DRAFT MEETING NOTES
May 31st, 2016
Redmond City Hall

Participants: Alaric Bien (City of Redmond), Ethan Bergerson (WSDOT), Anne Broache (WSDOT), Dave Wagar (Travel Ambassadors Kirkland), June Palon (Kirkland Senior Council), Rachel Edlund (Hopelink), Sagar Ramachandra (Hopelink), Lauren Link (Hopelink), and Staci Haber (Hopelink)

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting began at 1:00PM. Rachel Edlund and Sagar Ramachandra, the new staff members for the EERC, introduced themselves as Mobility Coordinators at Hopelink. The other attendees also provided introductions.

Announcements:
- Redmond LOOP Shuttle will be launching this summer. It will serve daytime metro stops and residential areas.
- The Duvall Community Van will be launching the in June. Hopelink will be providing support at the "Duvall Days" event to provide transportation resource information to attendees.

BRIEFING: I-405 EXPRESS TOLL LANES’ UPDATE

Ethan Bergerson and Anne Broache, representatives from WSDOT, led the discussion of the I-405 toll lanes. These lanes opened eight months ago as the old lanes were inadequate. In the month of March, the toll lanes shifted from 24/7 tolling to open to all vehicles during nights (after 7:00pm) and weekends. The month of March saw a much higher usage of the toll lanes than previously anticipated, with over 1 million vehicles per month, and 780,000 unique users. This is 1/10 of Washington vehicles. There have been 2.5 million free carpool trips. These new lanes have cleared up congestion in Kirkland, but there are still bottlenecks in the Bothell area. There are four main challenges by the toll lanes:
1. A capacity challenge, especially northbound between Bothell and Lynnwood
2. Need more signage and clarity on the lanes and carpool regulations
3. Need to improve the system with better wayfinding, etc.
4. Hours of operations can be confusing

The presentation was followed by discussion with the EERC members. June Palon (Kirkland Senior Council) acknowledged the freeway can be confusing for newcomers or visitors who aren’t familiar with flex and toll lanes. Staci Haber (Hopelink) mentioned little information was distributed when obtaining a state license. Ethan noted more coordination related to education
and dissemination of information could be done between WSDOT and the Department of Licensing.

There was general agreement that more public education can be done on how to use the toll lanes, including for Limited English Proficient populations. On the WSDOT website, there should be outreach in many languages. Ethan noted that, because of the back-end of the website, the website is not compatible with many languages. There are several YouTube educational videos that will be disseminated to the public. Alaric Bien (City of Redmond) asked these videos be translated into other languages and has offered to provide those recommended languages to WSDOT.

Dave Wager (Travel Ambassadors Kirkland) asked about tolling for rental cars and learned the method of payment for tolls is completely up to the private car company owners. Some require renters to pay the tolls; others include the toll in the overall cost of the trip.

Ethan noted that WSDOT has a policy that drivers can have one “mistake” toll waived. Another barrier to understanding the toll lanes is that all of the toll lanes in the region operate different—at different times with different fares (Flexpass vs GoodtoGo, for example). An opportunity was identified to make an income-based sliding scale for flex pass. EERC could also publicize the free flex pass promotion, available through Rideshareonline.org if the individual carpool regularly. At this time, there is no option for translating the form and members acknowledged confusion when filling out the survey.

**UPDATE: LOCAL TRAVEL TOOL FOR THE LANDING**

Alaric Bien brought the final version of the travel tool created for the Landing. This tool is to act as a transportation resource for youth who are visiting the Landing. It outlines many resources in the area, as well as hours of operation, and the transit stops in order to travel to these resources. It was noted that, because of the design of the pamphlet, the grey text could be difficult to read for some. Following the completion of the Landing tool, EERC will reach out to Sophia Way, a women’s shelter in Bellevue, to create a map for their clients.

**DISCUSSION: BENCH PROGRAM COOKBOOK WORKSHOP**

The Bench Program Cookbook, which has been a long-term project, is now complete and the final version was printed. The next step is to market the Cookbook. The discussion was based on uses for the cookbook as well as methods to market it.

In order to install benches in the communities, partnerships will need to be formed to purchase and maintain these benches. Some potential partnerships include the Boy Scouts, colleges, neighborhood associations, senior centers, and libraries. Kirkland was identified as a community where the Cookbook could be marketed as there is demand for improvement in walkability. Dave Wagner and June Palon have offered to help set up a meeting with the Kirkland Neighborhood Alliance. Public outreach can be conducted to determine demand. Finally, two
questions were brought up that are covered in the cookbook—how to put in benches, and funding opportunities.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- *Alaric* will e-mail WSDOT staff the recommended languages for translation in the YouTube education videos.
- *Alaric and Alex* will provide The Landing with the final travel tool map.
- *Staff* will schedule preliminary meeting with Sophia Way for the next travel tool map.
- *Staff* will research potential partnerships to implement Bench Program in Kirkland, including the Kirkland Neighborhood Alliance.

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, July 26th 1:00PM to 2:30PM
Location TBD

**EASTSIDE EASY RIDER COLLABORATIVE CONTACT**

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