

MEETING NOTES

November 27th, 2018; Redmond City Hall

Participants: Alaric Bien (City of Redmond), Brittany Krein (Hopelink/SVTC), Curt Warber (King County), David Lynch (Hopelink/RARET), Hannah Kimball (Bellevue Network on Aging), Jean White (King County), Nellie Fishburn (Imagine Housing),

Staff Support: Anna Loffing.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND EASTSIDE MOBILITY UPDATES.

The meeting began at 1:00pm. Attendees provided introductions. Brittany Krein announced that her last day with Hopelink will be on December 11th. Anna Loffing announced that starting on December 22nd, she will reduce her hours as Eastside Mobility Coordinator with Hopelink to 32 hours/week.

On November 29th (9am-4pm), the **Snoqualmie Valley Transportation Coalition** holds its **2nd Annual Workshop** at the Sno-Valley Senior Center.

The Education & Outreach Committee of the King County Mobility Coalition invites to a **Field Trip to visit Metro's [Community Van Program](#)**, a new rideshare pilot program that is expanding to Kirkland: Friday, December 14th, 10am-11am at the Redmond Van Distribution Center (18655 NE Union Hill Road, Redmond). RSVP at <https://metrocv.eventbrite.ca>.

There is now a new Metro on-demand shuttle service available to get to and from the Eastgate Park& Ride – called **Ride2**. Learn more about the service at www.kingcounty.gov/metro/Ride2. A Focus Group to gather feedback will be held on December 13th, 4:30pm at the Lake Hills Library. With questions or to RSVP, contact Aloffing@hopelink.org.

On December 13th and 14th, the **8th Annual Seattle Stand Down** will be hosted at the Georgetown Campus of the South Seattle College. The event provides services to veterans and their families who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Public transportation is free for veterans on these days. Contact Ben at BTibbetts@hopelink.org to receive free bus passes.

Starting January 11th, **WSDOT will close the Alaskan Way Viaduct** to complete work needed to open the SR 99 tunnel three weeks later. Everyone traveling in the region will be impacted. Stay informed, plan ahead, and avoid driving alone in this period whenever possible. Visit www.SeattleTraffic.org and www.KingCounty.gov/getready to learn more.

Hopelink Mobility Management is hiring a **Program Manager, Education & Outreach**. [Click here to see the complete posting and apply.](#)

PRESENTATION: EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR (SEE SLIDES)

CURT WARBER & JEAN WHITE (KING COUNTY)

Curt Warber and Jean White presented on the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC), which in its entirety is a 42-mile rail corridor and was historically a railroad. It was purchased about a decade ago by

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local governments to use as trails. They must preserve the corridor for reactivation as freight rail if needed in the future. Typically, that hasn't happened around the country, but sometimes other types of rail show up here. Today Sound Transit, King County, and the cities of Kirkland, Woodinville, and Redmond all own sections of the trail; PSE also has a power agreement over the whole corridor.

Currently, there are more than 300 miles of trails in King County with more miles opening to the public every year. With the ERC, King County is planning 16.7 miles of new regional trail to connect the Eastside and provide the cities of Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville, and Redmond with new opportunities for non-motorized recreation and transportation. The ERC will be the essential North-South spine to connect the Eastside trails, connect to transit, and provide room for utilities. King County is working on making it accessible for all age and abilities, so the trail can reach its full potential. There will be transit connections all along the trail (to Bus Rapid Transit, Link Light Rail, and more); for instance, at Downtown Redmond, the Wilburton P&R, and the South Kirkland P&R. In partnership with WSDOT, a new bridge will be built over the I-405. All trails will be separated from roads. The goal is to get the complete 26 miles paved - as the Cross Kirkland Corridor is already today where it leads through the Kirkland Google Campus. (However, there is no funding secured yet for paving the complete trail, so it remains unclear by when this can be achieved.)

Next to the paved trail a 6-foot gravel walkway is planned so that pedestrians can feel more at ease and the perception of conflicts with faster bikers will be reduced. The trails have a speed limit of 15 miles per hour and each owner is responsible for a safety plan. In addition, King County is running a trail etiquette campaign. Part of the messaging is to not go too fast as a cyclist and to use the voice when passing. Pedestrians are encouraged to walk on the right, keep pets on a short leash, and prevent kids from meandering in the middle.

Technically, the trails are only open from dusk to dawn, although King County recognizes that this is not how they actually are used. It is planned to provide zoned lighting, that is more lighting at intersections. It is a tough decision to prioritize whether more trails should be built or more lighting provided at trails. Right now, we have 2 miles of paved trail and 11 miles of gravel trail. There are still five major gaps, which include the Wilburton Gap Bridge (scheduled to be completed by 2021), the I-90 Steel Bridge, the Wilburton Trestle, the NE 8th ST Bridge (scheduled to be completed by 2022), and the Totem Lake Corridor. A lot of progress will happen until 2022, when ideally there will be 5 miles paved trail, 14 miles of gravel trail, and only 1-2 major gaps left.

King County is partnering with the Cascade Bicycle Club, Latino Outdoors, and other NGOs to get the word out about the ERC and gather feedback. Jean White is working on a trail-based coalition focusing on changes, policies, education, and awareness regarding the trails in King County. They intend to do more thoughtful, targeted, culturally appropriate outreach and have started translating materials into Spanish. A web-based trail finder is currently being tested in

Spanish. In October, the 2018 Regional Trails Summit was held where attendees discussed the health benefits of trails and how to partner with health and human services organizations. Alaric emphasized Bellevue and Redmond have both about 38-39% foreign born residents and that Chinese is even more spoken than Spanish on the Eastside. To stay informed, sign up for the ERC Trail e-newsletter at www.kingcounty.gov/parks/EastsideRailCorridor.

UPDATE: COFFEE TALK SERIES 2018/19

The EERC had a productive work group meeting on November 6th to determine the timeline of upcoming coffee talks, review the event format, and identify local partners for each location. The next Coffee Talk will be on December 7th, 10am-12pm at the Redmond Senior Center. Special Guest is Ryan Bianchi (Sound Transit) to present on the Redmond Link Extension. After that attendees have the chance to receive a Pedestrian Visibility Kit and chat about alternative ways to get around in the community without driving. Upcoming Coffee Talks are planned for March/April at the Peter Kirk Community Center, May/June at the North Bellevue Community Center, and August in Sammamish (YMCA or Boys and Girls Club). On November 28th, Anna will talk with staff at the Peter Kirk Community Center to determine an event date. She will also connect with ESL classes for older adults to collaborate, as well as with the Kirkland Senior Council and the Transportation Coordinator of the City of Kirkland. The Coffee Talks will create a social, interactive atmosphere. The events in 2019 will follow a two-part model: During the first hour we will have a conversation with the whole group about experiences with finding and using alternative transportation. During the second hour, attendees have the opportunity to connect one-on-one with representatives of transportation providers to see if they qualify and identify next steps. The EERC work group decided to also develop transportation options brochures for each location (“Getting Around Kirkland/Bellevue/Sammamish...”).

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & NEXT STEPS

The **Redmond LOOP** will be discontinued by the end of the year. Stay tuned for updates!

Imagine Housing is constructing a new building with 62 apartments in Bellevue. 50% will be available through Coordinated Entry for All for people transitioning out of homelessness.

The next (abbreviated) meeting of the **Bellevue Network on Aging** is on December 6th. There will be a presentation about the bike lane pilot program of the City of Bellevue.

RARET (the Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation) is a workgroup of emergency managers and transportation providers with the goal of increasing critical transportations services available to older adults, people with disabilities, low income, and other vulnerable populations in the event of a regional emergency. To learn more, contact David at DLynch@hopelink.org.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Anna** – Update the member page on the EERC website.
- **Anna** – Start coordinating Coffee Talk at Peter Kirk Community Center.
- **All EERC members** – Let Anna know in which way you can support the Coffee Talks.

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NEXT MEETING

January 29th, 2018, 1:00-2:30pm; Kirkland City Hall (Peter Kirk Room); 123 5th Ave, Kirkland, WA 98033. Blake Jones (Sound Transit) will present on the Bus Rapid Transit project.

EASTSIDE EASY RIDER COLLABORATIVE CONTACT

Anna Loffing, staff support

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