

Transportation Demand Management Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

GoTo Meeting (Remote)

Board Members (all remote): Dave Andersen, Ken Casavant, Dr. Anthony Chen, Laura Johnson, Kent Keel, Dan Mathis, Dave McFadden, Susan Meyer, Roger Millar, Chris O’Claire, Lua Pritchard, Matt Ransom, Tim Waldrop, Larry Watkinson, Laura Watson, Anna Zivarts

Absent Board Members: Katie Garrow, Patrick Green, Erik Hansen, Emmett Heath, Craig Kenworthy

Staff: Alon Bassok, Elizabeth Bastian, Jacob Brett, Ricardo Gotla, Kate Ito, Brian Lagerberg, Colin Pippin-Timco, Gayla Reese Walsh, Stan Suchan, Pamela Vasudeva, Michael Wandler

TDM Executive Board Meeting convened at 10:03 AM.

1. Board Chair Roger Millar welcomed the group.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Board legislative engagement – Ricardo Gotla & Jenna Forty

- Ricardo reminded the Board that legislative engagement is a strategic initiative in the TDM action plan. A small group of TDM Technical Committee and Board members have met twice to identify key messaging. Messaging focuses on preserving multimodal investments.
- Jenna Forty (OFM representative on the TDM Technical Committee) provided a state budget update. OFM is working with state agencies and the governor’s office to develop the executive budget by mid-December. The state is supportive of maximizing telework and TDM options.
- Ricardo posed 2 questions to Board members: Do we want to continue to engage decision makers? Do we want to expand our messaging, particularly with asking for multimodal investments in any new revenue packages? Board members expressed a desire to continue engaging decision makers, and shared the following comments:
 - TDM is no longer abstract. Washingtonians have personal experience with telework reducing congestion on roads.
 - TDM and telework has many synergies with other benefits, such as cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gasses, more efficient movement of freight and service delivery, and prolongs the life of highway infrastructure.
 - Are there other groups whose message we [the Board] can align with?
 - Offering innovative transportation solutions along with funding asks.
 - Ensure ask is not just about funding – there are policies and programs (like vanpool) that could be updated to make services more adaptable and cost effective.
 - Broadband infrastructure and access is critical to supporting telework statewide.
 - Better pedestrian infrastructure is needed to support neighborhood trips.
- Roger shared that WSDOT has set an agency telework benchmark of 40%. 75% of the agency workforce wants to telework. Teleworking has allowed the agency to reduce Seattle leased office space by 40%, saving \$1.5 million a biennium.

4. Rethinking transit –Jacob Brett & Brian Lagerberg

- Brian introduced the agenda item to the Board, and reminded them of the discussion from the July meeting. Today’s emphasis is on a statewide approach to TDM. Jacob Brett presented a slide deck to the Board.

- Board members provided the following comments and feedback:
 - Transit agencies are looking at shifting peak commute hour fixed route transit into core business areas to lower income communities that are transit reliant.
 - Balancing access vs. efficiency – is this the right frame?
 - System access is also important. Transit riders need sidewalks, good lighting, etc.
 - Investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure to fixed route transit can boost ridership just as much as increasing service.
 - The suburbanization of poverty, and how transit intersects with that

5. Welcome Laura Johnson – Roger Millar

- Roger welcomed new member Laura Johnson to the TDM Executive Board.

6. Public Records Act study update – Mark Hallenbeck

- Mark Hallenbeck provided an update on the Public Records Act study, which was presented to the Board this past March. The project team is wrapping up a series of stakeholder interviews, and has drafted two documents: a strategy document that summarizes identified issues and why or why not they are addressed in the proposed amendment, and the proposed draft amendment itself.

7. Telework initiatives update – Ricardo Gotla, Elizabeth Bastian, Stan Suchan

- Ricardo provided an update on statewide telework. Draft initiative outcomes include:
 1. Lead by example - WSDOT and state agency telework commitments
 2. Identify potential policy barriers to widespread telework adoption, e.g., employer liability, punitive state and federal tax laws, labor laws, etc.
 3. Provide telework technical assistance to employers
 4. Support telework research
 5. State sponsored carrots, e.g., a telework specific tax incentive
 6. Continued engagement with public and private stakeholders and decision makers
 7. Ensure all users can benefit from telework (across income levels, broadband access, and ability)
- Elizabeth provided an update on state agency telework, or the Workplace Strategy Council. The group is currently looking at existing state policies and executive orders, and identifying policies that may need updating. The group includes members from WSDOT, OFM, Thurston Regional Planning Council, and WA Tech.
- Stan provided an update on WSDOT telework. WSDOT is wrapping up a workshop series with over 200 participants. The group is racing towards having a first package of permanent changes for the agency put together by November, and also looking to also improve the telework experience now.

8. Next steps:

- WSDOT staff will distribute the draft Public Records Act study documents to Board and Committee.
- Staff talk with WSDOT government relations to provide feedback to Board members on legislative engagement.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.