

King County Transit Advisory Commission

May 18, 2021

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Teleconference:

Here is the link to join the meeting via computer: <https://zoom.us/j/99560291505>

Here is dial in information: 1 (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 995 6029 1505

Attendance:

TAC: Cheryl Harrison, Sonja Tracy, Bobby Wooten, David Johnson, Angela Therault, Kevin Pelstring, Peter Rubin, Mina Barahimi Martin, Oskar Abian

Metro/external: Terry White, Michelle Huynh, Shelby Cramer, Stephanie Pure

6:00 p.m. Welcome, Consent Agenda, and Announcements

- Consent agenda
 - Meeting minutes – April 2021
 - Pete: move to approve minutes, Cheryl second.
 - Voted to approve.
- Chair Report
- Announcements
 - Need volunteers for new chair and vice chair

6:10 p.m. General Manager update

Terry White, Metro Transit General Manager

- Groundbreaking for RR H-Line.
 - Route 120 is in the top 6 routes in the system. Conversation to RapidRide.
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- County Council
 - Passed North Link service change package. 8-1 vote
 - One of the largest service changes in Metro history
 - Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP)
 - 5 year blue print for County climate, adopted.
 - Safety, Security, and Fare Enforcement initiative, scope approved.
- Q: Status of R Line?
 - Terry: Restructure of the RapidRide program. The pandemic prompted a re-analysis of financial structure.
 - Short term funds from the FTA, we need to ensure we can sustain the system we have until we can go out for a regional vote.

- We know the RR lines make a difference, but we need to work towards the RR expansion while also maintaining the current system.
- Q: R line – are you going to adjust what the R line is going to look like? What is the plan?
 - Terry: No changes re: how R line is structured. More about funding and timing.
 - While we are on pause, we have committed to reporting back to community by having updates twice a year regardless of the pause.
 - We would go out again once we restart because it's possible that the feedback we received when we were conducting engagement is outdated or different when we do restart.
- Q: North Link. Restructure when the University District station and Capital Hill station opened. What were the differences between the two engagement efforts? (North Link versus University District.) The University District seems less coordinated.
 - Terry: As an agency, we are learning and growing and improving.
 - May some logistical issues that were at play with University District restructure.
 - Some differences have to do with the number of jurisdictions involved in each process.
 - A big difference is the involvement of the Mobility/Sounding Board.
 - Shelby will connect with DeAnna Martin to identify the engagement differences and follow up with TAC.
- Policy updates – what we would like to see from TAC as these move through RPT and Council.
 - Policy updates help us align w/ Exec's view that everyone should have an opportunity to thrive. There are some populations more vulnerable than others. They should shape how Metro moves forward.
 - Community-oriented growth must be part of the process. TAC should participate in advocacy and engagement related to policy updates.
- Q: any routes going to be deleted with service restoration?
 - Waiting on more data about demand and ridership to understand better what will be a permanent change.

6:40 p.m.

Government Relations, continued

Presenter: Stephanie Pure, Intergovernmental Relations

- *Refer to Council Process Overview document*
- Document needs updates re: vice chairs

- Q: Is there a way for folks w/o internet access to participate in public comment while it is hosted virtually?
 - A: People can submit public comment over the phone as well. Meetings are also streamed on TV. People can also listen in on the radio. Some times meetings do not accept live public comment but will take comment in writing.
 - Clerk of the Council webpage that lists meeting calendar: <https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/Calendar.aspx>
 - Follow up Q: Is there a process for anyone to pass this information on so that the accessibility of meetings can be improved?
 - A: Perfect opportunity for the TAC to advocate for accessibility improvements. Stephanie can pass along information/recommendations from the TAC to Council. If TAC can put something together, Stephanie can pass it along.
 - How do unhoused people or people without phones get involved? Are there agencies or orgs that share ways to be civically involved?
 - A: Other option is to connect with human service agency. E.g. Transportation Choices Coalition.
- The TAC is a King County Commission. If there are concerns at the County level, this commission can bring it up. The TAC advises on transit issues for the whole County.
- Comment: FYI – the **TTY is out of date**, out of service and no longer used. Thinking about deaf and deaf-blind people involved in public comment, it would be great to hire an ASL interpreter to translate (perhaps in a bubble) it's really follow all the text. It's hard to read because it goes by quickly.
- Q: How do I know when it's time for public comment? How does the community get connected and how can they be informed?
 - A: You can only provide public comment on an agenda item. General comments should be sent via email/mail.
 - A: how to get connected – connect with an org that cares what you care about. Being on TAC allows you a little more access/information about how and when to provide public comment.
 - If there are things on the site outlined in text, can they be made into ASL video clips? Translations by deaf-savvy interpreter and make video clips would make it much more accessible to people.
 - Metro does not have jurisdiction over legislative branch.
- Q: Work hours can prevent public comment participation. What options are there for in-meeting comment?
 - Never hurts to write directly to council members

- Connect with non-profit group who staffs a lobbyist who attends these meetings
- There is a committee specific email, so you can write a public comment to that committee email before 10am the day of the meeting, and it will be included in the public record of the meeting.

[no TAC action required]

7:10 p.m. Finalize TAC priorities

Presenter: Shelby Cramer, Community Engagement Planner

- Review results of survey
 - RR (4th)
 - Service restoration (Tie 1st)
 - SaFE Reform (3rd)
 - Equity and accessibility (Tie 1st)
- Discuss and confirm priorities
- Want to look at service restoration through an equity and accessibility lens
 - Does that exclude people who take the bus to work but have other choices like driving
 - Safety also has to be part of the equity and accessibility conversation
 - Can have ripple effects when we make things equitable
- Service restoration team to come every month

[TAC action: come to consensus on work plan priorities]

7:50 p.m. Good of the order

- Any updates/plan on mask guidance in response to new CDC mask recommendations?
 - Masks are still required on all Metro services. No updates for now.

7:57 p.m. Adjourn