

King County Transit Advisory Commission

March 15, 2022

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Teleconference:

Link to join the meeting via computer: <https://zoom.us/j/87261006083>

Dial in information: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 872 6100 6083

6:00 p.m. Welcome & Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns, if you would like to share
- Access needs
- Check in question – What are you looking forward to this spring?

6:15 p.m. Consent agenda, Announcements, February meeting recap

- Consent agenda
 - Vote: Meeting minutes – February 2022
 - Oskar moves to approve minutes. Lin seconds. Minutes approved.
 - Present:
 - **TAC Members:** Bobby Wooten, Lin Robinson, Aaron Morrow, Jacob Struiksma, Cheryl Harrison, Oskar Abian, David Johnson, Sonja Tracy, Angela Theriault
 - **Metro Staff & presenters:** Lizette Carrasco, Regina Dove, Mitchell Lloyd
- Announcements
 - TAC meetings will continue to be virtual at this time
 - TAC Liaisons will keep commission informed if there are changes related to moving meetings to in-person
 - Recommendations for talking points for the General Manager's update in April?
 - Process for confirming TAC reappointments underway. Sequence of events: reappointments sponsored by your councilmember and referred to King County Council for approval. No further action is needed from the TAC.
 - Lynwood Link feedback survey is also live, link was shared, and members were asked to provide input if they live/work in the project area.
 - Request to have Lynwood Link team present to TAC. TAC liaisons will follow-up and request this.
- February meeting recap, reflection, follow up

- Quarterly update from Metro Access and ADA Transition Plan Committee (ADAPT)
 - Request to have ADAPT report back on their process. TAC liaisons will coordinate with Dion for their next quarterly update
- East Link Connections Project: Engagement Phase 3
 - Members would also like ELC final network proposal to be revisited later this year. TAC liaisons will share this info with the TAC at a future meeting.
- Comments re: driver shortage
 - As workers return to in-person, there is a concern around route frequency and driver shortage, members would like someone to report on strategy for restoration of services. TAC liaisons will include this as a talking point for the GM's update in April.

6:30 p.m. SaFE Reform Update

Presenter: Mitchell Lloyd – Metro SaFE Reform Initiative Lead

Refer to presentation. TAC feedback follows:

- Q: Is there any thought to introducing fare gates to get to Light rail platforms?
 - A: Metro does not have control over light rail facilities. Metro is considering efforts to make it easier to pay, adding more tapping stations on bus, increasing access to resources. Metro wants to incentivize people to access the right fare program for them so that they can pay.
- Q: How is recent media attention related to drug use on buses informing engagement work
 - A: We are working directly with operators and union representation to get to the root of the issue. Creating solutions that are accessible for the operators and are within Metro's capacity. Partnering with social service providers and safety officers to support Metro on issues outside of Metro wheelhouse.
- Q: What is Metro doing around masking on transit and supporting people who can't pay fare.
 - A: There is still a federal mandate requiring masking on public transit until mid-April. Metro is working to connect individuals who can't afford fare to connect to the variety of options that Metro must support with fare payment.
- Q: Comment on fare box recovery requirements
 - A: Federal transit funding often requires for some type of fare enforcement program to qualify for funds. Metro is working to find alternative programs leaning away from traditional policing/punitive systems and develop new approaches in relation to fare enforcement.
- Q: How can Metro work to facilitate physical and mental safety on all levels? Comments on training re: implicit bias.

- A: Responding to incidents of safety: Metro is moving forward with recommendations to increase safety and fare/ORCA resources at local transit centers.
- Q: What are the types of resources Metro is piloting, rolling out to address safety/affordability issues.
 - A: Metro is looking to roll out reduced ORCA card fare, increased route information/transit resources, as well as social service connections to connect folks with social services. Our stance is to ensure the safety of Metro's customers, if there is an immediate threat people can still access safety/police resources.
- Q: Where are the funds coming from to sustain these resources?
 - A: Metro has received federal funding via COVID Relief and other federal grants, currently in the process for biennial budget and looking to see how we can leverage or combine our work with other teams. Also looking into partnership and funding through DCHS and other social services to support with aspects of these proposals.
- Q: Comment: Concern around safety especially at bus stops in the downtown area, whether that's related to unsafe behavior at stops, or operators unable to properly board and deboard folks with access needs. Lighting has also been an issue and better lighting could be a solution to some of these issues.
 - A: Comments will be passed along to operator and safety teams. Metro has been in conversation with the City of Seattle
- Future topic: Mitchell and SaFE reform team to reconnect with TAC in near future to revisit commission's role in continued development of policy on this subject.

7:10 p.m. TAC Re-visioning Update

Presenter: Lizette Carrasco – Metro Community Engagement, TAC staff liaison

Verbal presentation. TAC feedback follows:

- Any comments/general feedback on summary of last re-visioning session?
 - If we are talking about regional system, we should highlight our role in supporting the big picture impacting all systems.
 - Emphasis that Metro teams engage earlier with TAC and elevate our voices in the work they do.
 - Overall pleased with work. One concern: what is the plan moving forward, how will our feedback on all these projects be integrated into the work?
 - We still need to balance pace. Wonder if we have slowed down too much. There are a lot of priorities, and we need more project visibility.
 - Members would like to have big picture of projects going on at Metro to understand where we can provide more input and being advocates for.
- Comments on proposal of recommended actions to take:
 - Would be nice to see recognition and acknowledgment of our volunteered time. Perhaps seeing folks in the higher up leadership position at Metro (and County

Council) to show gratitude for our work. To acknowledge our contributions and have some recognition.

- Public acknowledgment, promotion, communications to encourage people to see the work we do. Can also help us recruit new members.
- Equity Cabinet recently had profiles done of them to highlight individuals and promoting their work.
- Lizette sought input of approval of recommended changes for membership requirements
 - Consensus in support of keeping rule that 50% of members meet disability/age requirements.
 - Chair noted not in favor of requirement but acknowledges that consensus takes precedence.
- Should we extend co/vice chair positions from quarterly to 6 months/1 year?
 - A: Lin, Angela, Bobby in support of increasing chair positions to 6 months.

7:55 p.m. Good of the order

8:00 p.m. Adjourn