

DRAFT

Transportation Demand Management Technical Committee April 30 Statewide telework sprint team meeting outcomes

Recommendation:

The Transportation Demand Management Technical Committee should develop a new priority initiative to explore statewide opportunities that support expanded telework, flex schedules, and compressed work weeks.

Initial proposals:

- WSDOT provide technical assistance to jurisdiction, e.g., literature review, best practices, convening panels, learning sessions, and trainings
- Expand and/or develop new incentive programs
- Data collection, surveys, analysis and sharing
- Conduct gaps and opportunities analysis

Additional considerations:

1. Ensure reasonable work conditions for teleworkers and strategies to ensure employees have productive work environments.
2. Quantify benefits can help sell telework/TDM, e.g., lease savings.
3. Update existing programs, e.g., amend CTR to more strongly encourage telework, target non-peak trips, and incentivize telework in a systematic way (like we incentivize ORCA card adoption.)
4. Collect data about how telework works in different businesses. (Data drives decisions.)
5. Identify barriers and missing pieces for telework, e.g., perceptions and attitudes, technology/broadband.

Staff recommends the following existing priority initiatives be narrowed in scope or deferred entirely to accomplish this work:

- Amend initiative #8 “Create new TDM programs that target non-CTR trip markets, e.g., small businesses, shift workers, special needs, older adults, public schools, airports, freight, etc.” to focus exclusively on Statewide telework initiative
- Defer initiative #9 “Provide technical support to new transportation management associations, e.g., Sea-Tac, Redmond.”
- Defer initiative #13 “Create and support new TDM innovations grant.”

Next steps:

- Veronica – will share survey results and other telework data (OFM, WSDOT, VPN usage, others) with Governor and state executive team. Encouraging telework will be an element of the plan to reopen the state.
- WSDOT staff – identify what the list of ideas above look like programmatically
- ~~WSDOT staff – synthesize key takeaways from this discussion.~~
- WSDOT staff – Draft recommendations for next steps



- Engage this group prior to May 19 on recommendations to review and finalize recommendations resulting from ideas on this call.
- Present to full TDM Technical Committee on May 19
- ~~WSDOT staff – identify what initiatives should be amended or deferred to accommodate this initiative.~~

Background:

On April 30, 2020 the newly established statewide telework sprint team convened to discuss whether or not the technical committee should play a role in supporting statewide telework and/or flex schedule initiatives.

In the COVID-19 environment, the number of new telework-related initiatives have dramatically increased, and existing telework initiatives have gained urgency. Examples include the

- Governor’s interest in telework,
- Thurston Telework Regional Mobility Grant,
- OFM-led data reporting,
- WSDOT employee telework survey,
- Leadership interest in increasing WSDOT’s telework target to fifty percent, and
- Advocates expressed an interest in making amendments to the CTR program and other state policies to more deeply encourage telework and active transportation, and target non-commute trips and non-office workers.

Public and private entities are planning for a future where telework and compressed work weeks will play a larger role in their organizations when the Stay Home Stay Healthy order is lifted. WSDOT is considering consolidating office space in Seattle, embracing shared work space configurations, and increasing telework up to four days a week for many employees. With expected reduced demand for morning and afternoon peak trips, King County Metro is examining how to better serve riders outside the peak period markets and beyond high ridership routes.

With this in mind, WSDOT convened the statewide telework sprint team to identify what role the TDM Technical Committee should play in supporting statewide telework policy development.