Transportation Operators Committee Meeting Summary

Date: February 27, 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 Cerise, PSRC, welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. Self-introductions were provided around the room and on the phone.

Approval of Meeting Summary
The meeting summary from November 28, 2018 was approved as presented.

Discussion item: Report on PSRC Committee and Board Activities

February Transportation Policy Board – (Gil Cerise, PSRC & Committee Members)
Gil Cerise, PSRC, reported there was a presentation from Secretary Roger Millar on the State of Transportation, and a presentation on the Washington State Ferries Long-Range Plan. He said in March there will be an update to the viaduct closure, and information on the Community Transit Swift Green Line opening.

The “At Work” report for the Transportation Policy Meeting is available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/tpb-meetings

February Regional Staff Committee – (Committee members)
The committee reported that the Regional Staff Committee has been focused on VISION 2050 and noted there were questions for the Transportation chapter, which included a clarification of the high-capacity transit (HCT) hubs, and that there may be some freight and land use issues as well. It was mentioned that there were presentations on updates to other chapters such as Environment and Climate policies and on the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy preferred alternative process. The committee asked to be kept apprised of the preferred alternative process. It was noted that the Draft SEIS will be out for public comment February 28 through April 29.
The presentations are available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings

Transit Executives meetings – (Committee members)

There was no report on the Transit Executives meeting.

Discussion item: PSRC Transit Agency Outreach and Next Steps (TOC Membership/Operating Procedures Update)

Gil Cerise and Kelly McGourty, PSRC, reported preliminary results of the transit outreach and said that they have gone to five agencies so far, with the goal of completing the outreach before the April 24 meeting. Kelly said that during the outreach, some feedback included a concept of having multiple representatives from one agency/jurisdiction on the TOC, versus one member and one (or more) alternates. Gil said the TOC will meet next in April, at which time PSRC will be presenting proposed changes to the operating procedures in terms of membership and then it will be incumbent on the agencies to appoint new representatives, as appropriate. He mentioned that TOC members are eligible to be chair or vice-chair and that these positions are non-voting members on PSRC’s Transportation Policy Board. It is important to ensure any appointees are able represent transit at the TPB. One member expressed a concern about the amount of time that TOC has gone without a chair and vice-chair. A request was made to accelerate the process.

PSRC also shared a summary of transit-related work program items to help committee members understand the range of topics that will be coming before the TOC. The committee also discussed providing feedback to the work program with an emphasis on the importance of the data collections and providing useful data for the agencies.

Discussion item: Access to Transit Roundtable

Gil Cerise, PSRC, reminded the committee that PSRC is focusing on data and planning for improved access to transit, including assessing any gaps in transit access. He asked the committee members if there were any updates to share on various access to transit efforts, including pedestrian, bicycle, parking, and other modes of transit access.

Alex Krieg, Sound Transit, reported that Sound Transit has recently opened the Call for Projects focusing on multi-modal access to transit. Alex detailed the amount of funding available, distribution requirements and schedule for this grant competition. In addition, Sound Transit is developing the System Access Strategic Plan to work on making transit hubs accessible and learning from past experiences. He also noted that there is also a focus on parking and making the system access all-inclusive of all modes of transportation.

Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit, reported that the Limited Access Connections project providing first- and last-mile connections to and from transit centers and bus stops in
partnership with Lyft was showing positive and increased usage. He also reviewed the proposed permit parking project at the Tacoma Dome Station garages. He outlined some features of the proposal and the schedule for implementation. If the Pierce Transit Board approves it, the permit parking project would start in June.

Graydon Newman, King County Metro, gave an update on King County Metro access to transit projects, including the Ride2 First/Last-Mile Connections services at Eastgate and West Seattle. He said the next deployments will be hubs in Southeast Seattle and the Tukwila International Boulevard Link Station sometime in April 2019. The service focus is for peak hours but will also match service that Link operates. Graydon also added an update for managed parking. King County passed an ordinance that allows King County Metro to expand its managed parking by implementing paid parking permits. In addition, he noted that King County Metro will be doing a study for the first several months of the year in Renton, to look at transit service there and finding the gaps in transit access, and then reporting back to the Council in September.

Celeste Gilman, WSDOT, reported there has been a new WAC created to help manage parking at WSDOT-owned park and rides (within confines of state law), that includes the issuing of permits.

Ray Deardorf, WSF, reported the Washington State Ferries' long-range plan is reliant on moving more people since there is more limited capacity for vehicles, and noted there is a need to identify first-/last-mile issues and mobility on demand to help achieve those goals.

Roland Behee, Community Transit, reported on Community Transit’s efforts relating to vanpool formation and the new Seaway Transit Center. Seaway Transit Center not only has space for transit agency buses and vans, but also the privately operated Boeing shuttle, which will bring riders of the new Swift Green Line and other services meeting at Seaway to their destinations on the Boeing campus. He also noted that there is ongoing planning to deal with the future of the closure (due to construction) of the Sound Transit station at Mountlake Terrace.

**Discussion item: Nomination and Voting on Transit Agency Alternates for the BPAC**

Sarah Gutschow, PSRC, reviewed the need for alternates for the local transit positions on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and asked for any nominations. She explained that Sound Transit, King County Metro, and Community Transit are represented with membership positions already and that there are two vacant alternate positions on BPAC. She noted if the committee makes nominations at the February meeting, a vote-by-email will be arranged to take place afterward. No nominations were made at the meeting. PSRC will solicit agencies for potential members to fill the positions between meetings.
Discussion item: Transit Agency 2019 Transit Asset Management performance targets for use in developing regional performance targets

Gil Cerise, PSRC, reviewed the federal requirement that transit agencies share their data on their 2019 agency TAM performance targets with PSRC in order for PSRC to create regional TAM performance targets. In future years, transit agencies will need to share both their updated inventory information that will allow PSRC to assess progress towards achieving regional TAM performance targets in compliance with federal regulations. Gil shared the data needed and after feedback from the committee proposed that April 30th would be a good date to work with and said he would send out a schedule with details on what is required in a follow-up email. Committee staff requested that PSRC provide very detailed guidance since most TOC members are not transit asset management professionals.

Discussion item: April 8, 2019 Peer Network Event -- Transit Integration in Germany

Gil Cerise, PSRC, provided information on an upcoming peer networking event featuring professionals from Munich and Frankfurt regions in Germany with expertise in integrating transit schedules, connections, trip-planning, fares and fare collection among multiple transit operators in a single region. He asked that the committee send names of staff to him in an effort to create an invitation email list that includes appropriate staff from the transit agencies within the region.

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

Alex Krieg, Sound Transit, noted the upcoming March service changes in which buses will be removed from the Downtown tunnel. Sound Transit is beginning to provide information about the impacts associated with Connect 2020, in which East Link tracks will be connected to the existing Downtown tunnel Link tracks. This will result in temporary disruption in early 2020. Sound Transit is trying to reach out to the public to build awareness on this project.

Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit, reported that Pierce Transit is updating their long-range plan. The goal is to go back the Pierce Transit Board next year to propose authorization for additional sales tax and show what can be done with this amount of additional revenue.

Graydon Newman, King County Metro, noted the service change on March 23rd, and the management of that process in operations, and also mentioned that King County is continuing to test different fleet options for electric buses in south King County and that the Metro is reviewing equity impacts from the recent changes in fare enforcement.

Marianna, Hanefeld, SNTC Chair, said the SNTC members are continuing to look for opportunities to partner with transit agencies and others to close gaps in mobility and
achieve a seamless transportation experience for people with special transportation needs.

Roland Behee, Community Transit, reported that next week is the public hearing for the Low-Income Bus Fare program and then the Community Transit Board will take action in April. The program goal is to join the ORCA Lift program, to provide a half-fare for people with low incomes. He noted that they are also in productive partnership talks with DSHS as part of this process.

Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit, reported that they are ready to roll out the implementation of bus network changes after two years of outreach. She also said Kitsap Transit is expecting a new hybrid vessel for the Port Orchard to Bremerton service in a couple weeks and another vessel for delivery for the fast ferry service from Bremerton to Seattle by the end of April.

Sabina Popa, Everett Transit, reported the city is linking the Interurban Trail to the rest of downtown, and is focused on improving bike access to transit, including looking at the possible addition of Lime Bike bikeshare. She also noted the Everett Transit March service changes.

Information Item
An information item was presented on the upcoming VISION 2050 Supplemental EIS open houses.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Members and Alternates Present
*Melinda Adams, Everett Transit; Ray Deardorf, Washington State Ferries (WSDOT); Celeste Gilman, WSDOT; Marianna Hanefeld, SNOTRAC and Special Needs Transportation Chair; Alex Krieg, Sound Transit; *Steffani Lillie, Kitsap Transit; *Sabina Popa, Everett Transit; Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present
Monica Adkins, PSRC; Roland Behee, Community Transit; Gil Cerise, PSRC; Sarah Gutschow, PSRC; Kelly McGourty, PSRC; Graydon Newman, King County Metro; Lacey Jane Wolfe, City of Bellevue

*via remote participation