2027-2029 Consolidated Grants Program

Proposed Project: Enhancing Mobility through Travel Training in King County for People Who Are Blind or DeafBlind Project

Presenter:

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The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

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Our Mission

We empower people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities through sustainable employment and transformative services for independence and career advancement.

Photo: Chris Loomis (left), a Lighthouse production worker who is DeafBlind, learns orientation and mobility skills with David Miller (right), Senior Orientation and Mobility Specialist, in Seattle.



Service Characteristics

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.’s project will empower individuals with disabilities with Orientation and Mobility skills, resources, and information to travel safely and independently in King County.

Through the project, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists will deliver continuing Orientation and Mobility services at existing levels through specialized travel training sessions that prepare Lighthouse employees who are blind or DeafBlind to navigate their workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities.

Participants learn to travel using King County Metro buses, Sound Transit’s Link light rail system, paratransit services, pedestrian infrastructure, and others, helping create a more accessible transit ecosystem in King County.

Coordinated Mobility Plan High-Priority Strategies

Coordinated Mobility Plan Strategy #5: Conduct mobility management programs that help potential riders navigate transportation options and complete their trips, with tailored support to address language and technology barriers.

The continuing service project will address this strategy by delivering specialized mobility training to individuals with visual or visual and hearing disabilities, helping them navigate transit services to reach their destinations, including their workplaces and home environments.

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists support individuals who are DeafBlind through mobility training that incorporates sign language interpreting services and prepare individuals who are blind or DeafBlind to utilize current technologies such as accessible GPS software, transit websites and mobile applications, mobility aids, and to sign up for informational transit alert programs to increase awareness of and access to area transportation options.

Coordination Efforts

Our Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists and other staff collaborate with area transit agencies and other service providers to coordinate our efforts and deliver holistic services to individuals who are blind or DeafBlind. Some partners include:

- King County Metro
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Sound Transit

Past and Estimated Performance

History of Performance

The Lighthouse has effectively delivered travel training services to people who are blind or DeafBlind in King County for decades. We have three full-time Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists to successfully implement the project.

Estimated Performance

- Deliver specialized mobility training to **70 individuals who are blind or DeafBlind in King County annually**
- Deliver **1,000 training sessions** annually
- **90% of participants will improve travel skills** and proficiency in navigating their commute, work environments, or using transit services

Engagement Activities

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists work closely with travel training participants to identify their unique mobility goals and provide individualized supports.

Lighthouse staff are also actively involved in various accessibility-focused community meetings, including the City of Seattle Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee, Sound Transit's Citizen Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the King County Future of Paratransit Board.

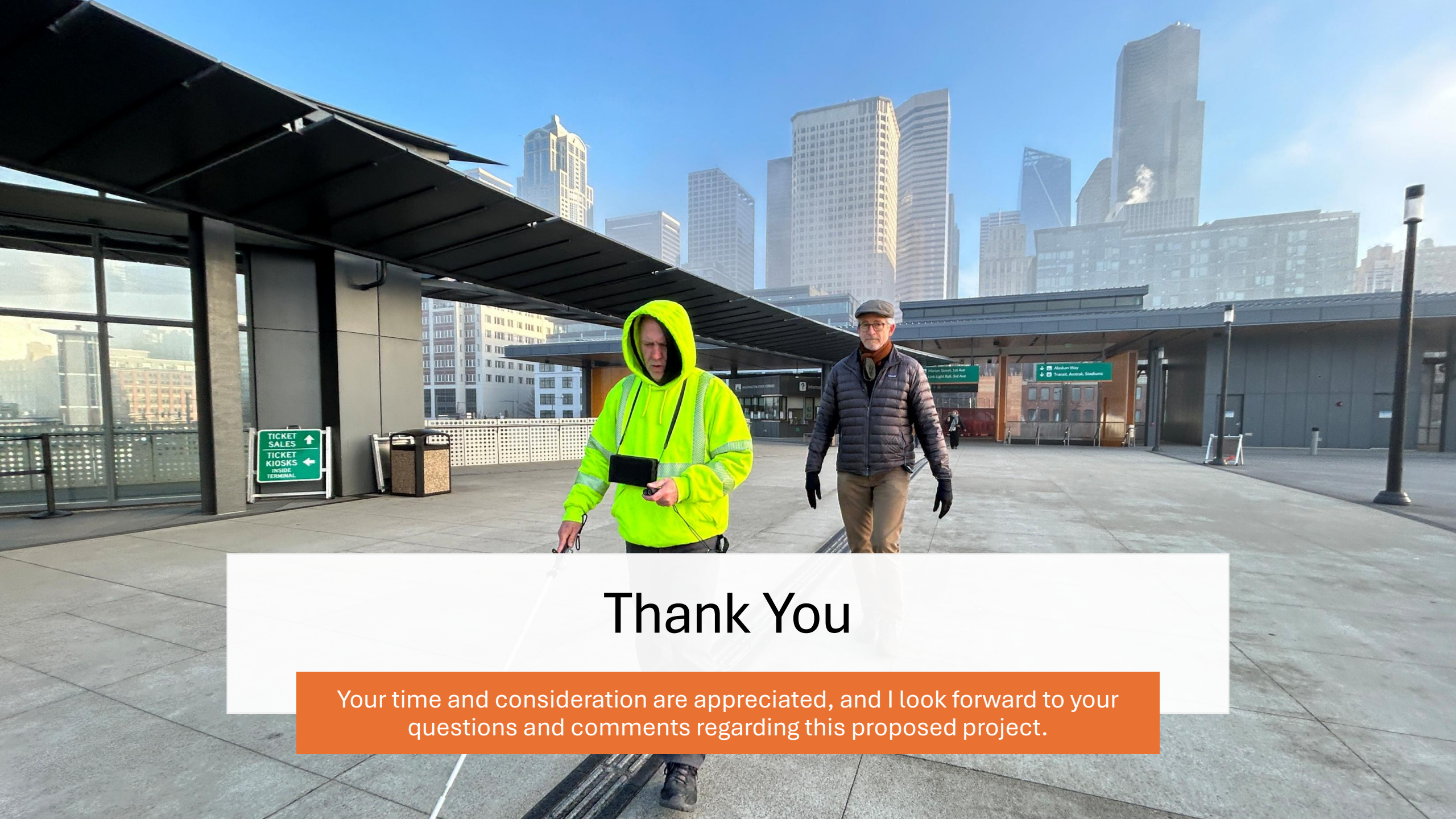
Through these activities, we remain current with the needs of the community we serve, advocate for transit accessibility, and support various transportation initiatives in King County.

Other Key Information

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. is the largest employer of people who are blind in Washington and among the foremost employers of people who are DeafBlind in the United States. We are committed to providing services that empower our employees to thrive both personally and professionally.

The project will allow us to continue delivering vital Orientation and Mobility services that support independence, transit access, and employment for people with disabilities in King County communities.

We are one of very few agencies in King County with Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals, a nationally recognized professional association providing credentials for Vision Impairment Specialists.



Thank You

Your time and consideration are appreciated, and I look forward to your questions and comments regarding this proposed project.