



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TransTAC)

DRAFT Meeting Summary

September 10, 2020 | 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Remote: Zoom Meeting

Actions	Person Responsible
Distribute the contact information for Jean White of the Leafline Coalition.	KRCC Staff
Optional: Jurisdictions may reach out to Kelly McGourty to debrief projects or seek advice on projects for the 2022 regional county wide transportation competition.	TransTAC members
Raise the issue of TransTAC and TransPOL meeting sequencing to the KRCC Executive committee for review.	KRCC Staff
Optional: Provide feedback on the 2021 TransTAC Work Program and Meeting Program.	TransTAC members
Send updated November 12 TransTAC meeting invitation for shortened meeting time.	KRCC Staff

**A. Welcome and Administration**

Mishu Pham-Whipple, facilitator of the KRCC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TransTAC), welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting’s agenda (see Attachment A for a list of participants). Mishu introduced several guests. Jean White, the King County Regional Trail Manager, joined TransTAC in her capacity as a founding member of the Leafline Trails Coalition. Kelly McGourty, the Director of Transportation at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and Kalon Thomas, Assistant Planner at PSRC, also joined the meeting. Following introductions, TransTAC reviewed and approved the July 9, 2020 TransTAC meeting summary.

**B. Leafline Trails Coalition Briefing**

Jean White, King County Parks and staff to the Leafline Trails Coalition, shared that the Leafline Trails Coalition aims to connect the trails network across the Central Puget Sound region to improve health, community, quality of life, mobility, and access for all. The Coalition has been meeting since 2018, building a broad-based coalition of governmental, non-profit, and business interests. Upcoming actions by the Leafline Trail Coalition include coalition building and work on a stylized map that will show existing and planned regional trails. A September 23 press release includes a promotional video that features Commissioner Rob Gelder of Kitsap County. Jean stated that there is an open Kitsap position on the Leadership Board and invited TransTAC to nominate potential Kitsap representatives. David Forte shared that Melissa Moore, Kitsap County, is currently tracking Leafline Trails Coalition meetings and that the County is not interested in formally being represented at this time. TransTAC members acknowledged the significant undertaking the Coalition is pursuing to coordinate on a regional bike trail system and shared that they want to stay informed. However, there was consensus that they will not have the capacity to be representatives at this time. Mishu will share Jean White’s contact information for those interested in joining the Coalition’s email list. Jean encouraged TransTAC members to attend meetings when possible, as they will be all virtual for the foreseeable future.

**C. Regional Project Evaluation Committee and other PSRC Updates**

The Regional Project Evaluation Committee (RPEC) met on July 24 and will meet next on September 25. PSRC staff shared the following updates.

- PSRC is in the process of collating responses from the Regional Project Survey. Kelly McGourty offered that data specific to a single county can be prepared and shared upon request.

- The process for extensions is expected to change in 2021. David Forte requested that changes to the formal process be via email. Kalon Thomas committed to sending an update via email.
- PSRC is working towards robust representation of jurisdictions and counties on the PSRC Freight Advisory Committee and has reached out to Fred Salisbury, Port of Bremerton and others. While the committee is not, comprehensive representation is an important step so formalizing all committees. Topics related to freight will be elevated in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Freight Advisory Committee will serve educational purposes and support the RTP.

#### **D. Regional Competition Debrief**

Kelly McGourty shared feedback based on the themes and questions raised during the July 9 TransTAC Regional Competition debrief. She offered to meet with any KRCC members to debrief a particular grant submission or to discuss advice on a project for the next round of grant submissions for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Funds prior to the release of Call for Projects. TransTAC staff had the opportunity to ask questions of PSRC staff. Highlights of the discussion are included below:

- Air Quality: The air quality metric looks at how much a project can reduce carbon emissions. Projects that improve air quality may include strategies to support reducing reliance on cars, support transportation modes other than cars, or reduce congestion. Freight improvements and projects that supported bicycling options also performed well. Large air quality projects typically receive funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program so air quality scores are not the sole determining metric for Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects to do well. Projects put forward from KRCC members scored similarly on air quality to other STP projects within the competition.
- Connections to Regional Centers: A project does not have to be region wide to score well; however, there must be a clear connection to a Regional Center. If the project connects to a center in another region, then that should be clearly stated as this can improve the score.
- General Recommendations for Addressing Criteria: With the exception of air quality, answers to criteria are qualitative. Projects that score well state how the project addresses all the criteria. Projects that provide less substantive answers to certain questions may not be as successful.
- Financial Plan Criteria: Submissions must demonstrate a feasible financial plan. Proposals that assume future grant funds or rely on the passage of state level funds are not considered feasible. Proposals that can demonstrate commitment to the project, a past history of success, or process that will be used to identify funds. Demonstrating that a process to secure funding has worked in the past for a type of project can be a strategy to demonstrate feasibility. These constraints can be extended for consideration when the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is a partner. Funding that relies on a ballot measure or the passage of a legislative package are not viewed as feasible. Similarly, identifying and demonstrating when funding was used for similar projects or when funding sources were used in past can demonstrate feasibility. Steffani Lillie raised that the applicants can select “unsecured” or “secured” for dollars, and that adding a third category “grant funds” to the application may make sense.
- PSRC Review Process: Diane Lenius asked PSRC staff for insight into the review process. Kelly McGourty shared that there were 36 applications for the Regional Competition reviewed in 2020. Kelly McGourty shared that the Growth Management team and her team reviewed the applications. While different parts of the scoring team were responsible for the scoring of different sections within the application, each application was read in full by those conducting scoring. The applications were reviewed over four to five separate meetings. Scoring was rigorous and scoring methodology was discussed to ensure consistency between applications. The scoring team only considered what was within the application and did not do additional research. When the team saw N/A or a blank space, that question received zero points.
- Kitsap Review Process: Diane Lenius asked PSRC staff for feedback on the current review process that occurs within Kitsap County. Kelly McGourty shared that PSRC allows flexibility provided the process is fair and consistent within a county. She has not heard complaints from individuals within Kitsap County on the local process that is being used. Each county has a unique process. King County uses the criteria that exist within the regional competition, Pierce County has a system

of points assigned for meeting certain criteria, and Snohomish uses a hybrid approach. Beyond maintaining consistency, it is important the processes follow the policy framework outlined in the regional competition.

- Policy Framework and Criteria Under Consideration by Project Selection Task Force: The Project Selection Task Force will review the policy framework and criteria for the next round of grant submissions. The top three issues under discussion are equity, safety, and climate change. There will also be a need to align with VISION 2050. Discussions of how to define equity include factors such as racial equity, health equity, populations that are under-resourced, elderly populations, and those who have disabilities. TransTAC warned of the potential for social equity to be conflated with other types of equity, such as regional or geographic equity in future Task Force discussions.
- Contingency List Funds: There are an estimated \$15 million that may be distributed to the contingency list. The date and exact value are to be determined.

#### **E. Review 2021 Transportation Work Program and TransTAC Meeting Plan**

Mishu Pham-Whipple reviewed the 2021 Transportation Work Program and TransTAC Meeting Plan. The full KRCC Work Program is scheduled for approval at the December 1 KRCC Executive Board meeting. Recommended changes should be proposed prior to the December 1 meeting. The TransTAC Meeting Plan contains placeholders for members to recommend coordination and collaboration agenda topics. TransTAC members should follow up offline with any recommended agenda topics for 2021. Given KRCC's land use committees' plans to update the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) in 2021, TransTAC expressed interest in the opportunity to coordinate with LUTAC on the transportation elements of the CPPs. Mishu Pham-Whipple committed to working with KRCC staff and the CPP recently hired consultant to determine an approach for coordination. One TransTAC member noted that 2021 TransTAC meetings are scheduled to follow TransPOL meetings, which could make it challenging to prepare information for TransPOL's consideration. Determining the sequencing of TransPOL and TransTAC meetings is a challenge since information between the committees flows two ways. KRCC staff committed to raising the question of sequencing at the September 15 Executive Committee meeting.

#### **F. Corridor Updates**

TransTAC members provided the following corridor updates.

- SR 305: Diane Lenius shared that a committee meeting took place recently and that the group is moving forward with projects under contract. There is a question of whether to move forward with the Day Road project. A strategy being considered is to bundle the culvert project with intersection projects to change the priority level of the project due to WSDOT budgetary issues associated with COVID-19 and I-976. Work is expected on the project beginning in mid-October and continuing through the winter. Notice will be sent out on road closures.
- SR 16/Gorst: No updates were shared.
- SR 104: No Updates were shared.
- SR 303: No Updates were shared.

#### **G. Solutions and Support**

TransTAC discussed of challenges faced by individual jurisdictions and potential solutions from TransTAC members.

- David Forte shared an update on Kitsap County's transition to the Vissim traffic model. The model can incorporate large portions of existing models from jurisdictions and allow for synchronization between the cities and the county.
- Fred Salisbury shared that Amazon began occupation of their new building and that traffic changes can be expected in mid-October.
- Mark Dorsey shared that the Tremont project is close to being closed out. Additional NEPA work is being conducted for a pedestrian pathway project prior to proceeding to the right of way phase. WSDOT is moving the proposed location of the SR 166 box culvert, which will result in work on Port Orchard Boulevard.
- Shane Weber shared that Bremerton received 1.5 million dollars for Warren Avenue Bridge but funding was put on hold due to I-976. Further communication with WSDOT emphasizing the safety

components of the project resulted in an obligation to move forward. Construction funding is still needed. WSDOT will be designing components of the expanded sidewalks on the bridge.

- Steffani Lillie shared that the first vessel for the Southworth Passenger-Only Ferry is arriving and the timing of when the second vessel will be delivered is unclear due to COVID-19. The Kitsap Transit Board is determining how to move forward given these constraints.

#### H. Announcements and Next Steps

The next TransPOL meeting is on Thursday, October 15 and the next TransTAC meeting is on Thursday, November 12.

I. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

#### Attachment A: TransTAC Meeting Participants

Member Name	Member Affiliation (alphabetical)
Chris Wierzbicki	Bainbridge Island
Shane Weber	Bremerton
David Forte	Kitsap County
Andrew Nelson	Kitsap County
Jeff Shea	Kitsap County
Joe Rutan	Kitsap County
Steffani Lillie	Kitsap Transit
Sara Oliveria	Naval Base Kitsap
Fred Salisbury	Port of Bremerton
Mark Dorsey	Port Orchard
Diane Lenius	Poulsbo
Dennis Engel	WSDOT
Jean White	King County/Leafline Coalition
Kalon Thomas	PSRC
Kelly McGourty	PSRC
Don Willott	Resident
Mishu Pham-Whipple	KRCC
Vivian Ericson	KRCC