

**King County Metro Long Range Plan  
Community Advisory Group**

October 15, 2015 6-8PM  
*King Street Center  
Room 3D-3E  
201 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, WA*

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**King County Staff**

Tristan Cook, Briana Lovell

**Consultant Staff**

Alicia McIntire/Parametrix, Jeanne Acutanza/Transpo Group, Sophie Mecham/Transpo Group

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Discuss the technology and innovation chapter of the plan and facilitate discussion for input
- Discuss aspects of the plan related to integrating with other transit modes and providers and facilitate discussion for input
- Review results of ESJ Roundtable
- Discuss revised schedule for joint CAG/TAC meeting in December

**Agenda**

**6:00 – 6:05 p.m. Review agenda (Tristan)**

**6:05 – 6:20 p.m. Outreach update (Tristan)**

- Outcomes of ESJ Roundtable
  - We sought their input on the Long Range Plan
  - Held a roundtable discussion with many ESJ groups in September at the One America offices in the International District
  - Over 60 organization representatives were invited
  - We asked for feedback on accessibility, fare payment, technology, etc.
  - We asked about how we can best reach out to their populations
- Next steps
  - Please let us know if you think of other groups we should be reaching out to
- **Question (Dianne):** Are churches on your list? They draw on diverse communities. Ex. St. Louise Church in Bellevue has Hispanic, Indian, and Polish communities.
- **Question (Arthur):** What was the attendance?
- **Answer (Tristan):** 5-6 people attended due to school strikes. We received other recommendations/feedback via email from some of those who were unable to attend.
- **Question (Betsi):** Were unions involved? What about shift workers, hotel workers, restaurant workers, etc.?
- **Answer (Tristan):** We haven't done union-specific outreach yet.
- **Comment (Winfield):** The 340 bus connects Bellevue with Shoreline and runs very infrequently.
- **Comment (Brian):** The City of Kent has lots of churches that draw from many different cultural communities. It seems many of their members walk to church, so they might have interesting perspectives on transit.
- **Comment (Betsi):** My dad volunteers with St. Vincent DePaul in Bellevue and they give out Orca cards.
- **Comment (Mallory):** I suggest reaching out to Boys & Girls Clubs.
- **Question (Sonja):** Did you reach out to large employers about getting feedback from their employees?
- **Answer (Tristan):** We haven't done employer outreach yet, but will want to once we have the draft plan ready.
- **Comment (Celeste):** Make sure to have ample lead time to allow for the hoops you have to jump through to do outreach through large employers.
- **Comment (Brian):** If you develop a more concise, printed survey, I would be happy to share it with friends/neighbors/groups I'm involved with.

**6:20-6:55 p.m. Technology and Innovation in the Long Range Plan (Brianna)**

- How can different applications of technology help achieve our goals?
- (1) Bus/customer interface
  - How do you get info about schedule? How do you pay your fare? How do you board the bus? (All of the ways you interact with the transit system)
- (2) On-board features
- (3) Corridors
  - Where the service is operating on the street – bus-only lanes, TSP, etc.
  - Charging stations in the street for electric buses
- (4) Service

- Do we provide a fixed-route? Do we provide flexible routing? Carpooling and vanpool options.
  - We are piloting some of these things already, whereas others are more long-term.
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- **Comment (Dianne):** I went to West Seattle and I love the shuttle that they have there. I wish they had shuttles in other places that would take you to transit hubs.
  - **Comment (Arthur):** I heard that Metro is already looking into driverless bus technology.
  - **Response (Briana):** It seems very probable. It's not yet on the market so we can't procure it, but we should try to plan for it.
  - **Comment (Alicia):** What do you want future technologies to DO for you? The idea of the plan is to focus less on what the technology is, and more on what we want it to do for us. How can Metro enhance the experience for customers?
  - **Comment (Dianne):** Why not put solar panels on buses?
  - **Comment (Celeste):** To me, the appeal of driverless vehicles is the safety benefit. Currently, drivers wear many hats – customer service, security, driver, etc. Let's have a staff person on the bus who can focus on rider needs.
  - **Question (Brian):** Has Metro thought about doing an Uber-type thing? Also, how about a loop run in some areas where it is feasible (continuous, improve frequency)?
  - **Comment (Mallory):** What about grade-separated roadways? What about having buttons at bus stops that notify the bus when you want it to pull over for you? (real-time management)
  - **Comment (Betsi):** Dedicated bus lanes are important. Bus travel times are unreliable, they may skip you if they are full, travel time is impacted by too much traffic. If the bus can be in it's own lane, more people would ride because they would see a benefit in the quick travel time (skip the traffic).
  - **Response (Briana):** WSDOT is starting a pilot project for using the road shoulders for bus/HOV travel.
  - **Comment (Betsi):** I think rather than having a train (ST) run across Lake Washington into Bellevue, there should be dedicated bus lanes that can also be utilized by vanpool, carpool, shuttles, etc.
  - **Comment (Winfield):** If I were a driver, and I saw buses whizzing by me in the bus-only lane, I would be encouraged to ride the bus.
  - **Comment (Jill):** In Boston, they turn side lanes into additional lanes during peak hours. Also, I like the concept of express buses that go to a couple hubs or key destinations. People want to know it is point-to-point.
  - **Comment (Arthur):** Bus-passenger interface – it would be great if you had a phone app where you could see travel time, seat availability, and other useful information ahead of time (similar to airline apps).
  - **Comment (Brian):** Have they thought about extending the busway (guideway)? Get more dedicated lanes off of the major routes (parallel bus guideways).
  - **Comment (Betsi):** It would be great to have bus lanes parallel to ST lines.
  - **Comment (Mallory):** Use Uber to get to transit hubs or park-and-rides – I'm a transit rider but I also use Uber when I am traveling at times where there isn't service or bus service is inconvenient.
  - **Comment (Sonja):** I can see the value of express buses, but I have been a transit rider for a long time and don't think it is always a good idea to get rid of lesser used bus stops. Sometimes this makes people have to travel further to access transit.
  - **Comment (Celeste):** I have a small child and I would love to see an innovation where car-share, bike-share, etc. have special equipment for child riders (car seat, bike seat, etc.).
  - **Comment (Dianne):** Security/safety/crime – enhanced safety for the rider.

- **Comment (Brian):** Transit hubs/transit centers – They don't seem to be large enough or efficient enough to serve today's demand.
- **Comment (Mallory):** Lots of these other services (private carriers) use HOV lanes, bus stops, etc. and I don't think they should always be given this valuable curb space. We should designate and enforce space for public transit.
- **Comment (Dangalei):** I use apps a lot, and like the idea of gameifying transit.
- **Response (Jeanne):** Children's Hospital has games that encourages certain transportation behaviors.

**6:55 – 7:30 p.m. Integrating with other modes (Alicia)**

- Review of Metro and Sound Transit coordination timeline
- How Metro provides all of the service that Link doesn't (takes you to places Link does not go)
- **Comment (Jeanne):** Right now, Sound Transit's rail service only touches 8% of the population (people in their walk shed). Sound Transit has a more specific mandate from the state about what service they provide.
- **Comment (Jeff):** Have you determined which routes need to be changed yet? How long ago did that process start?
- **Reply (Tristan):** The public outreach process started about a year ago.
- **Comment (Alicia):** We're trying to build a strong network that is fast and convenient, and are working with Sound Transit on a joint vision in order to achieve this goal.
- **Comment (Winfield):** As a senior Orca card user, it is important for me to travel without using an additional fare method. (Let's encourage a common fare structure)
- **Comment (Alicia):** The City of Seattle has their own transit master plan and works closely with Metro and is involved in the Technical Advisory Committee. Also, ST2 is supposed to be built out entirely by 2023 (though it will be completed in stages).
- **Comment (Sonja):** What happens with ST3 will significantly impact Metro's LRP – How important is Metro's data to Sound Transit? Who leads the way?
- **Response (Alicia):** It is a very iterative process; one agency isn't necessarily leading this process. The reality is that the agencies are talking to each other constantly.
- **Comment (Arthur):** Is SDOT a sticking point, since their streetcar is behind and not providing some of the necessary links? Should SDOT be in the transit planning business at all?
- **Response (Alicia):** That's a valid point, but SDOT is still an involved jurisdiction, and it's better for jurisdictions to be involved and aware so that they can make improvements like TSP, paint bus lanes, etc.

**7:30 – 7:45 p.m. Review CAG work plan and planning timeline for the Long Range Plan (Tristan)**

- **Comment (Tristan):** We weren't too far off when we initially developed our work plan, but we have made some updates including planning for a joint meeting with the TAC.
  - o We are looking at re-scheduling our December meeting to 12/3
  - o We will review the preliminary plan in February
  - o May meeting – tentative
- **Question (Arthur):** How large will the joint meeting be?

- **Answer (Tristan):** About double the size; we will meet in a larger room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. We will break up into south, northeast, and northwest sub-groups and you'll be matched with representatives from your area.
- **Comment (Alicia):** It will be a good opportunity for you to talk with these jurisdictional staff members about many of the topics we've discussed. They'll have a good idea of what your jurisdiction has in mind for the future.

7:45 – 8:00 p.m. Discuss upcoming joint meeting with the Long Range Plan [Technical Advisory Committee](#)

**Next CAG meeting December 3** (joint meeting with Technical Advisory Committee)