

Statewide Public Transportation Plan Council Meeting

June 27, 2013

9:30 – 12 noon

WSDOT Commission Board Room

Attendance: Renee Biles Martha Rose, Kelly Scalf Rosemary Siipola, Dennis Bloom, Mayor Bruce Tabb (On Phone) Geri Beardsley, Gil Cerise, Karen Parkhurst, Lynn Moody, Rod Thornton.

Guests: Stephen Abernathy, Paul Parker, Brian Lagerberg, Keri Woehler

Excused Absence: E. Susan Meyer, Elaine Wells

Staff: Cathy Silins, Robin Hartsell, Stephanie Postier

Cathy Silins began the meeting with a Safety Orientation, and then the individual Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Old Business

1. **Meeting Notes:** Cathy will correct the date on the first meeting of the SPTP Council.
2. **SPTP Goals/RCWs:** Robin went through the presentation outlining the RCW requirements and the Draft Goal for Developing the Plan and the Draft Goal for the Plan. The Council made several suggestions for the re-drafting of the goal that included:
 - a) Replace the reference to MAP-21 with “federal”
 - b) Consider how the plan will be used as an advocacy tool
 - c) Look at the Governor’s goals and incorporate some of those issues (community, economic vitality)
 - d) Incorporate multimodal, sustainable and land use
 - e) Make the goal robust, future focused
 - f) The plan should demonstrate the critical role that public transportation plays in a healthy, sustainable community
 - g) State Role/Interest/Investment
 - h) Better service for existing riders; convey importance of public transportation benefits
 - i) More state support; additional policies that support public transportation

New Business

3. **Roles and Responsibilities of the Groups supporting the SPTP (Handout)**

It was recommended that WSDOT consider inviting the following other state agencies to participate in the plan: Department of Commerce – Economic Development focus; Department of Commerce – Energy Program focus; Employment Security – Workforce Development (Tom O’Brian); Recreation and Conservation Office; Veterans Affairs; and Department of Health.

4. **Guiding Principles (Handout)**

This document stimulated significant discussion. A synopsis of the comments includes:

- a) We need to focus on integration; not just public transportation but the transportation system
- b) The current guiding principles seem to focus on the current status – it would be preferable if it was future focused.
- c) Try to make statements that are positive rather than negative.
- d) Include an additional issue – the role of public transportation in emergency preparedness, emergency response, disaster recovery
- e) Historically the performance measures of public transportation included the number of trips – but shouldn’t the state plan consider the benefit to the community that is provided by public transportation? The triple bottom line: Environment, Economy and Community
- f) Would prefer 3 or 4 strong statements rather than a page of words
- g) It would be interesting to look at reports and studies that calculate the value of transit, the cost of no transit. Rosemary shared an article regarding the land values around transit. (Attached)

- h) It is important to represent the current situation accurately. Not only are transit agencies delaying the replacement of equipment, in the past six years they have reduced their services.
- i) There should be a connection between the guiding principles and the areas that are measured.
- j) Look at benefits – not impacts.
- k) Include freight & goods, not just people.
- l) Keep things simple.
- m) There was a suggestion on displaying past/current/future as a way to communicate information.

Robin will work on shaping the guiding principles/objectives based on the comments received.

5. Topic Teams

Cathy explained that with the wide diversity of organizations in the SPTP Council and Working Group, it might be more efficient if we formed Topic Teams to have a more thorough discussion on specific topics, and then have these teams report back to the larger groups. The Council was asked if they could identify some issues that could be assigned to a Topic Team. (List Attached)

6. Demographics

The Statewide Human Service Plan included a series of maps which showed by county the number of individuals and the percentage of the county population qualify for 1) Disability Status, 2) Population Older than 65, 3) No Access to Vehicle, 4) Poverty Status, 5) Unemployed, 6) Veterans, and 7) Linguistically Isolated.

Several members of the Council pointed out concerns with the maps.

- The total number within a county and the percentages of people in the county with that characteristic are confusing on some of the maps
- If a family owns several vehicles and none of them work are they still counted as having access to a vehicle?
- Is Linguistically Isolated the same as Limited English Proficiency?

Robin and Cathy will look into these issues and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

7. Meeting Schedule

Stephanie shared the meeting schedule for the Council and the Technical Work Group (WG#1) with the group. Sound Transit has provided a meeting space. Some members of the Council indicated that they would be participating by phone/GOTO meeting since morning meetings in Seattle was not convenient. Stephanie explained the forms that need to be submitted to have travel reimbursed. If anyone has any questions, please let Stephanie know.

8. Next Steps

- Robin will be re-drafting goals and guiding principles. He will send those out by email.
- Cathy and Stephanie will work on getting the web site available. Reference materials, working papers and status reports on the plan will be posted. Members of the Council and the working groups will be notified when the web site is available
- The Council will be presented statewide demographics at a future meeting.
- The next meeting of the SPTP Council will be Tuesday, July 30th at Sound Transit from 9:00am-12 noon.

Quote of the day:

“Transit matters. If 30 percent or more workers in a location commute by rail transit, the risk of default [on a home loan] is reduced by 58.4 percent.”

From *The Atlantic Cities* June 27, 2013, “Homes Near Public Transit Less Likely to Go Into Default”