

Transportation Demand Management Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

GoTo Meeting Teleconference

Committee members present (all remote): Mary Anderson, Jennifer Campos, Carol Cooper, Billy Duss, Marshall Elizer, Jennifer Hass, Veronica Jarvis, Jan Ollivier, Karen Parkhurst, Michelle Patrick, Patrick Pittenger, Michelle Rasmussen, Sara Sisco (proxy for Staci Haber), Michael Villnave, Dustin Watson, Bryce Yadon

Committee member(s) excused: Staci Haber

WSDOT staff present (all remote): Alon Bassok, Elizabeth (Liz) Bastian, Ricardo Gotla, Marianna Hanefeld, Kate Ito, Christie Stelzig, Stan Suchan, Pamela Vasudeva, Michael Wandler

Meeting convened at 1:01 PM

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks – Marshall Elizer

2. Public Comment

- Carol Cooper shared that Debbie Jaksich, a long time TDM and CTR implementer, is retiring July 1.
- Veronica Jarvis shared that she has accepted a position with Thurston Regional Planning Council, and will be stepping down from the committee. Jenna Forty will serve as her replacement representing OFM.

3. First Mile / Last Mile Grant Award Selection – Penny Grellier and Patrick Pittenger

- Penny Grellier (Pierce Transit) and Patrick Pittenger served on the evaluation panel for the First Mile / Last Mile Grant program, and presented the panel's recommendation and process to the committee. The evaluation panel developed consent on awarding the following three projects:
 - i. City of Bellevue
 - ii. Yakama Nation
 - iii. City of Tacoma
- Committee members asked clarifying questions on wheelchair accessible vehicles, performance measurement, projects with smaller dollar amount requests, and various award scenarios.
- Karen Parkhurst moved to accept the evaluation panel's recommendation on awarding the grant to the three projects above. Carol Cooper seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - i. As the three project requests totaled \$1,013,000 (and the total funds available for the grant is \$1,000,000), the committee asked that WSDOT staff follow up

with the three awardees and ask if they could scale their projects with ~\$4,000 less than requested.

- Committee members requested a summary list of all submitted grant proposals.

Next Steps: Staff will reach out to City of Bellevue, Yakama Nation, and City of Tacoma and ask about scalability. Staff will compile a summary list of project proposals and share with members.

4. The future of transportation - All

- Marshall kicked off the discussion with some open-ended questions for committee members: Where are we going in public transportation? How have things changed? How can WSDOT help restart public transit? How can we engage decision makers remotely?
- Committee members collectively expressed a desire to continue this work, and stressing the importance of showcasing TDM despite budget shortfalls. Discussion topics included:
 - i. Marketing/storytelling campaign highlighting how people benefit from TDM and multimodal investments
 - ii. Focusing efforts on promoting flexible commutes and educating private sector on bundled parking leases
 - iii. Shifting perspective to first/last mile and trip connectivity
 - iv. Sharing telework success stories
 - v. Ensuring that essential workers have safe access to transit
 - vi. Tapping into trusted actors within the community when talking about safety and transit
 - vii. Stressing that public transit is safe, and that people who can telework should continue to do so to manage demand
 - viii. Are vanpools more or less important?
- Committee members developed consent that engaging legislators on TDM is more important than ever.

5. Federal TDM update – Ricardo Gotla & Elizabeth Bastian

- Ricardo provided committee members an overview of TDM-related legislation at the federal level. These included the MORE through TDM Act, and the INVEST Act transportation reauthorization bill that was just introduced in the House Transportation & Infrastructure committee.
- Committee members expressed a desire to write a joint letter of support for the MORE through TDM Act with the TDM Executive Board.

Next Steps: Staff will work with Roger Millar and the TDM Executive Board on drafting a joint letter of support.

6. TDM program updates – Ricardo Gotla

- WSDOT hosted a TDM partners workshop to learn how public agencies are adjusting to COVID-19 and preparing for the future. Over 45 people attended. WSDOT plans to continue to convene this group in the coming months.
- Elizabeth Bastian shared that the Mobility on Demand Action Plan work is delayed, but moving forward. Staff will keep members posted as work continues through the summer.
- Mary Anderson provided members with an update on Whatcom Transit Authority's recently awarded mobility on demand grant. The project is in early stages.
- Stan Suchan provided an overview of the various telework initiatives WSDOT staff is currently working on.
- Alon Bassok shared results from engagement around the CTR survey with committee members.

Next Steps: Staff will keep committee members engaged as needed throughout the summer break on various TDM initiatives.

7. Closing Remarks – Jennifer Campos (Vice Chair)

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.
