Transportation Operators Committee Meeting Summary

Date: April 24, 2019
Location: PSRC Board Room, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

Welcome and Introductions
In the absence of a Chair or Vice-chair, Gil Cerise facilitated the meeting. Gil welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. Self-introductions were provided around the room and on the phone.

Approval of Meeting Summary
The summary for the February 27, 2019 meeting was approved.

Discussion item: Report on PSRC Committee and Board Activities
Committee members reported that the April Transportation Policy Board was provided information about the Swift Green Line and Seaway Transit Center that is now in service. The board also heard reports, including one on PSRC’s project tracking and delivery program which monitors PSRC federal funds spent prior to federal funding deadlines. The “At Work” report for the Transportation Policy Meeting is available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/tpb-meetings

Committee members discussed the April RSC meeting and its continued focus on VISION 2050. The presentations are available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings

Discussion item: PSRC Transit Agency Outreach and Update to TOC Operating Procedures
Gil Cerise and Kelly McGourty, PSRC, shared a summary of feedback from its outreach to TOC member agencies, including feedback on PSRC’s transit-related work program and how the TOC operates. They noted outstanding issues including how voting membership is structured and meeting time/date/frequency. The committee discussed voting membership structure and the consensus of those at the meeting was that the existing membership structure of a primary member with one or more alternates works
better than having up to three members and no alternates. The committee agreed that given the small size of the group, agencies can bring staff who provide specific expertise, as needed, for particular topics. In terms of meeting date/time/frequency, the operating procedures do not currently address that. PSRC provided a proposal for the standing meeting. It was noted that TOC has requested meeting date/time changes multiple times in the last six years. Changing the dates for meetings is difficult. It is difficult to find a date/time that works for everyone. There is more flexibility in terms of meeting time and frequency of meeting. Gil said PSRC will provide a draft update to the operating procedures for TOC action at the May TOC meeting. The intent is to have things ready for a vote-by-email for the chair and vice chair prior to the June meeting.

Discussion item: 2019 Transit Integration Report Initiation

Gil Cerise and Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reviewed feedback from the 2018 Transit Integration Report and outlined a schedule and process for the 2019 Transit Integration Report. Some comments noted that the report is filled with success stories, but could also include some challenges, and how those challenges are being met. In addition, past reports read like a series of smaller integration stories with little overall transit integration vision. PSRC is planning a meeting with the TPB Caucus in May where staff will revisit the feedback prior to launching the 2019 Transit Integration Report. Other thoughts from committee to include in the report would be welcomed.

Discussion item: Transit Agency Thresholds for High Capacity Transit

Gil Cerise, PSRC initiated discussions with transit agencies on their definitions and thresholds for high capacity transit in their long-range planning processes. He said as part of the Draft 2050 plan, this information should be included in this category. It was noted that there are a variety of definitions of high capacity transit. The committee suggested looking at the definition of high capacity transit that was developed as part of the Centers framework. Gil said that PSRC will revisit the Centers framework definition and others and bring that information back to a future meeting.

Discussion item: Updating Baseline Information for Special Needs Transportation

Jean Kim, PSRC, reviewed transit data needs to assist in updating the region’s baseline of mobility for people with special transportation needs throughout the four-county region. The agencies in the committee were asked to provide transit agency data sources as well as contacts to assist PSRC in creating a more data-driven special needs transportation plan.

The committee discussed various aspects of how this data could be provided which included using ORCA data for fixed route information (both Regional Reduced Fare Permit and youth fares) and the WSDOT grants program data (which requires some
data for travel training/trip planning). It was noted that while the region’s fixed-route transit ridership has continued to grow, the ADA paratransit ridership has fallen. This is the only place in the state where those two trends are occurring. There is an interest in looking at this data and trying to tell a story about this and other data trends.

Jean said that the PSRC is planning to present this same request for data at the next SNTC meeting. PSRC staff will then follow-up with TOC and SNTC members to identify appropriate contacts from transit agencies to address the updates.

**Action item: Vote on Transit Agency Alternates for the BPAC**

Gil Cerise, PSRC, reminded the committee that it provides recommendations on local transit members and alternates for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). He said that although local transit members were approved by TOC last year, there remained vacancies for the alternate positions. Since then, nominations received were Penny Grellier, Pierce Transit and Justin Resnick, Washington State Ferries to fill those alternate positions. The TOC unanimously voted for the two alternates nominated.

**Roundtable: Highlights from Transit Agency and Ferry Operators in the Region**

Ed Coviello, Kitsap Transit, reported that Kitsap Transit has implemented improved service frequencies for two of their main routes, and that the agency is working on transit centers in east Bremerton and Silverdale.

Ben Smith, SDOT, reported new leadership updates at SDOT.

Don Chartock, WSDOT, reported that award letters for the Consolidated Grant program are being printed out, and should be sent out soon. He provided a status on the state’s transportation budget. He also mentioned two Grants Process Advisory Committee (GPAC) groups that are working with aspects of the Consolidated Grant programs.

Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit, reported that the Pierce Transit Board adopted its Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Pacific Avenue / SR 7 corridor BRT Project. He mentioned that Pierce Transit’s FTA Small Starts grant application for the project ranked well and noted that Pierce Transit is in the process of updating their long-range plan.

Celeste Gilman, WSDOT, reported that WSDOT is starting to get engaged in transit integration for the Northgate Link station opening, and coordinated letters of support for the system access projects.

Alex Krieg, Sound Transit, reported on several capital projects, including East Link, Lynnwood Link, and Federal Way Link and their various stages of capital project development and construction. He said agencies are becoming more aware of the Northgate Link completion in the next two years, and how the bus and rail will be integrated. He noted the ST Board recently advanced the SR 522/I-405 BRT projects,
to come online in 2023 – 2024 timeframe. Alex also gave a brief update on Sound Transit’s System Access Fund.

Peter Heffernan, King County Metro, reported on the launch of a new first/last-mile rideshare program this week that is focused on Southeast Seattle and Tukwila areas. He noted buses are now out of the Seattle bus tunnel and mentioned how King County Metro is looking at service restructures in southeast King County.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

---

**Members and Alternates Present**

*Melinda Adams, Everett Transit; Don Chartock, WSDOT; Edward Coviello, Kitsap Transit; *Ray Deardorf, WA State Ferries; Celeste Gilman, WSDOT; Marianna Hanefeld, SNOTRAC and SNTC Chair; Peter Heffernan, King County Metro; Alex Krieg Sound Transit, Benjamin Smith, Seattle DOT; Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit

*via remote participation

**PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present**

Monica Adkins, PSRC; Patrick Blankenship, Pierce Transit; Gil Cerise, PSRC; Kelly McGourty, PSRC