

MEETING NOTES

January 29th, 2019; Kirkland City Hall

Participants: Alaric Bien (City of Redmond), Blake Jones (Sound Transit), Christy Stangland (City of Bellevue), Dave Wagar (Kirkland Senior Council), David Lynch (Hopelink), Hannah Kimball (Bellevue Network on Aging), Karen Hartman (Kirkland Senior Council), Linda Woodall (Eastside Friends of Seniors), Matt Valdespino (Bellevue Clubhouse), Robert Blumenfeld (Alliance of People with disAbilities).

Staff Support: Anna Loffing.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND EASTSIDE MOBILITY UPDATES.

The meeting began at 1:00pm and attendees provided introductions.

The **Seattle Department of Transportation** is establishing a **Transportation Equity Workgroup** and is looking for workgroup members to help inform the development of a Transportation Equity Agenda. Applications are due by February 22nd. To learn more, visit: www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/transportation-equity-program/equity-workgroup

The **Rotary Club of Sammamish** now accepts applications for its **Community Service Grant**. Areas of focus of the grant are underserved children and older adults; families in need; homelessness; and persons with mental and physical disabilities. Applications are due by April 1st. To learn more, visit: <http://sammamishrotary.org/get-involved/vocational-service/grants/>

PRESENTATION: I-405 BUS RAPID TRANSIT (SEE SLIDES)

BLAKE JONES (SOUND TRANSIT)

Sound Transit is the regional transportation provider created to support regional transportation needs. There are many new projects coming on board since the passing of transportation expansion projects in 2014 and 2016. For example, Light Rail will be expanded to serve Everett to Tacoma, and from Seattle to Redmond and Issaquah. Sound Transit currently operates three services and will expand with a 4th option in 2024, i.e. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to the north, east, and south of Lake Washington. Bus Rapid Transit will be an enhanced version of current bus system with a goal of being faster, more frequent, and more reliable. To support the BRT lines, WSDOT will expand the I-405 express lanes through Renton. The ability to use the express lanes is one of the key factors in providing efficiency to routes. The system will also use off-board fare payment and use all doors for bus entry and exit. The new fleet of busses will add a more comfortable, all-day service, and there will be sheltered stations to provide weather protection. Leveled boarding without steps will increase the accessibility. You may see the system advertised by its new name, Stride. The I-405 BRT project will provide a 37-mile corridor from Lynnwood to Burien with 11 stations across eight cities, three new/expanded parking facilities and one transit center. Current estimates are that BRT will serve 15,000 - 18,000 riders daily by 2040. The Totem Lake/Kingsgate Station (Kirkland) will be located at the existing Totem Lake Freeway Station, and a second station will be on NE 85th Street. Northeast 85th Street will

be lowered to allow for another level of highway below I-405. WSDOT will build new direct access ramps from I-405 express toll lane to support the BRT service. Local bus stops will be located on the same level as BRT stops for easy transfers. In March 2019, the project will go to the Sound Transit Board, which will lead to conceptual engineering and environmental review. The preliminary design is due to be released in 2020. Blake encouraged members to go to [I405BRT.participate.online](https://www.soundtransit.org/i405brt) through February 14th to provide feedback on accessibility of the stations. During the question and answer session, one suggestion included making sure that the first page for the various services are translated appropriately. Blake responded that there is a team at Sound Transit with a background in a variety of languages who are working together to develop more accessible materials.

To stay engaged, visit www.soundtransit.org/i405brt, or contact brt@soundtransit.org.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW & MEMBER FEEDBACK (SEE SLIDES)

Anna Loffing provided a brief review of EERC activities and accomplishments in 2018. The EERC had six coalition meetings with an average attendance of 11 persons, which is an increase compared to the previous year and includes four new agencies that were represented. Presentations were held on the Redmond Link Extension, the North Eastside Mobility Project, the Eastside Rail Corridor, and more. The EERC also hosted two successful Coffee Talks with each 20+ attendees at the Issaquah Senior Center and the Redmond Senior Center. In total, 13 people have completed the Member Satisfaction Survey, out of which ten stated that they are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the activities provided by the EERC over the past 12 months. Members liked most the opportunity to network and collaborate with a variety of stakeholders and projects that address Eastside transportation issues. Other aspects included learning about alternative transportation, sharing and disseminating information, the small group format, clear communication, professionalism of meetings and minutes, and that members feel inspired to action. In the survey, members suggested to act regionally, make the EERC more relevant to all Eastside cities, and understand their differences. The Collaborative should recruit more members from around the Eastside, including cities and their transportations staff. Other suggestions include: More robust agenda topics, action items, frequent and clear communication, monthly meetings, finding funding for more projects, and expanding the definition of “vulnerable populations”/changing terminology to “access and functional needs populations”. As focus areas/topics of interest for 2019 were identified: Sound Transit and other upcoming service changes; upcoming Community Connections projects; advocacy for connection of Eastside communities to fixed-route transit/Access; advocacy for more accessible, convenient, and flexible transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities, low-income individuals, and people experiencing homelessness; easier trips to the food banks and other social service providers; developing channels to get needs assessments from target clients to service providers. During the discussion, the question came up what gaps exist in the representation at the EERC (such as end users from diverse communities). It was highlighted that many people (for instance, older adults) are isolated, and we need to find out effective ways to reach out to these households. One member expressed a lack of clarity regarding the mission of the EERC and suggested identifying a new coalition project based on

the identified needs. Another idea was to reach out to the Department of Health to review what questions are covered in their survey and request to have an appropriate sample size representing older adults to ensure statistical significance.

UPDATE: MOBILITY COFFEE TALK IN KIRKLAND

The next Coffee Talk (focused on “Getting Around Kirkland”) will be held on Wednesday, April 24th, 2pm-4pm at the Peter Kirk Community Center. A Kirkland Senior Center member will co-facilitate the event and SeaMar will provide interpretation into Spanish. The room will be set up with coffee tables for groups of four-five people. The first part of the event will be a structured group conversation about different ways to get around safely without a car and attendees have a chance to ask questions and share their own experiences/tips with the group. During the second part, representatives from different transportation services (such as Transit Instruction, volunteer driver programs, etc.) will be each sitting at one of the tables and attendees are invited to move from one table to the other for individualized assistance and more specific questions. There will also be developed a Transportation Options Handout with an overview of all available transportation services. EERC members will be asked to review this document as well as the event flyer as soon as a draft is available. It was suggested that a press release should be developed that can be used for communication through city channels, Facebook, Next Door, and more. EERC members offered additional support for the event: Printing & promotion (Dave Wagar/Kirkland Senior Council, potentially Hannah Kimball), tasks at the day-of (Christie Stangland, Linad Woodall, David Lynch),

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & NEXT STEPS

At a future meeting, there will be a presentation on the Community Van that will be coming soon to Kirkland.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Anna** – Start process to review the mission and vision of the EERC with members.
- **Anna** – Identify gaps in the representation at the EERC and undertake recruitment efforts.
- **Anna** – continue coordination of Kirkland Coffee Talk and develop flyers/Transportation Options Handout.

NEXT MEETING

March 26th, 2019, 1:00-2:30pm;

Issaquah City Hall (Eagle Room); 130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Janie Fredrickson (King County Mobility Coalition) will present on the Inclusive Planning Grant.

EASTSIDE EASY RIDER COLLABORATIVE CONTACT

Anna Loffing, staff support

(ALoffing@hopelink.org // 425.943.6771)