Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition Meeting

Date: February 10, 2023
Time: 10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Via Zoom

Attendance:
Julio Perez (Hopelink) Carol Ladwig (SVT), Amy Biggs (SVT) Ashlyn Farnworth (City of Carnation), Diana Austin (DSHS), Katherine Ross (City of Snoqualmie), Asela Chavez (City of Duvall), Steven Leniszewski (Duvall PW) Meredith Sampson (King County) Phirun Lach (Sound Generations) Stephanie Norton-Bredel (City of Snoqualmie Mayor) Robert Blumenfeld (Disability Empowerment Center), Rebecca Mendelsohn (King County Council) Emily Arteche (City of Snoqualmie) Jamie Gray Burrell (City of North Bend), Sherry Jennings (SV Hospital) Adair Hawkins (Carnation), Brock Howell (SnoTrac), Zinu Motosa (LifeLong), Mark Noll (City of North Bend)

Facilitator: Tracie Jones
Staff Support: Heather Clark

Welcome, Introductions, Overview:

2022 SVMC Achievements Review
Chat Introductions
Agenda Review
- City of Snoqualmie Mayor, Katherine Ross. Regional Transportation Advocacy in Olympia.
- Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation Updates and Announcements.
- Julio Perez, North King County Mobility Coalition, University of WA, Evens School of Public Policy and Governance - Cross-county Transportation Analysis Project.
- Roundtable Announcements, Discussion, & Next Steps

Guest Speaker - Katharine Ross, Mayor of Snoqualmie

SR 18 @Issaquah-Hobart Rd intersection redesign and rebuild project was approved, but latest mandate from Inslee delays overall construction project by 6 years.

Thank you to Stephanie Norton-Bredel, who submitted letter of support describing impacts of construction delays to greater Snoqualmie and Snoqualmie YMCA.

January 12, 2023, (Mayor Ross) visited Olympia advocating for SR 18 progress, rather than delaying construction, increasing negative impacts, including accidents, loss of commerce, employment opportunities, congestion on numerous arterials.

Many WA State legislators support moving forward, in alignment with previous legislative timelines; widening SR 18 is critical for the region. Improving transit options, commerce, and safety.

Ongoing quarterly meetings with Metro regarding increased services in City of Snoqualmie and throughout region.

Increased SR 18 busing and transport services are necessities, trickling down - affordable housing, commerce, employee transit for schools, hospitals, businesses, workers, students are priorities.

Councilmembers, transportation providers (SVT), community advocates, government leaders all supporting increased bus services.

The City of Snoqualmie appreciates Snoqualmie Valley Transportation and Amy Biggs
Questions and Comments:

- Amy Biggs (Snoqualmie Valley Transportation) – I saw the RTC’s job is to approve the three big Metro plans, what role can you play in that? Katharine – this is something we can continue to talk about. If that needs to be elevated, we can consider that. I am advocating for more ADA accessibility (restroom at bus transit stations, for example).

- Amy Biggs (SVT) – through local coalitions, etc. how do you decide what issues you are advocating for?
  - If there’s enough discussion and support, we can bring it up to RTC.

- Committee work plan?
  - I can send that out.
    - Will be included in newsletter or meeting notes update.

- Tracie Jones (Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition Coordinator) – what was the mood in Olympia?
  - I was #9 to testify. Other comments were focusing on Amtrak. I was the only one there to speak on SR18. I am not sure everyone realized the SR 18 construction project was delayed. Now, we’re drilling down in the budget to find that delay.

- Amy Biggs (SVT) – I am interested in the priorities. SR18 has been a bad and dangerous road for a very long time. What is being prioritized? What is being moved up? Wondering why this choice was made. Why is it being put on the back burner? We have a lot of people who are frustrated.
  - We’re also looking at the project list: Tri-Cities corridor widening; SR 14 improvements.

Guest Speaker - Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation
“Little Cities, Little Buses.” [https://svtbus.org/](https://svtbus.org/)

New Website Updates and Overview

- Alerts sign-up
  - Weather alerts, ride cancellations, immediate updates, and news
- Hiring page
- Service areas
- Fares
- Ridership guide
- Riders’ testimonials
- News and press releases
- Regional links
- Travel training
- About us
- Language accessible tool

Working toward GTFS. Services not fully accessible on Google Map. Looking forward to having our flexible service integrated with One Call One Click so riders can see our service areas when they are planning their rides. OC/OC will pick up our demand-response service.

Questions and Comments:

- Tracie Jones (SVMC) – What’s the timeline for Find-A-Ride and OC/OC integration?
  - Still in the testing phase. Working out kinks. Doing internal testing.
  - Link to OC/OC project: [https://www.kcmobility.org/ococ](https://www.kcmobility.org/ococ)

- Mayor Katherine Ross – SVT Website looks great. Navigable. When will weekend service start?
  - In terms of the WSDOT grant - One was to sustain service, the other was to add weekend services. Metro would like to increase frequency in North Bend to Duvall, adding an additional leg. Shuttle services would be less than one hour, and preferably as soon as possible. However, SVT is understaffed.
  - Weekend service, we are waiting to hear back on grant approved. Ready to expand service, but still need drivers. SVT can’t pay people like the big busses due to CAT.
- Tracie Jones (SVT) – Where riders can sign-up for SVT?
Anybody aged 10+ and up can ride unaccompanied. Youth, up to 19 years old, are free. Riders can call and give regular addresses they go to. Kids who go to charter schools, they can give information about what their schedule and needs are. SVT can build a subscription for them. They can just call to cancel a ride. High school students if they miss the school bus. School buses do not get kids back from their after-school activities. SVT can assist with that through a subscription. Call us. Someone will talk you through how it works. 425-888-7001.

Tracie Jones – what is a good representation of your ridership? Who are your riders? Youth...

Amy, just residents. Not a lot from outside the Valley. Seniors, people who can’t drive, temporary disabilities, car is in the shop, people who know they shouldn’t drive, people who don’t have access to an additional car. Teens – many of them don’t want to drive. Some teens should not be driving (too distracted). Bus provides a safe trip and riders can engage with their phones.

Tracie, transportation is a necessity. Amy, a lot of people don’t really “see” our buses if they don’t need them themselves. Outreach is important to let people know they are available for everyone.

Carnation Council Member Adair Hawkins – How do I get my kids places and appointments when we both work full-time?

It’s a common question I receive. Recreational opportunities are often only available to kids who have a parent who has the flexibility to get kids to these activities. How do we support mental health and recreational activities for our kids?

Mayor Katherine Ross – Running Start?

SVT has a hard time connecting kids to Bellevue College. It’s a barrier.

Carnation Council Member Adair Hawkins – In the Riverview School District, there’s a bus to Bellevue college. Otherwise, the only students who can attend BC are those who have resources. Many parents have hourly jobs, and cannot guarantee transportation to Running Start, college classes, etc.

Guest Speaker – Julio Perez, NKCMC Cross-County Transportation Analysis Project, NKCMC

UW Evans School of Public Policy and Governance
- Identifying barriers in cross-county barriers
- Dedicating 10-12 hours/week to the project
- Final report presentation at KCMC meeting in May

Project Goal
- Environmental scan identifying and advocating for necessary regional improvements
  - King to Snohomish
  - Paratransit issues, including transfers, time required, accessibility
- Coordinating transportation services
  - Reduce excessive wait times.
  - Advanced notice requirement is a barrier.
  - Rural areas over 25% of people 65+ reside in rural areas.

Key Deliverables
- Strength, weakness, opportunities, threat (SWOT) analysis.
  - Literature review
  - Focus groups
  - Interview service providers and clients.
- Evaluation Report
- Summary Presentation
- Can be used for future grant applications.
- Interviews start next week, with March end date.
- Post-interviews analysis of information.
- April – draft report
- May – finalize report and present to KCMC
- June – present at NKCMC

Questions and Comments:
• Amy Biggs (SVT) – I suggest also contacting Lincoln Retirement Center, Snow Goose. Monroe to Duvall is also an extended trip when done by transit (12-minute, but several hours on a bus). Medical appointment in a nearby city have limited connections.

• Julio Perez (NKMC) – Do you coordinate cross-county transportation?  
  o We are focusing on King to Snohomish, but not limited.

• Bree Boyce (Mobility Coalition Supervisor) – Tri-Cities area is also an area we can look at. If you are available to join the task force, please join us next week. Thanks for all the ideas.

• Tracie Jones (SVMC) – Snoqualmie valley – we need our voices elevated. Please join if you can. We need our perspective there.

• Amy Biggs (SVT) – Suggestion, reach out to Kevin Soucy, with community transit – micro transit services for a statewide lens and efficacy of regional micro transit.

• Contact Information for Julio Perez  
  North King County Mobility Coordinator, Mobility Management  
  JPerez@hopelink.org  
  Office Phone: (425) 943-6730

• Registration link for Cross-County Transportation Project Taskforce meeting, 2/14, @10:30 AM.  
  https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpcOytrjkqHNB7WUJf4FUonoOHAf2dYICr

Roundtable Discussion, Next Steps, Project Updates

Bree Boyce, Hopelink - Introduced new Community Van Program Manager – Teresa Ngo

Amy Biggs (SVT) - SVT has immediate need for dispatchers and drivers. "We train. Know someone who’s great at solving puzzles? Send ’em our way!" Visit SVT’s new website for more information about the job, www.SVTbus.org.

Next Steps

Tracie will send everyone information/documents discussed in a follow-up email

Next Meetings:

Next SVMC Task Force Meeting: March 10, 2023, @10:30 AM  
Next SVMC General Coalition Meeting: April 10, 2023, @10:30 AM  
Next SVMC Task Force Meeting: May 10, 2023, @10:30 AM  
Next SVMC General Coalition Meeting: June 10, 2023, @10:30 AM

Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition Staff Support:  
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Please email Tracie Jones at TJones@hopelink.org for question, errors, or omissions within these notes.