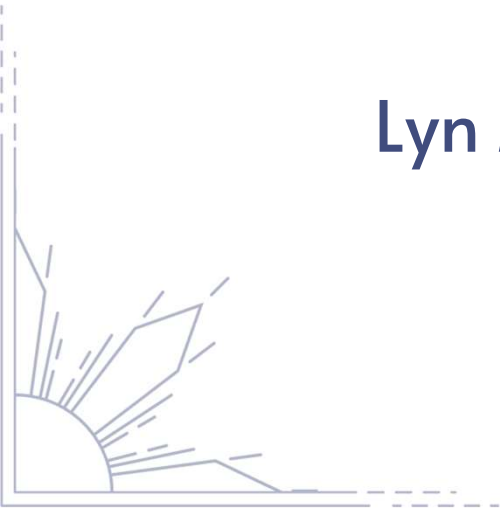
Hopelink's Mobility Management department is currently hiring for two positions! The first is a Mobility Specialist in the Volunteer Transportation (Community Van) Program, and the second is the Senior Manager for the Find-a-Ride program.

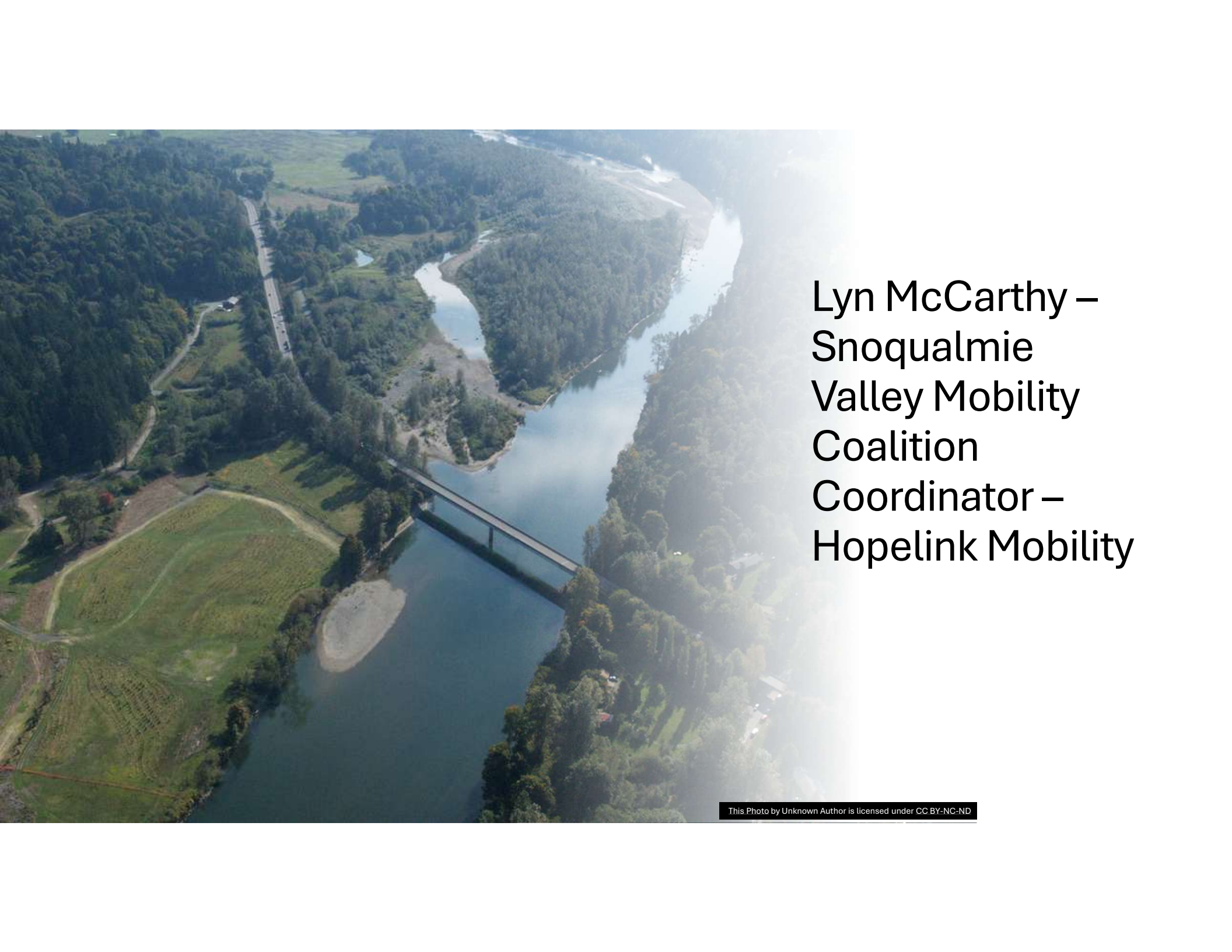
Partner Announcements?



RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY PROJECT

Lyn McCarthy — Snoqualmie Valley Mobility
Coordinator



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush green valley. A bridge crosses the river in the lower center. The surrounding area is densely forested with green trees. A road runs parallel to the river on the left side. The right side of the image is faded into white.

Lyn McCarthy –
Snoqualmie
Valley Mobility
Coalition
Coordinator –
Hopelink Mobility

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND



What is the Snoqualmie Valley? Why Rural Transportation Advocacy?



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

~894 square miles

~54,552 residents in Valley cities (thousands more in unincorporated areas)

~60 people per square mile

*****MILLIONS of visitors/cars**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

Within the Valley, there are 4 small cities and 2 unincorporated towns connected by state highways and roads that run along or across the Snoqualmie river.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

There is one WONDERFUL little bus company connecting these towns, running north/south, with stops in the towns, on the common state highway. (There is very little bus stop infrastructure.)

~5400 rides/month

Averaging 7.6 miles/ride

Funding from King
County Metro,
Snoqualmie Tribe,
grants.



What else?

- The people of the Snoqualmie Tribe have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.
- a very popular outdoor recreation hub (Think tourism traffic in and out: supported by King County Metro's 'Trailhead Direct' on summer weekends)
- a long history of timber production and an extensive network of active farms (Think: shipping of goods requiring truck routes in and out)
- The small towns in the Valley serve as bedroom communities for employees of Microsoft, Google, Amazon...(Think: commuter traffic in and out)
- home to a very popular tourist destination: Snoqualmie Falls. Over 1.5 million tourists travel to and from here every year IN A CAR!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

[Phone Support](#)

[Provider List](#)

[Cross-County
Guide](#)

[About Us](#)



12:36 PM to 2:34 PM

1 hr 58 min (Transit: 1 hr 10 min, Walk: 7 min, **Wait Time: 40 min**)

[CHOOSE THIS TRIP](#)

 **Drive in Private Vehicle**

11:42 AM to 12:18 PM

LIMITED OPTIONS in and out of the valley

*There are only two **weekday** routes, 25 miles apart, that connect each end (north and south) of the Valley with other existing transit networks. Headways on these routes are ~60 minutes.

*There is **one peak-time, weekday** route serving the north end of the Valley with ~30 minute headways.

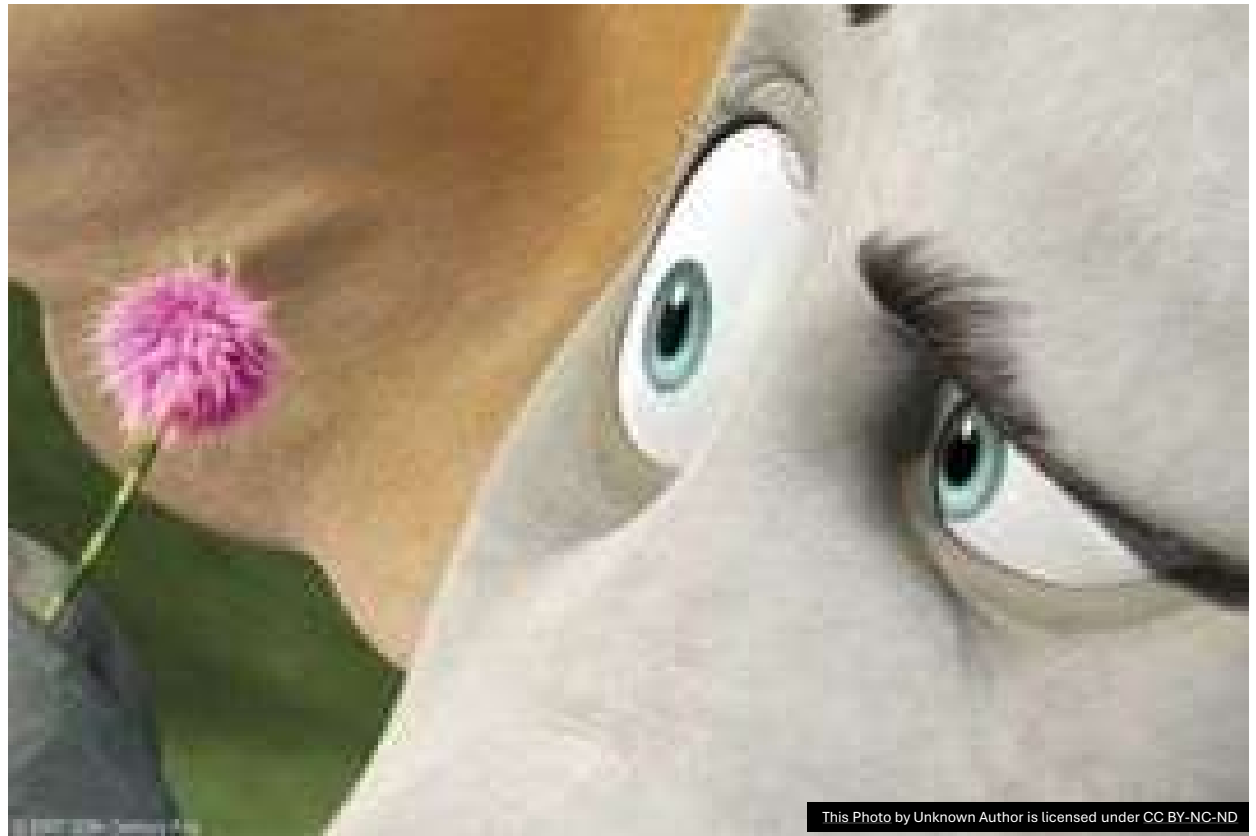
So, why can't we just establish more services???



There are less people living in the entire Snoqualmie Valley than the number of riders on King County Metro Routes in one day!

Metro daily riders = 282,500
Valley Residents ~54,000

We feel like the Whos down in Whoville!



We can't meet the
metrics in the
Service Guidelines~

We need small,
flexible-use vehicles
to cover expansive
routes with fewer
riders.

It's like we are
shopping for
Motorcycles...



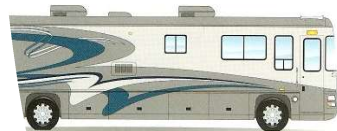
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Service
providers are
like RV
dealerships...

They aren't selling what
we are buying!



20 & GV320 Exterior Design & Colors



Blue / Silver



023 Bohemia Blue / Gold



91



025 Deer Park / Taupe



024 Dynasty Red / Bold



026 Imperial Teal / Bold



026 Imperial Teal / Soft



We have had successes creating solutions in partnership with King County Metro

- Partial funding of SVT**
- Partial funding of DART routes**
- 6 Community Vans in Valley Cities**

We continue to work together to improve connectivity to existing transit networks.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS MUST CONTINUE!

Week Without Driving 2025

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 2025

Rural residents find creative ways to participate in National Advocacy events like the Week Without Driving when transportation options don't exist.

www.weekwithoutdriving.org

We share these unique needs and challenges with rural communities across the country! Yet, rural communities are continually underserved.

We need to build strong advocates and creative solutions for rural transportation!

The ‘why’ in our work:





Rural communities are underserved and have unique needs and challenges.

All communities and people deserve transit options to ensure their greatest well-being. Access to high-quality and reliable public transportation is **necessary** to ensure equality in access to essential destinations like schools, healthcare facilities, and jobs. Transportation **advocacy models** in urban and metropolitan areas (where density is plentiful, and the demand for transit is loud) usually focus on changes and/or improvements to existing services. However, rural communities are lost in this conversation. **Rural residents need unique advocacy models.**

And, there is often an incorrect assumption that rural residents can rely on personal vehicles.

Millions of rural residents in America are non-drivers and are unable to access essential destinations regularly.



[National Rural Transit Assistance Program | Rural, Public & Community](#)



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

[Washington State Department of Transportation](#)



Disability Rights
WASHINGTON

[Home page - Disability Rights Washington](#)



[Homepage - Transportation Choices Coalition](#)



King County

[Metro - King County, Washington](#)

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY 101

JUNE 13, 9AM-1PM, RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING

With special guests:



Michelle Allison
King County Metro



**Councilmember
Sarah Perry**
King County's District 3



**Rep. Osman
Salahuddin**
WA's 48th Leg. District



Anna Zivarts
*Disability Rights
Washington*



Kirk Hovenkotter
*Transportation Choices
Coalition*

Moderated by:

hopelink

Snoqualmie Valley
MOBILITY COALITION



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Transportation**Choices**



Advocacy 101 – why, when, where, how
can we advocate?

Q & A

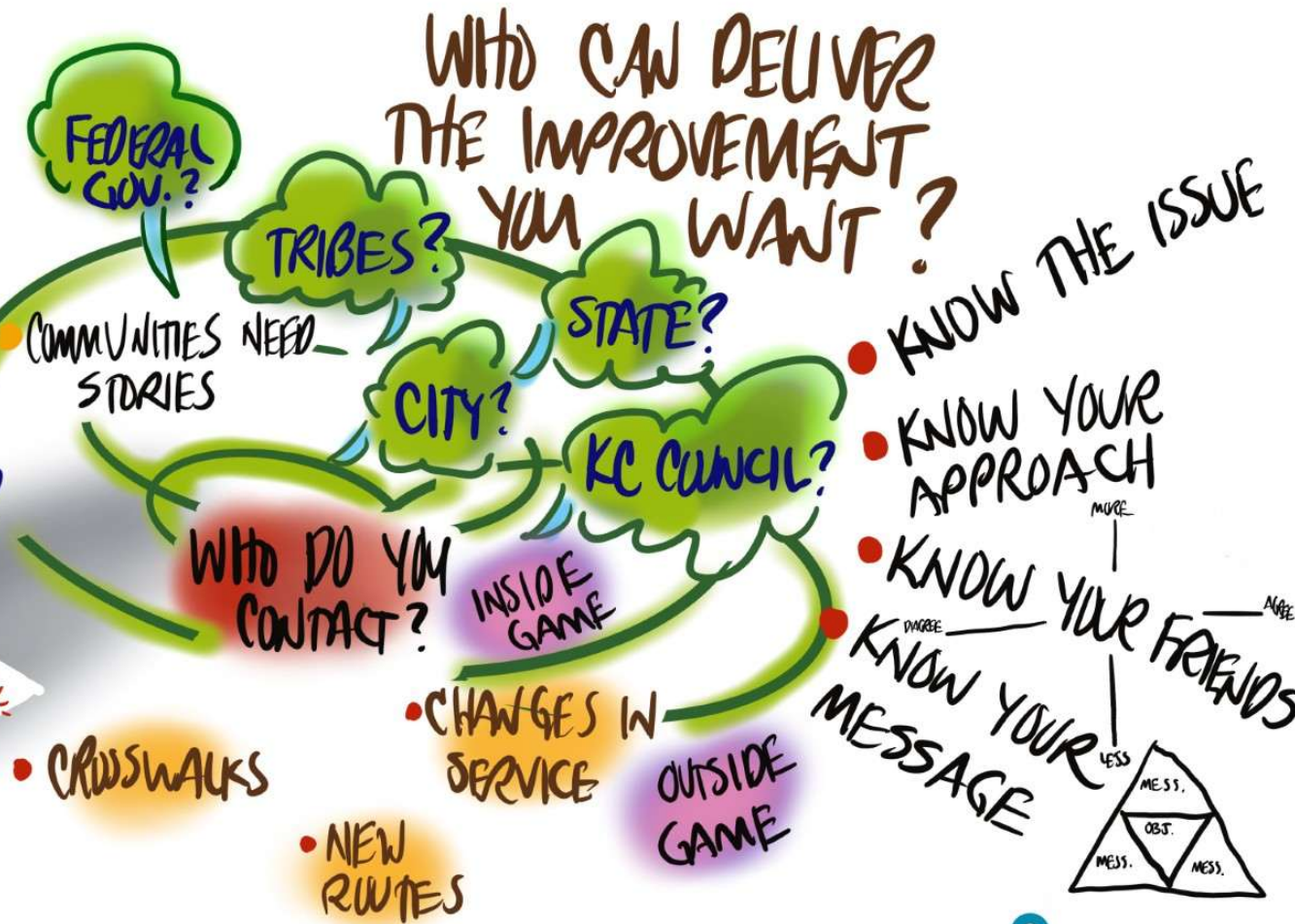
TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY 101



WHAT DO OUR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS MEAN?

"GETTING AROUND IS VITAL TO EVERYONE"

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, CREATE A POSITION"



hopelink

Snoqualmie Valley
MOBILITY COALITION

 Washington State
Department of Transportation

Transportation  **Choices**

WHAT ROLE DOES ADVOCACY PLAY?

PART II



WHAT ROLE
DOES ADVOCACY
PLAY?

PART III

LESSONS LEARNED



• COALITIONS
MATTER

• KEEP
PARTICIPATING

• GIVE
CREDIT

• RELATIONSHIPS
MATTER

• ENERGY and
VOICE

BUILD

TRUST

RECOGNITION
IS IMPORTANT

• FOCUS ON PEOPLE
WITH THE LEAST
CHOICES

• SO MANY ASK'S



BRING PEOPLE
TOGETHER
BE UNIFIED



• ENGAGE and
ENCOURAGE

hope link

Snoqualmie Valley
MOBILITY COALITION

Washington State
Department of Transportation

Transportation Choices

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE TESTIMONY

- NAME

- SHARE WHY

- YOUR POSITION
FRONT-BACK

- 3 MAIN
POINTS

- SHARE YOUR
STORY

INFORMATION
RESPECT
TRUST
EDUCATION
QUESTIONS
COMMUNITY





Scenario!

Currently, there is no weekend bus service in the Snoqualmie Valley. This leaves many residents without access to essential destinations like work, grocery stores, medical appointments, and community spaces on Saturdays and Sundays.

The King County Council is considering whether to fund a new weekend route in the upcoming budget that would connect communities like North Bend, Snoqualmie, Carnation, and Duvall.

You're a local resident who believes this service is necessary for your neighbors, or your community. The Council will ask for public input, and your voice could help shape the outcome.



This event was a powerful reminder that advocacy is an ongoing practice, rooted in relationships, persistence, and community voice. By offering practical tools, insight from experts, and space to practice new skills, the Snoqualmie Valley Rural Transportation Advocacy 101 Workshop supported local residents in building their capacity to speak up for improved transit. It demonstrated that better transportation systems don't just happen – they're the result of people coming together, sharing their stories, and advocating for solutions that reflect the needs of their communities.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

- **What's next?**

- Present at National Rtap Conference in December.

- Amplify this work through outreach, SKCMC and KCMC

- Spring Advocacy Event – North Bend

- 2027 Advocacy Event – South King County

- SVMC and SKCMC to continue convening Coalition/Taskforce meetings monthly





Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition

Meets October 10th, 2025

Email me for info!

Lyn McCarthy
emccarthy@hopelink.org

Snoqualmie Valley

MOBILITYCOALITION



RAPIDRIDE I-LINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Lluvia Ellison-Morales - Senior Community Engagement
Planner

Janine Robinson - RapidRide I Line Project Manager

Ian Kowalski - RapidRide I Line Lead





RAPIDRIDE

RapidRide I Line Project Update September 2025

Lluvia Ellison-Morales, Senior Community Engagement Planner

Janine Robinson, Capital Project Manager

Ian Kowalski, RapidRide Line Lead

Agenda

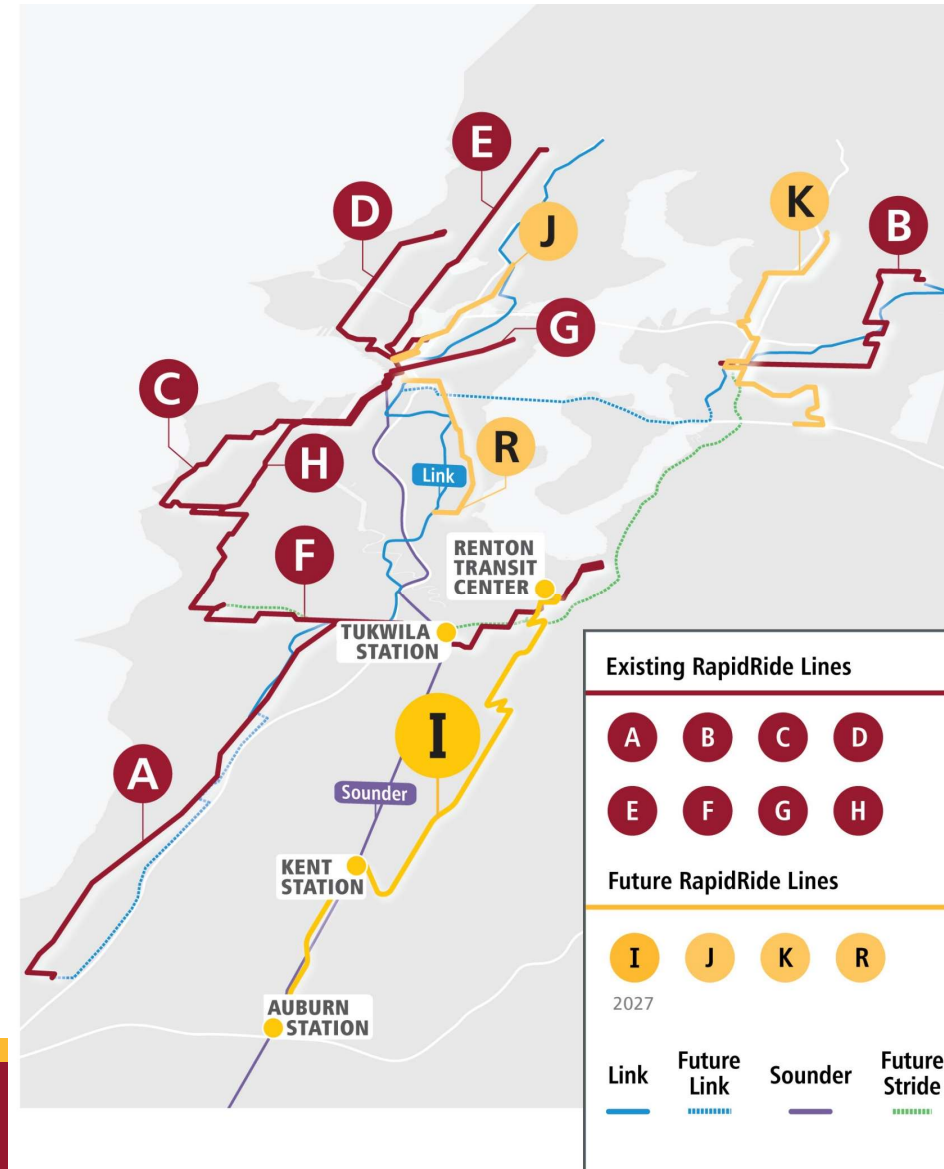
- Benefits of RapidRide I Line
- Timeline
- Community engagement
- RapidRide improvement projects
 - Passenger Stations
 - Speed and reliability
 - Access to transit
- What to expect during construction
- Next steps
- Q&A session



RapidRide I Line Benefits

RapidRide I Line offers fast and reliable bus service in south King County:

- 17-mile route: serving Renton, Kent and Auburn
- Frequent 10-15 minute service
- Connects riders to the greater RapidRide network
- Construction set to begin later this year

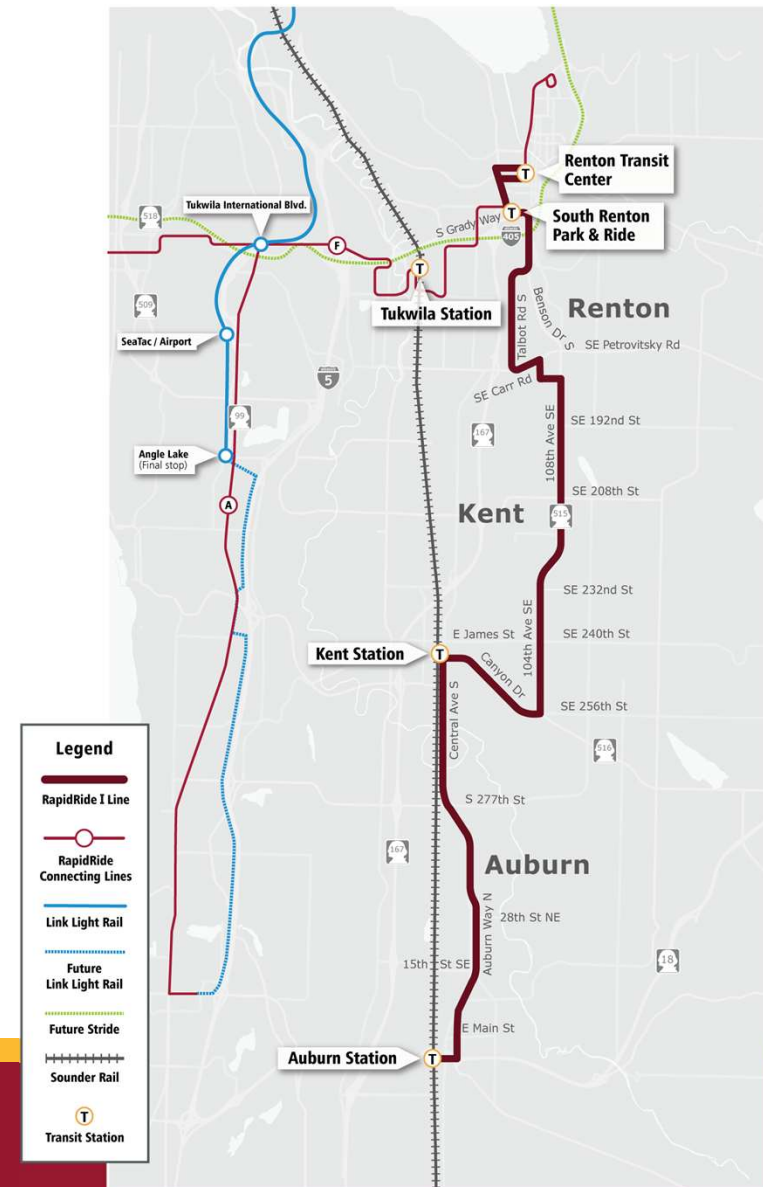


RapidRide Line

South King County transit network

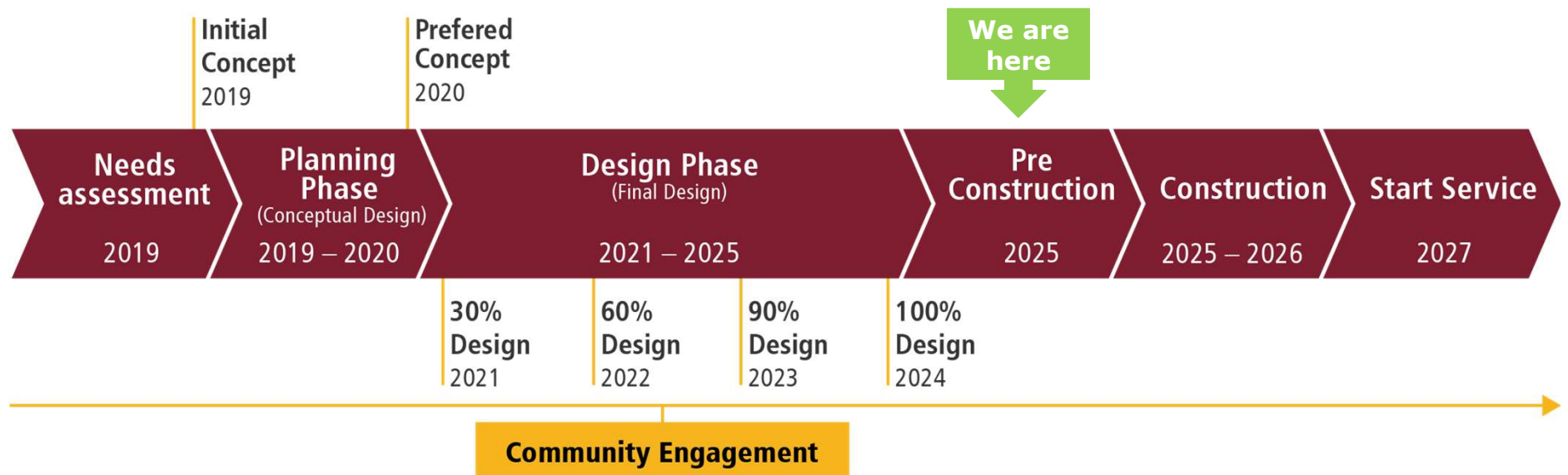
RapidRide I Line connects riders to major transit hubs and regional destinations:

- Renton & Kent transit centers and Auburn Station
- RapidRide F Line
- Sound transit buses
- Sounder train
- Local bus service



Community Engagement

What we've done



Community Engagement

Community priorities

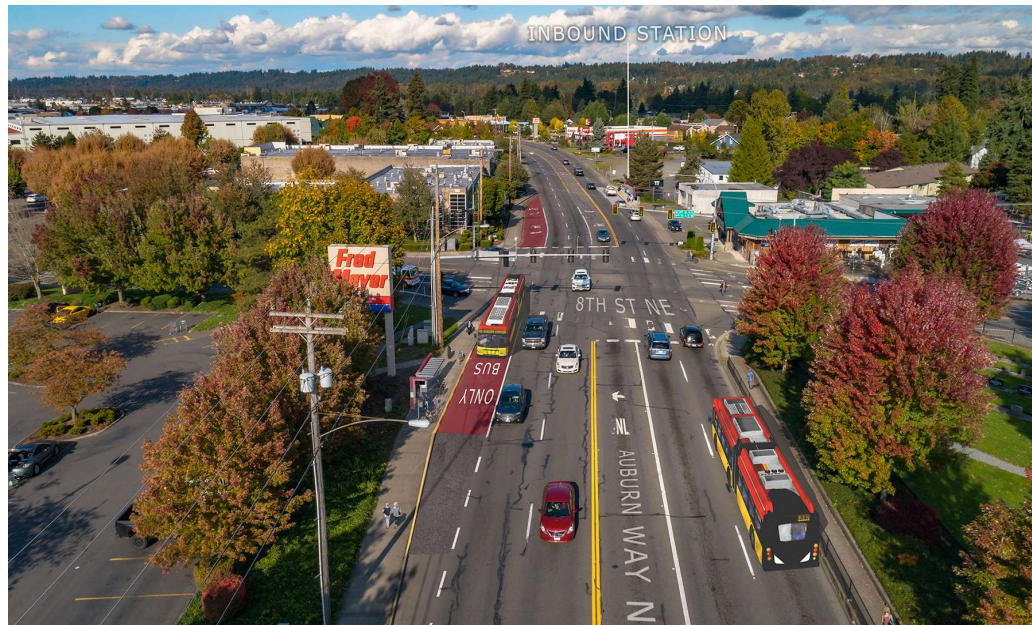
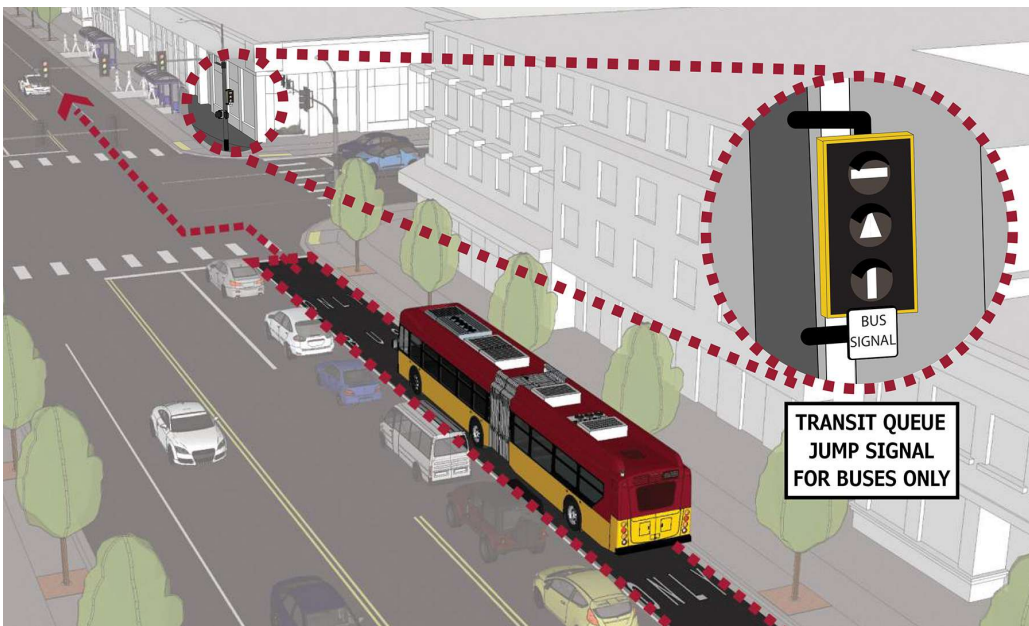


RapidRide I Line Improvements

- **Passenger stations:** 82 RapidRide stations with new features designed to improve customer safety and comfort



- **Transit signal and lane priority:** Improvements at 27 intersections and 12 Business Access and Transit (BAT) lane widenings to enhance bus speed and reliability



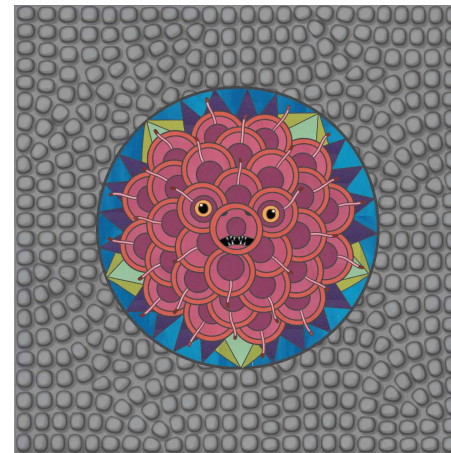
- **Improving access and safety:** 64 new or enhanced pedestrian crossings and over 100 new ADA-accessible curb ramps to improve pedestrian safety and access.



Commitment to Public Art



Rey Daeed's featured artwork is part of the series of limited-edition ORCA cards in celebration of the RapidRide Expansion Program.



Artist **Ryan! Feddersen** has been selected to develop a series of small sculptures and related retaining wall treatments.



RAPIDRIDE

What to expect during construction

What to expect during construction

During construction communities can expect:

- Crews working Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with some nighttime and weekend work.
- Temporary parking restrictions
- Periodic lane and driveway closures
- Large machinery and truck activity
- Construction staging and parking impacts near some construction sites
- Some sidewalk, intersection and lane closures
- Detours for people walking, biking and rolling
- Temporary bus detours and bus stop relocations for Route 160 and other area transit and bus routes
- Flaggers to direct traffic around work areas.

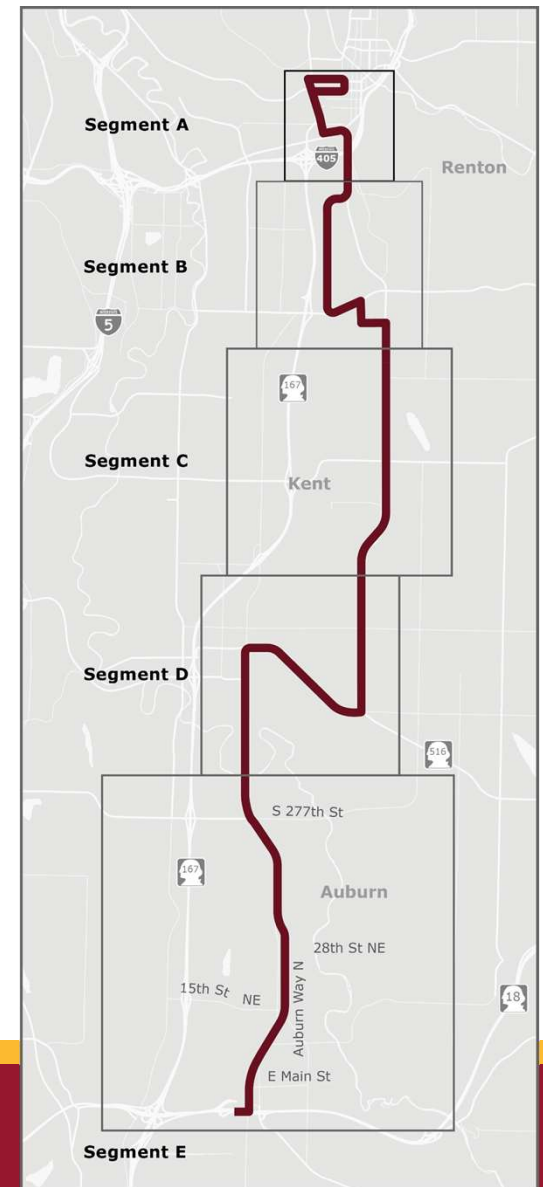
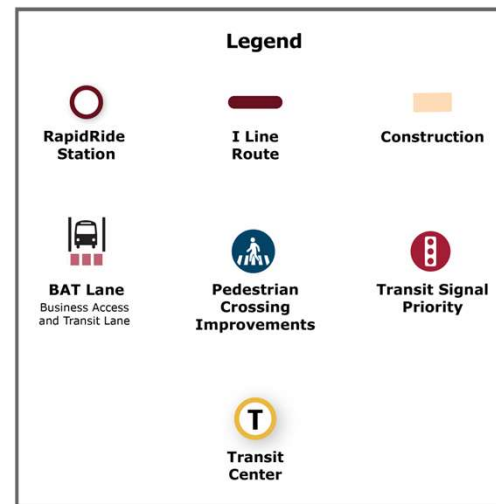


Building RapidRide I line

Construction areas

Crews will work in segments to build:

- RapidRide stations
- BAT lanes
- Pedestrian crossings
- Transit signal priority updates



Building RapidRide I line

*Construction areas – Segment A
Downtown Renton to I-405*

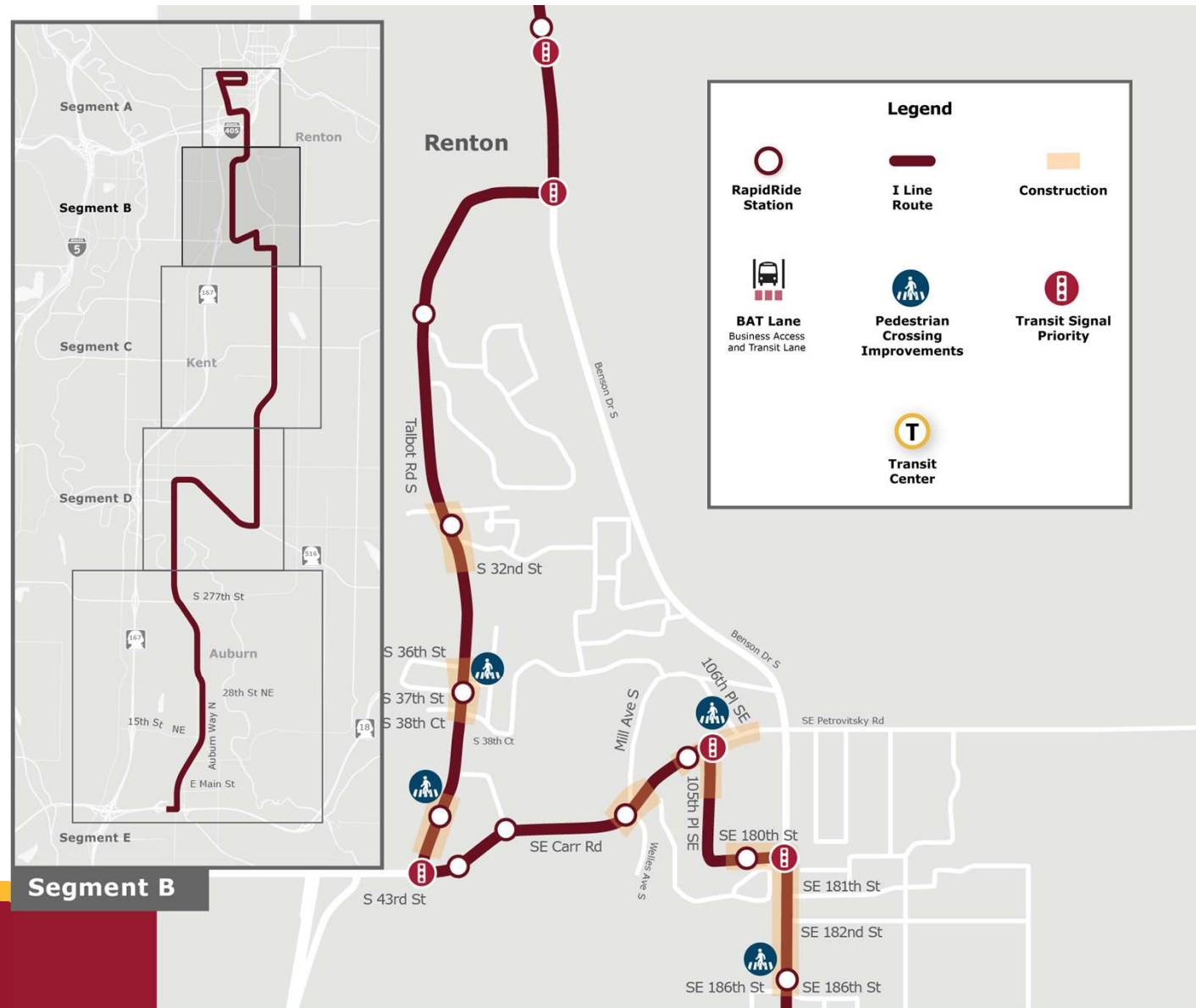
- RapidRide stations
- BAT lanes
- Pedestrian crossing at S Grady Way & Talbot Rd S improvements
- Transit signal priority updates at major intersections



Building RapidRide I line

Construction areas – Segment B
I-405 to South Renton

- RapidRide Stations
- Pedestrian crossings along major intersections
- Transit signal priority updates at major intersections



Building RapidRide I line Construction areas – Segment C South Renton to Kent East Hill

- RapidRide Stations
- BAT lanes along SE 208th St
- Pedestrian crossings across major intersections
- Transit signal priority updates at major intersections



Building RapidRide I line

Construction areas – Segment D Kent East Hill-Downtown-South

- RapidRide Stations
- BAT lanes
- Pedestrian crossing at across major intersections
- Transit signal priority updates at major intersections

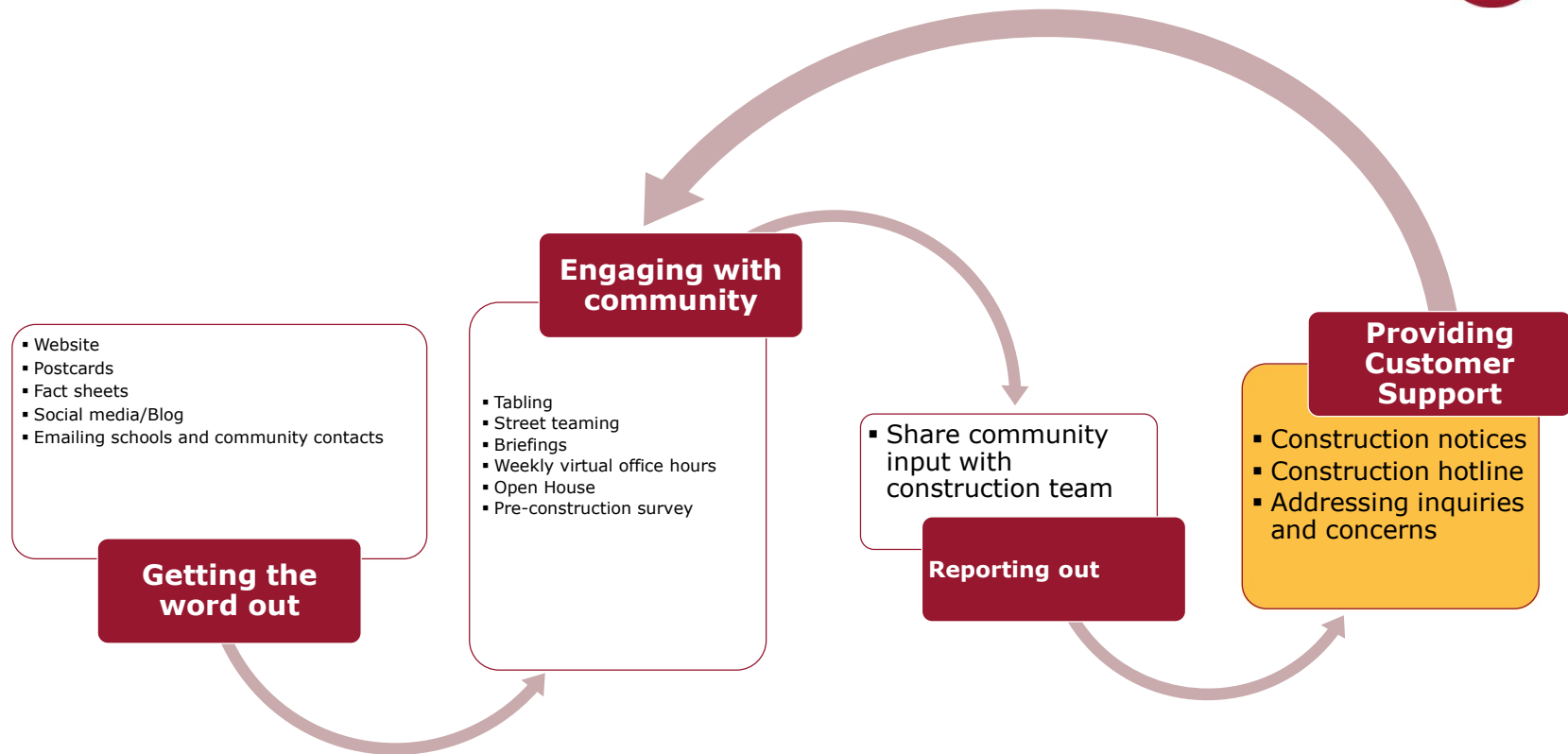


Building RapidRide I line *Construction areas – Segment E Auburn North to Downtown*

- RapidRide Stations
- BAT lanes
- Pedestrian crossing at across major intersections
- Transit signal priority updates at major intersections



Construction Engagement Workflow



Stay connected!

- ✓ Visit the project website
- ✓ Sign up for updates
- ✓ Request for updated briefings
- ✓ Share information with neighbors
- ✓ Questions? Concerns? Reach out to our team.

Come talk with us!

As this project moves into construction, our engagement team is ready to hear from community. Choose a way to connect with us from the list below!



Virtual office hours

Join us online every Wednesday from 12:30 pm to 1 pm. Our 30-minute sessions are a great opportunity to ask questions and hear updates. [Use this link to attend during that time.](#)



Community tabling events

Find us at [events in your neighborhood](#). If you're hosting a community event and would like our team to join, [send us an email](#).



Open houses

Attend an [open house](#) to learn more about the project and ask questions in person. Dates and details will be shared here when available.

Contact Metro RapidRide Community Engagement



206-263-9768



rapidride@kingcounty.gov



kingcounty.gov/rapidride/i



Scan the QR code
to learn more about RapidRide

RAPIDRIDE

Thank you!

For RapidRide I Line Questions:

email: rapidride@kingcounty.gov

website: kingcounty.gov/rapidride/i

For Metro Customer Service:

phone: 206-553-3000

website: kingcounty.gov/metro

RAPIDRIDE I-LINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Lluvia Ellison-Morales - Senior Community Engagement
Planner

Janine Robinson - RapidRide I Line Project Manager

Ian Kowalski - RapidRide I Line Lead



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

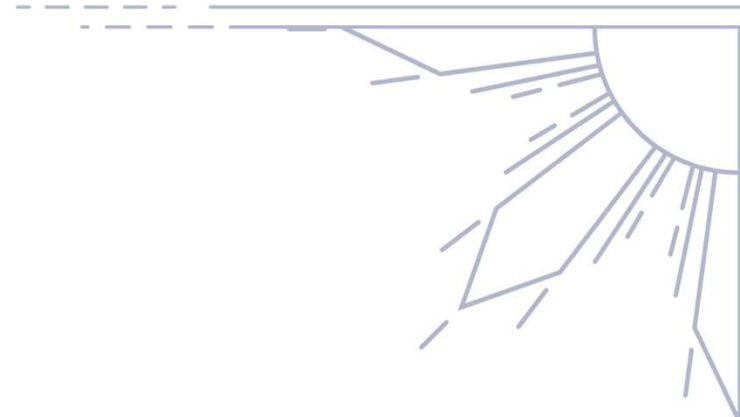
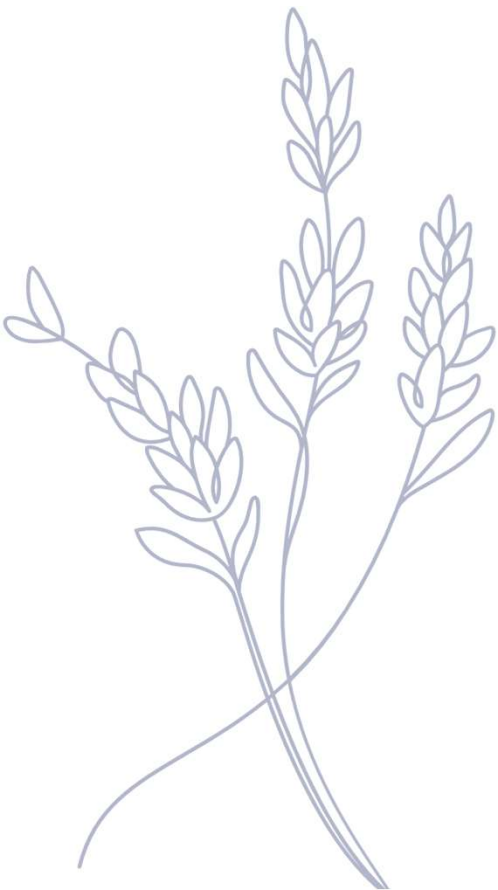
What are you working on right now?

Is there anything you would like the group to help promote?

Do you need support for anything you're working on?



A view of Lake Sawyer from Lake Sawyer Regional Park in Black Diamond.



THANK YOU!

NEXT MEETING:

November 13th, 2025
10:30am – 12:00pm