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## **MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Renton Housing Authority  
2900 NE 10th Street  
Renton, WA 98057

Participants: Alex Ko (Sound Transit), Caitlin Wasley (World Relief Seattle), Daniel Walker (Hopelink), Gina Bellisario (KCHA), Jacque Mann (PSESD), Jon Morrison Winters (Aging and Disability Services), Kailan Tyler-Babkirk (Sound Generations), Lisa Fabatz (Renton Housing Authority), Penny Lara (King County Metro), Sagar Ramachandra (Hopelink), Staci Haber (Hopelink), and Tatiana Alexandrow (DSHS)

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## **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting began at 9:30am. Lisa Fabatz (Renton Housing Authority) provided a brief history of the housing authority as it started in the Boeing era of the 1940s. There are several current initiatives which would expand affordable housing in Renton, including an opportunity to leverage a Community Development Investment (CDI) grant.

The attendees also provided introductions. Staci Haber (Hopelink) announced the grand opening of the Sound Transit Angle Lake station on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Alex Ko (Sound Transit) gave an overview of the HOV Parking Permit, which will give you a guaranteed spot for \$5/mo if you ride with someone to the station and use the light rail. Rideshareonline.com is a good resource for matching riders.

Staci Haber announced the upcoming Getting Around Puget Sound (GAPS) tabling and Public Transit Orientation trips for the month of September. A Travel Ambassador Training is also scheduled through Community Living Connections on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Finally, Alex Ko announced a Sound Transit service change starting on September 10<sup>th</sup> to accommodate a mid-day Sounder run for the South Sounder line. This addition will assist riders who may have alternative work schedules in getting into Seattle.

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## **BRIEFING: AAA PERSPECTIVES ON SENIOR HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION**

Jon Morrison Winters is the South King County liaison for Seattle/King County's AAA, or Area Agency on Aging. Jon's focus is on housing and transportation, but can be used a resource for connecting residents and service providers to Aging and Disability services.

In addition to providing direct service such as case management, one of the primary roles of the AAA is to allocate funding from the *Older Americans Act* for King County. The community has identified priorities over the next four years which can be found in the Area Plan on Aging here:

[http://www.agingkingcounty.org/area\\_plan.htm](http://www.agingkingcounty.org/area_plan.htm). Funding includes nutrition programs, such as ethnic meal sites and congregate meal sites, and transportation services like Sound Generation's Volunteer Transportation program. In order to access the meal sites, Hyde Shuttles, through Sound Generations, will take people to the meal sites. More information can be found here: <http://www.seniorservices.org/transportation/Nutrition.aspx>. In order to receive a ride, the senior will need to call the Hyde Shuttle main phone number and indicate their desire to go to a nutrition site. One attendee pointed out that it's uncommon for their clients to say "nutrition sites" and perhaps there are other words or phrases they can use like *food* or *lunch*.

Jon also pointed out that Seattle ADS does not fund housing directly, but provides contract services in the home. The agency also participates in "higher-level planning" and will be hosting a housing forum on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in partnership with Housing Development Consortium.

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### **DISCUSSION: METRO'S DEMAND AREA RESPONSE TRANSIT (DART)**

Daniel Walker is the General Manager of Hopelink's Direct Operations, which operates the DART (Demand Area Response Transit) program under contract with King County Metro. This service is fixed route with demand area response. This means the service can deviate from the fixed route to pick up riders who are located in flexible zones. In 2015, DART served 921,000 people, with one of the most popular routes including the 914/916 Kent Shopper Shuttle. During the same year, there was 10,000 lift (mobility devices) uses on the vehicles.

This service is not intended to be door-to-door service, as the vehicle may not be able to pick up exactly outside the home. The service can only do one deviation per run, so if you're picked up in the zone, then your destination must be along the fixed route. Some routes are busier than others; Burien route has minimal flexible service area requests. With this service, you can request a pick-up or drop-off up to 30 days in advance. To book, you can call or e-mail, though the e-mail requests are rarely used.

Gina Bellisario (KCHA) asked the easiest way to receive Metro's printed schedules. Dan said King County Metro provides Direct Operations with an allotment after each semi-annual service change. Staci mentioned Hopelink Mobility Management also receives a certain amount and will follow up on a Metro contact on how to request an automatic delivery of printed timetables. Alex Ko is also a resource to mail Sound Transit schedules.

Dan also mentioned he is available for additional outreach on how to use the service if requested. Jon Morrison Winters (King County ADS) admitted there is a lot of confusion between DART and Metro's Access paratransit service. This may be due to the fact that "DART", or Dial-A-Ride Transit, is the Access equivalent in Snohomish County. For the public, it's confusing to have the same name.

Caitlin Wasley (World Relief Seattle) asked if there were opportunities to expand certain DART routes. Dan said he was unaware of any major changes coming up. Caitlin acknowledged that her clients used to live in East Hill but the area has become too expensive and many refugees have relocated to West Valley. This is only one example of how we may plan transit routes for the current population, which may lead to rising housing costs, and then pushes people farther out into areas lacking adequate transportation options.

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## **DISCUSSION: 2016 WORK PLAN**

Staci opened the discussion for the 2016 work plan. The first initiative discussed is the *Support Volunteer Driver Programs*. Staci announced Lauren Link, Hopelink's Mobility Projects Coordinator, is working with Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCSWW) to assist in recruitment of volunteer drivers. The initiative is looking at a pilot project involving Veterans driving Veterans. The idea is to recruit volunteer drivers from the Veteran Student Programs at community colleges in the Puget Sound region, specifically targeting South King County in the initial phase. As of right now, Hopelink is establishing the right contacts, fleshing out the project scope, and setting up meetings. CCSWW is assessing their need from their current call load (based on geographical locations), the calls for service they are unable to fulfill, and putting "feelers" out there about this new program. If anyone has any feedback regarding recruitment of the drivers, thoughts on the program, or any pitfalls they may see, they should contact Lauren at [LLink@hopelink.org](mailto:LLink@hopelink.org).

Staci and Kailan Tyler-Babkirk (Sound Generations) also discussed a grant Sound Generations' recently applied for involving a volunteer driver pilot program targeting immigrant communities. This pilot project, if awarded funding, would allow riders to find volunteers in their own communities and would be able to reimburse their volunteer drivers directly. This project would target immigrant and refugee communities as an opportunity to overcome language and cultural barriers that may be present in the current volunteer driver model.

Kailan also mentioned Sound Generations conducts outreach with American Automobile Association's Driver Program for volunteer recruitment. In the past, Sound Generations has tried to reach out to AARP on their Older Adult Driver Program but does not currently have a contact. Since the North King County Mobility Coalition is also working with driver safety programs to assess the programs' curriculum with respect to incorporating transportation alternatives, Staci will follow up with Kailan to exchange contacts.

The second topic for the work plan was identifying a facility or neighborhood to create a localized travel map similar to EERC's area shelter maps. There was not one facility in South King County identified to serve as the inaugural map, but attendees instead wanted to focus on a specific access need. One example was retail, such as Southcenter, or food retail specifically. After the discussion earlier in the meeting regarding access to nutrition sites, it became clear there is a lack of awareness regarding food access, which includes food banks, congregate meal sites, and major grocery stores. For example, the Renton food bank can be difficult to

access and is only available once a month, but there are larger full service stores nearby. Large grocery stores may also serve as hubs for other important services such as refilling prescriptions and ORCA cards. From this discussion, it became clear the South King County Mobility Coalition would create a *food access* map/brochure, highlighting major food services and transportation options to get there. Next steps will be to follow up with the South King County Food Access Working Group and Seattle-King County Public Health to identify food services in South King County.

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**ACTION ITEMS**

- *Staff* will follow up on the language used to receive transportation to a nutrition site through Hyde Shuttle;
- *Staff* will follow up on a Metro contact to set up recurring delivery of printed timetables to facilities that request them;
- *Staff* will follow up with Kailan (Sound Generations) about Driver Safety Programs' contacts;
- *Jon Morrison Winters* will connect with the South King County Food Access Working Group to gauge interest in partnering on the food access map; and
- *Staff* will schedule a separate meeting/conference call to determine next steps in creating the Food Access Map before the next bimonthly meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

Location TBD

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**SOUTH KING COUNTY MOBILITY COALITION CONTACT**

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