

Transportation Demand Management Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

GoTo Meeting (Remote)

Board Members (all remote): Ken Casavant, Dr. Anthony Chen, Patrick Green, Emmett Heath, Kent Keel, Craig Kenworthy, Dan Mathis, Roger Millar, Chris O’Claire, Lua Pritchard, Matt Ransom, Tim Waldrop, Laura Watson, Anna Zivarts

Absent Board Members: Dave Andersen, Katie Garrow, Clark Halvorson, Erik Hansen, Dave McFadden, Susan Meyer, Larry Watkinson

Staff: Elizabeth Bastian, Jacob Brett, Don Chartock, Ricardo Gotla, Brian Lagerberg, Christie Stelzig, Stan Suchan, Pamela Vasudeva, Michael Wandler

TDM Executive Board Meeting convened at 9:02 AM.

1. **Board Chair Roger Millar welcomed the group.** Roger asked members to go around the “room” and share their organization’s experiences adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic and working from home. Members shared the following:
 - Concerns about potential increase in drive-alone commutes, and the impacts on air pollution
 - Very quick transition from low-level telework to 100% telework. People miss interacting in person, but are very productive.
 - Providing translation services, food, and supplies to communities made vulnerable by inequitable policies
 - Many essential workers are still relying on public transportation
 - Appreciation of robust collaboration with partners in public transportation
 - Huge budget shortfalls are expected. Many are waiting to assess what the economy and decision makers will do.
 - Expecting a mix of teleworking and working in an office in the long term
2. **Public comment**

There was no public comment.
3. **COVID-19’s Impacts from a WSDOT perspective – Roger Millar**
 - Roger shared between the impacts of COVID-19 and I-976, the expected budget shortfall over the next three years is \$1.4 billion. Capital construction projects are pushed out to the future. TDM needs to be a part of the conversation about what is next. WSDOT is working with the federal delegation, trying to get transportation in upcoming federal relief packages.
 - Roger provided some program updates to the board:
 - i. Multiple teleworking initiatives, and an initiative on rethinking transit, are new priorities.
 - ii. First Mile / Last Mile grants, statewide commute trip reduction, Regional Mobility Grants, and other grant programs are continuing.
 - iii. Statewide mobility on demand is deferred, but the Public Records Act research will continue.
4. **Supporting statewide telework – Stan Suchan and Ricardo Gotla**

- Stan Suchan and Ricardo Gotla provided an overview of the landscape of ongoing telework initiatives. One of these initiatives focuses on all workers, and supporting statewide telework post-pandemic.
- Roger commented that a huge majority of office workers are teleworking, and surveys indicate they are productive and satisfied. There are equity issues to address, such as broadband access and accessibility for people with disabilities. WSDOT’s goal post-pandemic is for office staff to average 2 days of telework a week. WSDOT offices in Seattle are consolidating.
 - i. Many members echoed a concern about broadband access and equity issues of purchasing home office equipment. Other members also expressed concern about ergonomics at home.
- Laura shared that the Department of Ecology piloted telework with in-office “collaboration days”. In-person interaction was really valuable.
- Chris shared that King County Metro wants to “flatten the demand curve” and become less peak-hour oriented. This improves cost effectiveness and use of capital.
- Anthony expressed a desire to find metrics to measure the carbon footprint of telework vs. working in an office.

5. Rethinking transit – Brian Lagerberg and Jacob Brett

- Brian introduced the new rethinking transit initiative to the board. What will the new normal be post-pandemic? How do you make the entire transportation system more effective? What does state support for transit look like in the future? The ask of the board today is to develop consent on if this is the appropriate group to lead this initiative.
 - i. Jacob provided additional context, sharing that the project scope is being drafted. Limited labor will be asked of the board, and there may be some engagement in between meetings.
- The board shared a general sense of interest in the teleworking and rethinking transit initiatives. WSDOT will work to also engage the TDM Technical Committee in this work.

6. Next steps:

- WSDOT staff will reach out to board members as-needed to engage them as subject matter experts for teleworking and rethinking transit initiatives.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.