Special Needs Transportation Committee Meeting Summary

Date: March 20, 2019
Location: PSRC Board Room, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

Welcome and Introductions
Marianna Hanefeld, Chair, welcomed everyone at 9:30 a.m. Self-introductions were provided around the room and on the phone.

Approval of Meeting Summary
The summary for the December 19, 2018 Special Needs Transportation Committee meeting was approved as submitted.

Report on PSRC Committees and Boards Committee
Regional Staff Committee – Marianna Hanefeld, Chair
Marianna Hanefeld, Chair reported that the February Regional Staff Committee (RSC) has continued its focus on the development of VISION 2050 and how there is work around equity and embedding equity more fully into the entire plan in all areas. Information and presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings.

Transportation Operators Committee – Marianna Hanefeld and Gil Cerise
Gil Cerise, PSRC, reported on the November 28, 2018 TOC meeting which included, the PSRC re-evaluation of staff level transit-related committees. PSRC is in the process of reaching out to TOC voting member agencies regarding the TOC operating procedures, work program, and membership. There was also information on the status of the VISION 2050 work and next steps. Information and presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/toc-meetings.

Discussion: PSRC Household Travel Survey
Suzanne Childress, PSRC, presented results of the PSRC 2017 Household Travel Survey, that show trends of how people of all ages travel, including older adults. She
shared details on the 2017 survey questions, and how PSRC has implemented a multi-year program for Household Travel Surveys. Suzanne reviewed some findings of the survey which included that people over the age of 65 continue to drive more than ever, older adults more likely to take walks rather than bike rides compared to younger adults and people over the age of 65 are less likely to use a ride-share service such as Uber or Lyft compared to younger adults. The presentation from the meeting is available on the PSRC website here.

Discussion: PSRC’s Displacement Risk Analysis Tool

Brian Lee, PSRC, presented information on Displacement Risk and the usefulness of analyzing areas of the region to identify places that are at risk of displacement. He explained various situations that can cause displacement and how the displacement risk analysis tool can be helpful in achieving equitable outcomes in planning. He then reviewed several maps of the region that showed the results of the analysis from various aspects of displacement risk including linguistic isolation, cost-burden, access to jobs by transit, proximity to high-income area and voter turnout. Brian reviewed a heat map of the region showing risk levels—low, moderate and high—and reviewed the next steps. The presentation from the meeting is available on the PSRC website here.

Discussion: Update - WSDOT Grants Program Advisory Committee (GPAC) Work for 2019

Monica Ghosh, WSDOT, provided background information on the GPAC process of assembling committees every two years to review the grant process and provide feedback for any potential improvements. Two working groups began in March and are scheduled to finish their work in June. She noted there are some representatives from the SNTC involved in the group that is focused on the Formulization of the Consolidated Grant Program. The other group is focused on Electrification of Fleets. Don Chartock, WSDOT, briefed the committee on the first meeting of the formulization group, and mentioned that a large percentage of grants go to projects already in process, and since this is the situation, the process should be less cumbersome. He said one thing that has been implemented was to change the process to every four years, and coming up with some kind of formula to make this work. He said the committee agreed with general idea of the 4-year cycle making it easier, and the idea of a formula. The group is looking at how other states provide funding by formula. The Committee provided feedback including concerns on how the formula would be developed, and how funds would flow.

Don noted that formulization does not need to be for every funding situation, and that if the committee doesn’t come up with an alternate solution, the default position is for process to remain as it is. He then reviewed the history of electrification of fleets, noting that the Governor’s office went from purchasing only electric fleets to supporting the electrification of buses, and is now having WSDOT manage the process. He said at this
committee they talked about some scenarios, which included having a transition plan and see how a project impacts air quality. He said at the next meeting, they will have people come in who are going through this process and discuss lessons learned.

Marianna Hanefeld, Chair, noted that if there is a question or comment that someone wants brought up, please contact any of the region’s representatives on the group: Marianna Hanefeld, Don Okazaki, Jerri Kelly, or Sarah Gutschow.

**Discussion: Update - PSRC 2019-2020 Special Needs Transportation Work Program**

Gil Cerise, PSRC, reviewed the goals of the SNTC work program, which included preparing for the next plan update, improve data and information within the plan, help implementers advance the prioritized strategies and address needs and gaps.

Jean Kim, PSRC, reviewed the three tasks - improve mobility needs and trends associated with them, coordinate with the implementers on high priority strategies and measure the effectiveness of the special needs transportation programs in the region. She said that at this meeting, the focus will be on the first task: Improve Special Needs Transportation Mobility Needs and Gaps and Trends Associated with Them.

Jean then said that the committee will be trying a new facilitation technique (suggested by Mark Smutny, Vice-Chair). Jean walked the group through the steps of this process and asked the group some questions to reflect on in the exercise. The committee broke into groups.

The committee groups provided feedback for the questions which included a need of common regional market analysis, uniform customer survey for existing customers from all transit agencies, improving coordination of data between the non-profits and transit agencies, building on the travel survey (doing an oversample of older adults and those with disabilities), getting ORCA data, using maps for more visualization to find where the gaps are and where service exists and conducting a broad survey to help identify needs of where customers would like to go.

Jean said the next steps will be for PSRC to take the input from the committee and reassess/update the work program and reach out to transit, human service agencies and others to collect data.

**Discussion: Local Coalition Reports / Emerging Issues**

During the Introductions section of the agenda, Marianna Hanefeld, Chair, facilitated a round table of all the members in attendance to also provide information on what they are working on.
Jon Morrison Winters, Seattle Aging and Disability Services, mentioned there is a new version of the accessible downtown Seattle map available. The map shows areas of downtown accessible with wheelchairs, etc.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Members and Alternates Represented at the Table (and on the phone)

Marianna Hanefeld, SNOTRAC and SNTC Chair; Mark Smutny, Sound Generations and SNTC Vice-Chair; *Dorene Cornwell, KCMC; *Jeff Davidson, Kitsap Transit; *Janet Gant, Snohomish County LTC & A; Staci Haber, Hopelink; *Ann Kennedy, Paratransit Services; Penny Lara, King County Metro; David Lynch, RARET; Jacqueline Mann, PSESD; *Aaron Morrow, KCMC; Don Okazaki, King County Metro; *Alex O'Reilly, City of Bellevue; Francie Peltier, PCCTC; Tim Renfro, Pierce Transit; *Christina Robertson, Catholic Community Service – Snohomish; Donna Smith, Sound Transit; *Leigh Spruce, SNOTRAC; Jon Morrison Winters, Seattle Aging and Disability Services

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present (and on the phone)

Monica Adkins, PSRC, Gil Cerise, PSRC; *Brigid Dean, WSDOT; Monica Ghosh, WSDOT; Jean Kim, PSRC; Hollianne Monson, Catholic Community Service of WW; Sharron Nelson, Interested Party, *N. Rossi, Interested Party, *Mona Steele, Homage – TAP

*via remote participation