

Transportation Demand Management Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021
Teleconference



Committee members present (all remote): Alan Adolf, Mary Anderson, Carol Cooper, Billy Duss, Marshall Elizer, Jenna Forty, Jennifer Hass, Jan Ollivier, Karen Parkhurst, Michelle Rasmussen, Staci Sahoo, Heidi Speight, Kim Stolz, Michael Villnave

Committee member(s) excused: Jennifer Campos, Dustin Watson, Bryce Yadon

WSDOT staff present (all remote): Elizabeth (Liz) Bastian, Ricardo Gotla, Debi LaVaque, Amber Nguyen, Christie Stelzig, Stan Suchan, Pamela Vasudeva, Michael Wandler

Meeting convened at 10:03 AM

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks – Marshall Elizer

- Heidi Speight of Salesforce at Tableau, the committee's employer representative, introduced herself to the committee.

2. Public Comment

- No public comment was submitted.

3. State legislative updates – Ricardo Gotla

- Ricardo shared that the committee's [multimodal letter of support](#) was sent to the legislature, and thanked members for their great work.
- Pamela Vasudeva provided an update on vanpool and rideshare. Expanding trips outside of peak commute hours is a priority, along with supporting disadvantaged populations. WSTA has sent a bill to the legislature aiming to reduce the number of people needed to be considered a 'vanpool': [HB1514](#)
 - i. Depending on what happens with the bill, the [Vanpool Investment grant](#) application may be pushed to June.
- Billy asked how changing the number of riders in a vanpool affects the taxable benefit for employers.
 - i. This would allow agencies to change their requirements, but it would be up to the individual agencies to do so. Transit agencies that operate vanpool programs would have new flexibility, but this legislative change requires them to use that flexibility.

4. Federal legislative updates – David Straus, Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT)

- Marshall introduced David Straus, the Executive Director of the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT).
- David shared some background on ACT with the committee and discussed the association's MORE through TDM Act federal legislation. The TDM Technical Committee structure was used as an example for the proposed advisory committee language in the act.

5. Member top 5 – Mary Anderson

- Kicking off a new member-led meeting topic, Mary Anderson shared the top five things she wishes people knew about her job. Presentation slides located here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AG6jKqbrWSld4MvAfwJad7KBPkrKhBiA/view>

6. TDM Executive Board & Technical Committee relationship – Marshall Elizer & Brian Lagerberg

- Marshall and Brian provided some historical context on the evolution of the former Commute Trip Reduction Board into the TDM Technical Committee with the support of the TDM Executive Board. The intent was 2 ways – for the committee to advance issues to the board for advocacy, and the board to bring issues to the committee to bring a technical perspective.
- Marshall asked committee members for their thoughts on if this structure was working, and if there were ways to make it work better. Members generally expressed that they thought it was working well, and had the following suggestions for improvement:
 - i. Designating a liaison between the groups ('ex officio" member)
 - ii. Inviting board members to the summer committee retreat
 - iii. Increased legislative advocacy
- Next steps: Members will continue to think about these questions and how the committee and board can better support each other. This will also be a topic at the upcoming retreat.

7. TDM program updates – Ricardo Gotla & Pamela Vasudeva

- Ricardo shared some updates on the committee's planned retreat. WSDOT has received internal approval to hire a consultant. We are shooting for June/July.
- Pamela shared that she has accepted a one-year assignment at WSDOT to work on the first ever Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) plan. She will be stepping back from TDM policy work for the time being.
 - i. Staff is working with management to figure out how to make sure Pam's important projects are moving forward, and will circle back with the committee on next steps.

8. Closing remarks – Marshall Elizer

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.