

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, April 14th, 2020
GoToMeeting Remote Meeting

Participants: Aaron Morrow (Transit Advisory Commission), Anat Caspi (UW Taskar Center), Belen Herrera (Seattle Department of Transportation), Christopher Andree (City of Tukwila), Dani Hurula (King County Metro), Dylan Jouliot (Commute Seattle), Laura Svancarek (WSDOT), Jennifer Covert (King County Public Health), Julie Burrell (King County Metro), Mitchell Lloyd (King County Metro), Jackie Mann (PSESD), Ray Krueger (Hopelink Volunteer), Wren Barulich (Commute Seattle)

Staff Support: Cassidy Giampetro, Maggie Harger, and Nathan Emory

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting began at 1:00 PM.

Introductions were given by each member of the Committee and announcements were made.

- Anat Caspi shared that the University of Washington's Taskar Center for Accessible Technology is working to have their Access map include multimodal capabilities with demand response transit, like paratransit.

Attendees asked to share more about their agency's response to COVID-19 during the roundtable session, which can be seen below.

DISCUSSION: SMALL BUSINESS TOOLKIT + 2020 WORKPLAN

In accordance to the agreed upon timeline for the Access to Work and School Committee's [Small Business Transportation Toolkit](#) project, this meeting signified the transition from the research portion of project planning to direct outreach. A Small Business Outreach Summary has been compiled to glean insights on both the stakeholder interviews and literature review performed to assess best practices for small business outreach. This resource will be shared with the Committee and successfully encapsulates the scheduled research as a predecessor for a small business outreach guide to supplement the toolkit.

However, a decision has been made to postpone advancing the project into next steps. This is because the Small Business Transportation Toolkit project is heavily reliant on outreach, participation, and engagement particularly from women and minority small business owners. Given the large impact COVID-19 has had on small businesses, it was deemed untimely and inappropriate to begin conversations around providing employees mobility services in this context. Small business owners are experiencing a stressful and uncertain time that will likely stretch beyond the heightened months of COVID-19. Therefore, the Small Business Transportation Toolkit is being put on hold until outreach is more feasible. Attendees shared that

they agreed with this decision and that small business outreach at their respective agencies was also being reduced.

In response to the shifting project priorities with the Small Business Transportation Toolkit delay, members were then asked what projects they'd consider most important to elevate at this time. This includes projects listed on the 2020 Workplan to be pursued when more capacity arises or new ideas, including those that can confront new COVID-19 concerns.

Attendees shared that outreach and engagement during this time will likely need to have an expanded scope beyond mobility. This means that those looking for resources will require more help than just transportation-related information. Members suggested that keeping track of the various online resource compilations during this time will be valuable to reference for schools, youth, and employers. An attendee shared about an information sheet with details on health insurance options as well as ORCA LIFT enrollment options that is being distributed currently and will be shared with the group. Attendees also wonder how to help people feel safe riding transit in the transition period after COVID-19 concerns are reduced. A member mentioned that it is critical to translate all coordinating and informational materials into multiple languages when distributing important information so that all populations are receiving the resources adequately.

An attendee shared that they believe updating the Find Your Freedom ORCA Youth report to reflect greater youth needs was a good project to pursue at this time, considering it can be done internally and without outreach. This project was listed on the 2020 Workplan as being a possible pursuit in the future.

Anat Caspi of the UW Taskar Center for Accessible Technology mentioned that the Committee may be able to help address the current disparities between what school districts are offering to their students. For example, many students with IEPs (individualized education plans) are not being served properly. Many parents or students must pick-up essential school materials from designated locations but require transportation to get there. Other students have a need for instructional assistance to complete schoolwork that is not being provided individually or online. Lastly, many students have left important items, like assistive devices, at their schools and are now unable to pick them up. She suggested that the Access to Work and School Committee may be able to coordinate these efforts and see how transportation can connect people in this time. Jacque Mann mentioned that some school districts are continuing to pay drivers although they are not actually driving. She said that reaching out directly to transportation program directors to assess what they are or are not already providing for parents and students will be a next step to address the need.

ROUNDTABLE SHARING: COVID-19 IMPACTS

Nathan, representative from the [RARET Workgroup](#), shared what his program is doing in COVID-19. RARET is closely tracking how both the large and small transportation providers operating in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties are modifying their services in response to COVID-19 to compile the most up-to-date information. They are sharing this information with others through [weekly impact summaries](#). The summaries include resources beyond just levels of operation, like offers for assistance, requests for assistance, information on food delivery, and

more. If you would like to subscribe to receive these updates or have any questions on transportation service impacts during COVID-19, contact Nathan Emory at NEmory@hopelink.org. An attendee shared that the weekly updates have been very helpful to learn and share with others.

Jacque Mann of the Puget Sound Educational Service District said that her Road to Independence Program has seen many of the clients utilizing her services lose their jobs. The program mostly served low income workers or people with disabilities. The transportation providers are pivoting their capacity to provide meal deliveries through the Pierce County Housing Authority and are working with the King County Housing Authority in South King County to provide a similar service.

Laura Svancarek of WSDOT mentioned that the agency's Small Business Incentive outreach is on hold, facing the same concerns of the hold put on the Small Business Transportation Toolkit of recognizing the timeliness against other priorities for small business owners. The ORCA programs for enrolled small businesses are now trying to expedite their rebate program so that small businesses can get back this money ahead of schedule to help them in these straining times.

An attendee asked about the best way COVID-19 positive individuals can be transported to the emergency room. Nathan Emory of RARET discouraged the use of Uber or Lyft due to concerns for public exposure; however, there are some agencies willing to transfer COVID-19 positive people. King County Metro's Access program has capacity to do this if a positive individual is identified to need their services through their healthcare provider. There are also a few Medicaid partners that are able to transport COVID-19 positive patients and more information can be found [here](#).

Belen Herrera of SDOT shared that their outreach is being limited to over-the-phone surveying.

If you have more updates, commentary, or face unique mobility barriers regarding COVID-19, please contact Cassidy Giampetro at CGiampetro@hopelink.org.

ACTION ITEMS

- *Dani* will send the Access to Work and School Committee the resource that lists school district's in King County participation in ORCA Youth programs.
- *Jennifer* will share Public Health's insurance enrollment information sheet that includes ORCA LIFT enrollment details with the group.
- *Michelle* will look into methods of identifying Access as a service provider for COVID-19 positive individuals who need trips.
- *Cassidy* will follow-up with Anat Caspi and Jacque Mann to identify transportation providers in assessing what they are offering for fulfil mobility needs.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 9th from 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Beacon Hill Library (2821 Beacon Ave S #5813, Seattle, WA 98144)

ACCESS TO WORK AND SCHOOL CONTACTS

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