

Rethinking Transit and Mobility

Workshops Report Out

Jacob A. Brett

WSDOT Public Transportation Division

November 18, 2020

First and foremost...

Thank you for your time and your commitment to rethinking transit and mobility across Washington.

It is very hard to think about the future given the ongoing pandemic. Your feedback will be crucial in helping us continue to set priorities for WSDOT.

Why rethink transit and mobility?

Prioritizing our needs and preparing for the future:

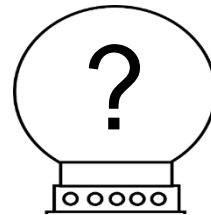
- Respond to the immediate needs of the pandemic
- Prepare for the future (in a post-pandemic world)
- Plan for uncertainty – we don't know exactly how the future will unfold, but we can start thinking ahead and prioritizing

Working together to build consensus around next steps:

- Include geographic representation from across the state
- Include subject matter experts from across the industry
- Inform the Statewide Public Transportation Plan



Prioritizing Needs



Future Proofing



Working Together

Workshop Design

Multiple stakeholder groups participated:

- Transit Agencies
- WSTA
- Human services providers
- Local and county governments
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM) professionals
- Regional/metropolitan/tribal planning organizations (RTPOs, MPOs, and TTPO members)
- WSDOT staff

Quick stats on the process:

- 7 workshops throughout October
- 70+ participants from different organizations/agencies/etc.
- 40+ unique recommendations received

Revisiting the workshops

Participants were assigned 1 of 4 scenarios using the conditions below:

- Are weather patterns in Washington predictable and are governments able to adapt and change?
- Are governments able to keep up with advances in transportation technology?

Participants had 2 tasks:

- Describe the problems and challenges in the transportation system given your scenario.
- Provide recommendations to address these challenges.

What types of recommendations did we receive?

- **State-wide:**
 - Policy
 - Financial
 - Infrastructure and land use
- **WSDOT-specific:**
 - Programmatic
 - Grants
 - Research and investigation
 - Coordination

Note: The work ahead will require different partnerships and various levels of effort and time.

What were the key themes?

Before prioritizing the individual recommendations, a few broad themes emerged from the workshops:

- Increase organizational and regulatory flexibility
- Improve information sharing & collaboration between providers
- Renew focus on developing sustainable practices
- Invest in infrastructure to support transit and mobility
- Prioritize human services and equity
- Expand public transportation service
- Deploy technology & mobility tools to promote access to services

How did we rank the recommendations?

Survey Design:

- We sent out a survey to about 70 people who participated in or expressed interest in the workshops – 25 responded.
- Respondents were given a set of 3 recommendations and ranked them – each survey respondent did this ranking exercise 16 times.
- After each participant ranked all recommendations, the survey aggregated the results.
- Each recommendation now has a score that reflects its appeal to the survey participants.

Interpreting the survey results

What do the “scores” mean?


- Score = (% most appealing) – (% least appealing)
- The higher the score, the more the attribute is appealing to respondents
- A positive score means that that attribute was selected as MOST appealing more often than least appealing
- A negative score means that that attribute was chosen as LEAST appealing more often than most appealing
- A score of zero means that that attribute was chosen as MOST and LEAST appealing an equal number of times OR it has never been chosen as most and least appealing
- If a score of an item is two times bigger than another item, it can be interpreted that it is twice as appealing

Survey Results – which 5 recommendations rose to the top?

Ranked from most to least important:

1. Establish a baseline for minimum service and provide funding to ensure this level of service across the state (Score: 0.6)
2. Apply demographic equity criteria to funding sources to prioritize projects that serve vulnerable and underserved populations (Score: 0.48)
3. Ensure people with special needs can access goods, services and jobs (Score: 0.48)
4. Develop new revenue models for funding public transportation (Score: 0.46)
5. Develop policies and funding sources to support all day transit (Score: 0.33)

Next steps?

- 
- ✓ Present to the TDM Technical Committee
 - Present to the TDM Executive Board on 12/8 (10am - noon)
 - Edit materials as needed
 - Present findings and report to the Secretary of Transportation
 - Continue refining these ideas and recommendations through the Public Transportation Plan in 2021

Questions and Answers

Want to connect?

Jacob Brett, Transportation Planner
WSDOT Public Transportation Division
360-701-3729 (cell)
brettj@wsdot.wa.gov