

# Transportation Demand Management Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020  
Teleconference



**Committee members present (all remote):** Mary Anderson, Carol Cooper, Billy Duss, Marshall Elizer, Jenna Forty, Karen Parkhurst, Michelle Patrick, Staci Sahoo, Kim Stolz, Michael Villnave, Dustin Watson, Bryce Yadon

**Committee member(s) excused:** Jennifer Campos, Jennifer Hass, Jan Ollivier, Michelle Rasmussen

**WSDOT staff present (all remote):** Elizabeth (Liz) Bastian, Jacob Brett, Ricardo Gotla, Brian Lagerberg, Stan Suchan, Pamela Vasudeva, Debi Viniarski

## Meeting convened at 10:00 AM

### 1. Welcome & Opening Remarks – Marshall Elizer

- Marshall welcomed committee members, and shared that WSDOT is waiting for the governor to release the budget.

### 2. Public Comment – No public comment was submitted.

### 3. Rethinking transit & mobility – Jacob Brett & Brian Lagerberg

- Jacob presented the results from the Rethinking Transit & Mobility engagement effort. Presentation slides can be viewed [here](#).
- Members generally expressed interest in the results, and had the following questions and comments:
  - i. Were any transit riders represented in the workshops, especially riders who have no other options?
    1. No, the exercise was primarily for providers.
  - ii. Was equity broken down in the conversations, or was it general?
    1. Jacob did not get to hear all of the conversations, but it was clear that the workshop notes focused on demographic equity and vulnerable populations. WSDOT will continue to dig into this in the public transportation planning effort.
  - iii. Could you speak to the disconnect between the conversations that happened in workshops and the survey results?
    1. The survey prompts were pulled directly from the feedback received from workshops. There is more work to do, and we will continue to work through these.

- **Next steps:** Members can send feedback to Jacob (Jacob.brett@wsdot.wa.gov) to be incorporated into the final draft. Results from the engagement will be incorporated into the statewide public transportation planning process.

#### 4. Statewide TDM flexibility – Pamela Vasudeva

- Pamela shared that House Transportation Committee Chair Fey requested from WSDOT proposed RCW changes to existing TDM programs and projects. The changes are aimed at updating existing program and projects to better meet current TDM needs and opportunities. WSDOT presented the committee its [response](#) to the chair.
- Members had the following comments and questions:
  - i. Concerns about the term “public ridesharing”.
  - ii. Further overprescribing public transportation grants
  - iii. Not including asks for increased funding
- Brian Lagerberg responded to comments on omitting dollar amounts in the response. It’s the role of the TDM Technical Committee to discuss funding levels and develop proposals, not WSDOT. WSDOT is a cabinet agency; the governor’s budget is WSDOT’s budget. The response to Chair Fey’s request is appropriate within state laws. WSDOT’s response to the legislative request is being shared with the committee and others in an effort to be transparent, and starting and continuing a conversation with partners on opportunities to advance public transportation and TDM across Washington. Under state laws, it’s appropriate for the committee to develop funding and policy proposals and submit it to the legislature.
- **Next steps:** At request of the committee, WSDOT staff will form a committee sprint team to discuss opportunities for the committee to develop proposals for the legislature’s consideration to advance and expand TDM.

#### 5. Legislative engagement – Billy Duss & Anna Zivarts

- Billy provided a summary of a series of meetings committee and board members had with legislative members. Participants emphasized preserving multimodal funding and tell the story about what those funds actually do. Other topics included maintaining and expanding telework, and increasing flexibility for vanpool and CTR. The overall message was received enthusiastically, and representatives expressed willingness to support the work.
- Anna Zivarts echoed Billy’s sentiments, and shared that what struck her as really powerful were the personal stories that participants brought to the table.
- Members recommended that the board and committee develop a joint letter to the legislature expressing the policy position that multimodal account fund be invested exclusively in multimodal programs and projects not eligible to receive gas tax revenue and to provide specific recommendations on what multimodal funds should be used for.
- Members expressed desire for a “budgeting 101” discussion about the multimodal account at a future meeting.

## **6. Closing remarks – Marshall Elizer**

- Marshall shared that he continues to be impressed by the involvement and passion of committee members. Though we continue to struggle with the pandemic and revenue shortfalls, we are in a better place to advocate for policies that the committee supports.
- Carol Cooper took a moment to say that the committee has accomplished an awful lot this year, despite the challenges presented by COVID, protests against racism, the political environment, etc. Carol gave the WSDOT staff a lot of credit for staffing the committee and helping them be productive.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.**

---