MEETING NOTES
October 14th, 2022, 10:30am-12:00pm
Zoom

Attendees: Val Stewart (FESH Coordinator), Carol Ladwig (Snoqualmie Valley Transportation), Roz Novikova (Hopelink Mobility Program Specialist), Gabrielle Hodges (Catholic Community Services), Meredith Sampson (King County Metro), Rebecca Mendelsohn (Councilmember Perry’s Office), Sherry Jennings (Snoqualmie Valley Hospital), Ed Engle (Snotrac), Sandy Phan (Hopelink Mobility SKC Coordinator), Dean Sydnor (Hopelink Mobility/Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation), Amanda Pleasant-Brown (King County Metro), Camille Watson (Hopelink Advocacy and Policy Manager), Asela Chavez (City of Duvall), Victor Londono (Hopelink Mobility/Community Van), Adair Hawkins (City of Carnation Councilmember), Caroline Villanova (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust), Jamie Burrell (City of North Bend), Bebhinn Gilbert (Hopelink Mobility), Jesse Reynolds (KC Dept of Local Services), Amy Biggs (Snoqualmie Valley Transportation), Councilmember Sarah Perry (King County District 3 Councilmember)

Staff support: Bree Boyce, Julio Perez, & Tracie Jones

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements:

The meeting began at 10:30am and attendees provided introductions.

Bree welcomed the new Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coordinator, Tracie Jones, who will facilitate these meetings in the future and is the new point of contact for SVMC.

Announcements:

- Outreach has been placed on hold while Tracie Jones settles into her new role. If there are any events or outreach opportunities you think Tracie should be tabling at let Bree and Tracie know.
- The SVMC Coordinated Awareness Campaign evaluation report has been published.
- SVMC Transportation Priorities One-Pager that lists transportation gaps out in the valley has been finalized and includes 1) Full weekend service; 2) Central Valley connection to Redmond; 3) South King County Commuter Connection; and 4) Feeder-to-Fixed route services.
- December will be the SVMC’s 5-year anniversary!

North Bend Comprehensive Plan Updates

Jamie Burrell, North Bend Senior Planner

Things added to the plan:

- Every year they update Transportation Improvement program.
- Policy in place to support pedestrian safety.
- They are going to require new req to id current bus stops.
- Talked about paving the Snoqualmie Valley trail

The plan will now be going to City Council for approval which is anticipated sometime in November.

Please contact Bree Boyce at bboyce@hopelink.org or 425-943-6751 for any errors or omissions in these notes.
Transportation Priorities in Snoqualmie Valley

Councilmember Sarah Perry

Sara Perry represents District 3 which starts from Eastside Sammamish to Snoqualmie Pass and everything from the Snohomish County border to the southern border of the city of Issaquah. This includes North Bend, Snoqualmie, Carnation, Duvall, Skykomish, Bothell, Woodinville, Redmond, Sammamish, Issaquah, Fall City, Preston, and Snoqualmie Pass.

- About 74% of people live within city boundaries and 26% live in unincorporated areas.
- 6 forests, 4 watersheds, multiple lakes and rivers, and 6,500 acres of farmland
- Of the 2.3 million folks in King County, 250,000 live in unincorporated King County.

District 3 Snapshot

- 252k residents in each of the nine districts
- 37% of Sammamish residents were born outside the US.
- Wide range of ethnic backgrounds out in the valley.
- A lot of farmers, and people in other occupations.

My Priorities

- Housing
  - Community members all need a life potentially where you can live, work, play in your own community and that richness of community strengthens behavioral health.
  - We are the least housed state in the country, the least amount of housing at any level per capita in Washington State. A lot of people want to live here, and the construction has slowed way down. So, we have a lot of work to do. Because we have a 30% increase in population coming to District 3.
- Transit
  - Transit ties all her priorities. Transit helps people move around freely to get to where they need to go.
- Environment
  - We have a climate action plan and are working on electrification of our bus fleet by 2030. District 3 just got their first electric truck, outside of Metro and working on airlines, and all kinds of things to lessen environmental degradation.
  - 1,000 acres of the 2,300 acres of King County are located out in the valley. It our responsibility to protect and preserve this space.
- Behavioral health
  - A great antidote to behavioral health issues is community. Transit is an important factor for creating communities and helps people move freely to foster communities.
  - People do not belong in jail for behavioral issues.
  - Working hard for finding ways build the 110 residential treatment beds that we have lost since 2018.
  - Create five different facilities, in North, South, East, and West King County and one for just youth.

Transit is connected to housing, environment, and behavioral health.

Engaging with the Community Leaders

- 85% of all calls will be for 988
- 12% dispatch
- 3% more need to go somewhere

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They will augment salary by 20%. More to come in Spring 2023

Survey Results from 1,622 responses

Top Three priorities:
- Environmental protections in climate change through transit
- Public Safety through transit, road, and street improvements.
- Priorities for human services funding are public safety, behavioral health, and ending homelessness.
- The most important transit services for the entire district are to add Park and Rides, increase bus stops, and increase bus frequency.

Transit Priorities in Snoqualmie Valley

- Top priorities in Snoqualmie valley are to have unique and diverse needs met throughout the Valley.
- 20-25% of household income in the valley is spent on transportation.
- Increased transit service could facilitate housing affordability in the area.
- Everyone has their own set of needs to access work, school, and play, and each of these needs is valid. One size almost never fits all!

Snoqualmie Valley Transit Meeting

Councilmember Sara reads names from people present in the image that was shared with the group.

The point of this is to build collaboration and coordination for reliable transportation out in the valley. The most important thing is that mayors are involved in this process. They are doing this to build collaboration, coordination for equitable, accessible, and reliable transit.

Identified Priorities

Councilmember Perry organized a meeting to share about and listen to transit service needs and opportunities for Sno-Valley. The goal was the support collaboration and coordination to deliver equitable, accessible, and reliable transit. This meeting included:

- King County Council District 3: Sarah Perry, Libby Hollingshead, and Rebecca Mendelsohn
- King County Metro: Stephanie Pure, Chris O’Claire, Brian Henry, and Amanda Pleasant-Brown
- Snoqualmie Tribe Councilmember: Jolene Williams
- Snoqualmie Valley Mayors: Rob McFarland, Katherine Ross, Jim Ribail, and Amy Ockerlander
- Snoqualmie Valley Transportation: Amy Biggs
- Hopelink Mobility Management: Staci Sahoo and Bree Boyce

The identified transportation priorities included:
- Full weekend services and extended services hours
- Expandable local mobility into and outside of the Valley
  - Example: Carnation and Duvall
  - Example: Connections up and down Highway 18 to allow workers from locations with more affordable housing to commute
- Youth mobility to remove barriers to participation in afterschool activities, additional educational opportunities (Bellevue College) and to and from work.

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Additional identified priorities

- Address relationship between transit development and affordable housing.
  - In this comp plan they keep hearing zoning is an issue.
  - Zoning helps with building more multifamily housing units
- Strategize around how to get more people to commute into our cities for work, tourism, and activities
- Strategize around how to utilize shuttle and van options provided by King County Community Connections so more of our residents have easy access to public transit.
- More Park & Rides or smaller parking lots throughout the Valley so people can live closer to transportation,

Next Steps

Next steps are continuing quarterly meetings with Metro, Snoqualmie Valley Mayors, and Valley transportation providers starting in December.

The next meeting will include representatives from WSDOT and the Mayor of Maple Valley to discuss Hwy 18 transportation options.

Future meetings will also include Superintendents of Snoqualmie Valley and Riverview school districts and additional partners to continue the discussion.

Metro will continue to provide more information on their youth programs.

Sarah Perry encourages attendees to reach out with any questions or things that they would like to see brought out to the Valley. She can be contacted at Sarah.Perry@kingcounty.gov, 206-477-1003, www.kingcounty.gov/perry or on social media.

Q & A

- Amy Biggs: Park & Rides—We need to make sure transit is frequent going to and from a Park & Ride. No one is going to park at P & R when wait times are 90 mins.
  - Sarah Perry: Agrees. They will be looking at budget in the next biennium to take a look at services to park and rides.
- Adair Hawkins: Loves the work Sarah Perry is doing. Adair has been working to create more opportunities for youth. We are lucky to have kids with the opportunity to have their first two years of college paid for by Running Start.
- Caroline Villanova: Thankful for Trail Head Direct for helping people get out to trails. Valley has seen a huge increase in biking and hiking and all of these areas. They want to continue to build that out and continue to emphasize that and strengthen these connections to trails.
- Bree: Are there any major barriers you foresee with your work and achieving these transportation priorities? How can our coalition support?
  - Sarah Perry: A barrier is not communicating and collaborating. One you can do is email me directly.

Roundtable Sharing

- Jesse Reynolds, Department of Local Services:
  - Working on the subarea plan which includes unincorporated areas of Snoqualmie Valley. At this point, we are pretty much turning off the large engagement campaign that we’ve been doing over the past several months. Focus groups on building services. We’re now working internally

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to refine a vision and guiding principles. More information and engagement to come in early 2023.

- Amy Biggs, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation
  - Working on grants. Writing two grants: 1) Grant to sustain SVT 2) Expansion plan to expand weekend service in and out in the Valley during weekend services. Looking for letters of support for the expansion grant.
  - It's important that we look at the impact Trailhead Direct has for the community.
- Bebhinn Gilbert, King County Mobility Coalition
  - Next KCMC meeting is November 15th. We will be brainstorming around resources, gaps, and what we can look forward for the next three years.
  - She is always looking for more voices from rural areas.

**Action Items:**

- Bree will send letters of support to SVT on behalf of SVMC for their expansion grant.

**Next SVMC Meeting:**

**December 9th, 10:30-12:00pm, via Zoom**

**Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition Staff Support:**

**Bree Boyce, Senior Manager of Coalitions**

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**Tracie Jones, Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coordinator**

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