

Minutes for 9/28 Meeting Transit Advisory Board Meeting

Attendees

Board Members

- Ashwin Bhumbala
- Josh Hirschland
- Art Kuniyuki
- Christiano Martinez
- McKenna Lux
- Chris Miller
- Reese McMichael (not yet officially confirmed)
- Sandro Pani
- Erin Tighe
- Michelle Zeidman (Virtual)

Presenters and Staff

- Natalie Westberg, Transportation Planner, King County Metro
- Candida Lorenzana, Director, Transit and Mobility Division, City of Seattle
- Cliff Mountjoy-Venning, SDOT Staff Liaison to the Transit Advisory Board
- Greg Spotts, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation

Members of the Public

- Michael Joseph
 - Jon Morgan
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Action Items

- Cliff to send link to repository of TAB official positions, statements, and letters to members
 - Cliff to send bylaws to members
 - Cliff to send recent presentations to members
 - Cliff to check on why the Seattle Transit Measure website still refers to the Seattle Transportation Benefit District
 - TAB to work with Candida Lorenzana to find an opportunity to ride transit with Director Spotts
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Motions

Josh Hirschland moves to approve minutes from August; Erin Tighe seconds; motion unanimously approved

Presentation: Transit Planning 101 (Natalie Westberg)

Overview of four key concepts in service planning

- Frequency: How often transit operates
- Span: Duration of service
- Peak: Hours with increased service to meet increased demand (in King County, 6-9 AM and 3-7 PM)
- Service Hour: The amount of time a bus is in service from Base to Base. Foundational metric for cost

Overview of Regular Service Changes

- Metro makes service area twice per year; fall and spring
- Inputs to service change
 - Policies
 - Metro Service Guidelines
 - Annual System Evaluation
 - Priority Investment types
 - Crowding—highest priority
 - Reliability
 - Service Growth
 - Data
 - User feedback
 - Operator Availability
 - Funding Availability
 - Capital Considerations

Overview of Metro Mobility projects

- Irregular, generally around major projects

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- 52 • Usually take about two years of planning across phases
- 53 ○ Phase 1: Needs Assessment
- 54 ○ Phase 2: Service Concepts
- 55 ○ Phase 3: Service Proposal
- 56 ○ Final Review by King County Council
- 57 • Factors to consider in Mobility Projects
- 58 ○ Equity
- 59 ○ Community engagement feedback
- 60 ○ Service design best practices / design guidelines

Transit Advisory Board 101 (Cliff Mountjoy-Venning)

Structure

- 63 • 12 members, most are two-year terms
- 64 • Board leadership positions
 - 65 ○ Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary
 - 66 ○ Can be multiple co-officers for each position
 - 67 ○ Voted on by the TAB; next election will be at the October TAB meeting
- 68 • Supported by a liaison from Seattle Department of Transportation, currently Cliff Mountjoy-Venning
- 69 • Meetings are open to the public; generally one hour, once per month

Jurisdiction

- 72 • Purpose: Advise city on transit issues.
- 73 • One specific responsibility: Provide oversight regarding the Seattle Transit Measure
- 74 • Other upcoming issues that may be of interest to the Board
 - 75 ○ Seattle Transportation Plan
 - 76 ▪ Successor to the uni-modal plans (e.g. bicycle master plan, freight master plan) that were previously in
 - 77 place
 - 78 ▪ Currently in phase two of Community Outreach; target publication date is 2023
 - 79 ○ Mayor's proposed budget

Conversation with SDOT Director Greg Spotts

Background

- 82 • Nominated as SDOT director position by Mayor Harrell
- 83 • Since the last TAB meeting, was approved by the City Council

Intro

- 85 • Comes from Los Angeles; was exec director of streets LA
- 86 • Transit rider; plans to spend first several months in Seattle without a personal car
- 87 • Drawn to this opportunity by unified structure; less fracturing than he saw in LA
- 88 • Doing a listening tour
- 89 • Priorities for the role
 - 90 ○ Co-create projects with underserved communities. "The days of planners drawing lines and telling people what
 - 91 they get are over."
 - 92 ○ Make Seattle "more walkable, bikeable, and greener"
 - 93 ○ First initiative: Review of Vision Zero efforts

Q&A

- 95 Q: What has been an unexpected comment you heard or experience you had with transit in the last 16 days?-- Reese McMichael
- 96 A: *I heard loud and clear that there's a desire for more safety; why I asked for a vision zero overview. Specific concerns around Aurora*
- 97 *and Rainier.*
- 98 Q: Are there particular areas that are high on your list, and where on that list is the First Avenue streetcar?-- McKenna Lux
- 99 A: *On streetcar: There is a funded study in the 2023 budget. Given the context of a downtown that hasn't rebounded to pre-pandemic*
- 100 *crowds and high work-from-home rates in Seattle, initial belief that this project could support much-needed vitality downtown.*
- 101 *On other topics: We need investment in North Seattle (e.g. new sidewalks, pedestrian safety along Aurora) and South Seattle*
- 102 *(concern around high concentration of pedestrian deaths).*
- 103 Q: Lessons that Seattle could learn from LA and Southern California?-- Chris Miller

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104 A: *One example: Embracing low- and no-emissions vehicles in municipal transportation fleet.*

105 Q: Are you thinking about any actions you might take through administrative rules?—Erin Tighe

106 A: *Looking at enforcement around parking regulations; notes an example where a resident has marked off a “parking space” on*
107 *public right of way and is charging fees for it.*

108 Q: How do you think about working better with Seattle City Light?--Sandro Pani

109 A: *In LA, became “a very skilled administrator”; has experience forging relationships across departments. “I want to build mutually*
110 *supportive partnerships both with the city and the county.”*

111 Updates

- 112 • On Sept 27, West Seattle Bridge reopened, allowing buses to resume previous routes
- 113 • Fall service changes went into effect
 - 114 ○ Primary changes were related to lack of driver resources
 - 115 ○ Service Changes maintained existing service *levels*, though frequency has decreased on some routes.
- 116 • On Sept 27, draft budget went to the council for review
 - 117 ○ Of note: there is a proposed increase in the capital spending cap from \$3m to \$6M. SDOT is working on a plan for
 - 118 what to do with that increase
- 119 • Seattle Transportation Plan is holding workshops to solicit public feedback
- 120 • Cliff will be moving from to Minnesota; will continue in role as liaison to TAB until the position can be back-filled