# TAB Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, February 22, 2023

### **Board Members in Attendance**

Ashwin Bhumbla Art Kuniyuki McKenna Lux Michelle Zeidman Reese McMichael Chris Miller Josh Hirschland Christiano Martinez Sandro Pani **SDOT** Cliff Mountjoy-Venning Matt Yarrow Jen Malley-Crawford

#### Introductions

#### **Public Comment, Approval of Previous Minutes**

• Ashwin moves to approve the minutes, Chris seconds

## Seattle Transit Measure Q1 2023 Update by Matt Yarrow (SDOT)

- Matt Yarrow is new STM Program Manager
- STM Overview
  - Passed in 2020, six-year measure to fund improved transit service.
  - Replaces STBD (Seattle Transp Benefit District Proposition 1) which was in place between 2014 and 2020
  - Raises ~\$50m/yr on average
  - Primarily used to purchase additional bus trips on existing King County Metro routes
- STM O&M vs Capital
  - Operations & Maintenance
    - All STM service investments (>50% total investment)
    - All TAP programming
    - Emerging Needs
    - STM Planning and Management
  - STM Capital
    - Spot improvements
      - Mainly at bus stops
      - Spot improvements also receive funding from other sources such as the Move Seattle levy
    - Covid Recovery lanes
- 2023 O&M Programming TAP
  - SHA Program

- TAP partnered w/ SHA to distribute free Orca cards to 10k residents in affordable housing
- Seattle Promise Scholars
  - Free tuition for graduates of Seattle Public Schools to Seattle College.
    Free orca cards to 1100 students
- Recovery Card Program
  - Started during pandemic, offers free Orca cards to Seattle workers and small businesses. Mainly food service and grocery store workers
  - Currently under program evaluation
  - Scheduled to sunset 8/31/23
- Senior RRFP Program
  - Helps enroll Seattle area seniors in the Regional Reduced Fare Permit program. Program also helps participants learn how to use their cards and navigate the transit system
- Youth ambassadors program
  - Works w/ non-profits to engage youth in transit.
- Research Economic Opportunities
  - Partnering w/ Notre Dame for studies on fully subsidized transit passes and how they impact employment outcomes for job seekers
- Research Safety
  - Investigate rider safety on multiple modes of transportation and evaluate safety of transit infra.
  - Identify specific factors that can make people feel unsafe on transit
- Emerging Needs
  - 2022 West Seattle Bridge
    - Service Investments
    - Flip Your Trip TDM program for West Seattle trips
      - West Seattle travelers get \$25 for transit
  - 2023 Transit Customer Experience Planning
    - Consultant led deep-dive ongoing to define current transit user experience and identify areas of improvements
- Service investments
  - Current
    - 137k annual hours
      - Down from STBD as there have been service cuts and budget is lower
    - SDOT working w/ Metro to add 12.5k annual hours starting in Spring 2023
    - Spring Service Change starts March 18
  - Frequent Transit Network
    - Very Frequent 10 minutes
    - Frequent 15 minutes
    - Local 30 minutes
    - Going to be updated as part of STP
- Prioritization Process Overview

- Identify gaps in FTN
- Rank gaps based on
  - Prioritizing equity priority populations
  - Prioritizing times of day w/ high rates of non-adult fare use
  - Prioritizing minimum standard of 30-min service, then 15-min, then 10min
- Spring Service Investments
  - Done w/o adding drivers, done by tweaking other factors.
  - Total of 12.5k hours added
- Via to Transit
  - Originally launched in 2019 in 4 different areas, primarily south Seattle
  - Metro able to cover cost for 2 of original 4, Columbia City and Mt Baker areas were cut. Othello and Rainier Beach remain.
  - STM exploring funding additional flex service pilots.
  - Being rebranded to Metro Flex
- Working on Annual Report
- Bridge Proviso Analysis continues
  - Jen Malley-Crawford here to provide an update
  - Anticipated having more of an update but SDOT is still working on their approach
  - Notes that they will adhere to the STM rule that 50% of funding has to go towards funding transit service.
- Questions
  - Art asks which agencies are involved in the consumer experience studies
  - Michelle asks if infra will still be around 6% of the budget in 2023 considering the bridge project
    - Too early to tell
  - Chris asks if 15% is still going into TAP considering youth fare is covered.
    - Matt says he doesn't have exact numbers but youth fare does free up money for TAP and SHA project does take some.
  - $\circ~$  Art asks if an SHA Orca card is equal to business passport
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  - Michelle asks whether any of the recently cut runs due to operator shortage has happened to STM funded routes
    - General response is that SDOT doesn't have control over which runs are cut, that's on King County Metro
  - Sandro asks if STM funding could be used towards recruiting more operators
    - Essentially no but KCM and SDOT are working on it w/ KCM having most of the purview here.
  - Michelle asks about FTN rethinking as part of STP
    - Can't say too much right now but looking to have more high frequency on weekends as well.

## **Board Business**

- Discussing subcommittee formed to address Councilmember Pederson's amendment in the city budget to reserve \$12 million of STM funds for bridge related projects
- Josh brings up contract of Amalgamated Transit Union is up for renewal and it could be interesting to hear what their main concerns are going forward.
  - Cliff notes that all positions are union positions though employees are not required to be union members
- Chris reporting back from Levy Oversight Committee meeting
  - Bicycle safety
    - Goal of levy was to have 110 miles of bike lanes installed by end of 2023.
      Protected lanes, trails, neighborhood greenways
    - Now projected to build 97 110 miles of lanes.
      - Expanded to include non protected bike lanes.
  - Bike parking and bike spot improvements
    - Goal met here. 1500 bike parking spots
  - Tour w/ Greg Spotts planning
    - No updates on our end
    - Update from SDOT
      - Visits are usually done in the morning during the week.
      - If you include the time Greg has to travel, visits are around 90 minutes
- STP Transit Network Map
  - Art notes biking gets much more engagement than transit
- Major Items
  - SDOT received \$25 million Safe Streets grant
    - Will be going towards Vision Zero improvements in SODO and Rainier Valley mainly
    - Sidewalks, crosswalks, general spot improvements.
  - Pike/Pine Renaissance Project has started
    - Part of waterfront project
    - Add sidewalk space and bike lanes
    - Streets will be made one way all the way up past the highway
    - 11 and 49 buses will have small reroutes
  - This is Cliff's last day with SDOT
  - Josh asks about the Vision Zero review
    - Greg Spotts will be presenting on that during the joint pedestrian/bike advisory board which will be in the next couple weeks
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