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## June 12th Meeting Notes

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**Date:** June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 10:30am-12:00pm

**Location: Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188605344?pwd=J5uGVdoE1E38uLB7bAgOf9IXHbysvt.1>

### **Attendance:**

Amy Biggs (SVT): 425-888-7001, [abiggs@svtbus.org](mailto:abiggs@svtbus.org)

Alan Bruckner (Marketing & Outreach Coordinator, SVT) 425-888-3837 Ext. 147

Aaron Morrow, Public Policy Advocate

Lisa Varner, Eastside Friends

Ari Soriano, SCFA Case Manager, [ari@asupportivecommunityforall.org](mailto:ari@asupportivecommunityforall.org)

Jamie Burrell, City of North Bend

Kristin Webb Executive Director, Eastside Friends of Seniors

Max Voelker, Carnation City Council Member

Mackenzie Kneeland, Community Van

Rhonda Ender, City Manager of Carnation

Sophie Parman, Case Manager, Acres of Diamonds, [sophie@acresofdiamonds.org](mailto:sophie@acresofdiamonds.org)

Lee Sharp, Case Manager, Acres of Diamonds, [lee@acresofdiamonds.org](mailto:lee@acresofdiamonds.org)

Vy Nguyen (ASCFA): [vy@asupportivecommunityforall.org](mailto:vy@asupportivecommunityforall.org)

Katy Richhiuto, Transportation Choices Coalition, [katy@transportationchoices.org](mailto:katy@transportationchoices.org)

Isabel Smith, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, Councilmember Sarah Perry, King County Council, District 3, [Isabel.Smith@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Isabel.Smith@kingcounty.gov), (206) 561-8513

Iz Berrang Transportation Choices Coalition

Leele Noa Marysplace Family Center Site Director [Leele@marysplaceseatle.org](mailto:Leele@marysplaceseatle.org), 206-623-5922

Rob Queisser, Mobility & Senior Services Manager for Community Action of Skagit County, [robertq@communityactionskagit.org](mailto:robertq@communityactionskagit.org), (360) 336-9357

**Staff Support:** Nicole Ross, Heather Clark, Ysabel Yu, Grace Georgitsis, Randall Hoxie, Roz Novikova

**SVMC Mission:** The Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition (SVMC) believes affordable, accessible, and collaborative transportation is a necessity for life and is dedicated to connecting communities to improve transportation for all of Snoqualmie Valley.

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### **Iz Berrang: Advocacy 101 Recap and Next Steps**

- Workshop goals
  - Build confidence and practical skills for advocacy
  - Help people understand transportation decisions are made
  - Connect community members and leaders
  - Create space for participants to share experiences
  - Very important to have these events in rural communities since they're so underrepresented in planning processes
- Biggest eye opener:

- o Learning there's no effective way to get in and out of the valley using public transit after 7pm
- Conversation Recap
  - o Transportation is a connection to opportunity
  - o Stories matter in advocacy
  - o Rural communities face unique transportation challenges
  - o Advocacy requires relationships and long-term engagement
  - o Community driven solutions are essential
- Principles of Advocacy
  - o Know the issue: understanding how decisions are being made, how to find that information, how to follow up with planning
  - o Know your approach: difference between inside game (testimony, meeting with decision makers), and outside game (organizing, storytelling, electoral participation)
  - o Know your friends: who can give you what you want? Who are your friends? Method to help understand who is influential on a particular issue. Helps prioritize outreach (electeds, advocacy groups, labor, etc.)
  - o Know what your message is: helps structure your talking points and key messages
- Building Blocks for Testimony
  - o How to turn advocacy messages into effective public comment and testimony
    - ♣ Highlighting your personal story
- Personal Stories
  - o Participant is dependent on transit: a straightforward trip by car is quadruple the time on transit
  - o Participant can't attend most community events because they take place at night and can't rely on transportation at night
  - o Participant had a night flight and had to stay at the airport until the morning because transit doesn't operate at night
- Next steps:
  - o Tell your story
  - o Organize around shared priorities
  - o Keep showing up consistently
  - o Engage decision makers directly
  - o Strengthen collective voice
- Where do we go from here:
  - o Ari Soriano: Getting someone at the county level involved in the conversation
  - o Making sure that we don't continue to burden the already overburdened with responsibilities
  - o Amy Biggs: would love to see another valley wide survey to identify needs and gaps
  - o Randall Hoxie: how are we getting this information out to people who don't have access to internet/technology
  - o Katy Richhituto: suggesting a survey to a contact at metro and see if there are other plans they have to engage folks in the area

### **Mackenzie Kneeland: Community Van**

- Overview
  - o Goal is to fill in mobility gaps: transportation out of the city and on the weekends and evenings. Vans available 24/7
  - o Low cost volunteer based transportation
- 3 different ways to use community van
  - o Request a ride
  - o Volunteer with us
  - o Borrow the van
- Community Van basics
  - o Borrow our van or ride for \$3 or less per rider

- o Gas, insurance, tolls, and maintenance are covered
- o Take trips up to two hours away from pick up location (approx. 80 mile radius)
- o Two rider minimum per trip
- o 6 passenger vans with wheelchair accessibility and 12 passenger vans available
- o Vans available any time of day but not overnight
- Van uses
  - o By organizations: food delivery trips, grocery trips, faith based service trips, donation pick ups
  - o Community members: after school sports games, community outings, sports games, after school carpooling
  - o Family and friends: airport runs, excursions
- Community van costs
  - o Trips are free for driver
  - o Riders pay 1 metro fare per round trip
    - ♣ Seniors \$1
    - ♣ Youth free
    - ♣ Adult \$3
  - o Gas and tolls covered
- Payment methods
  - o ORCA monthly pass
  - o Transit GO app
  - o Human service tickets
  - o Drivers do not accept cash or card
  - o UW ID pass
- How to get involved – riders
  - o No application process or eligibility requirements
  - o Submit a trip through online form, email, text, or call (2 business day notice)
  - o Info needed: personal information (name/number/email), pick up and drop off location, destination, time, number of riders, any mobility needs, consent form for under 13 without a parent
- How to apply – drivers
  - o Fill out application online (driving history)
  - o 30-45 min in person training and accessible equipment/disability awareness training and accessing the vehicle
    - ♣ 1 hour self led online orientation

#### **SVMC possible workplan Idea**

- Launch a youth in transportation leadership opportunity
- Goal: increase ridership, increase awareness of transportation services in the valley and how it can be a reliable source of transportation for valley families, educate potential community advocates, connect the community in a way that seeks to amplify the same message to elected officials and key players in the transportation community
- Hard to change mind and change habits when you've been driving for a long time already, but building those habits in youth before you start driving could be so important
- **Amy Biggs:** Would love to see a survey out to the community to bring ideas together to approach from all different perspectives

#### **Roundtable Sharing:**

- Amy Biggs: Edgewick Route, great for hikers and bikers

#### **Next Meeting:**

Date: Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10:30-12pm

Location: zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188605344?pwd=J5uGVdoE1E38uLB7bAgQf9IXHbysvt.1>

## **Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coalition**

### **Nicole Ross**

Snoqualmie Valley Mobility Coordinator  
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425-6205438

For more information about SVMC, contact Nicole Ross at [nross@hopelink.org](mailto:nross@hopelink.org), visit our website [here](#), or sign up for our distribution list [here](#).

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