

West Seattle Transportation Coalition

Meeting Minutes for November 29, 2018

In attendance:

Board: Michael Taylor-Judd, Victoria Nelson, Kate Wells, Deb Barker, Chas Redmond, Jon Wright, David Hancock, Larry Wymer

Guests: Tony Fragada, Jonathan Lewis, Diane Wiatr, Chris Saleeba, Kevin Futhey

1. Meeting called to order at 6:40pm by Michael Taylor-Judd
2. Introductions
3. September and October minutes were approved
4. Jonathan Lewis, Diane Wiatr and Chris Saleeba from SDOT introduced "Imagine Greater Downtown", a consortium of organizations, including SDOT, KC Metro, Sound Transit, Downtown Seattle Association and WSDOT, who are pondering how public right-of-ways will function in 20-30 years. Public land comprises ~1/2 of the land in downtown.

- 50,000 new residents and 20,000 new jobs are predicted to come to Seattle by 2035.

- The city is reaching out to neighborhoods, high schools, cultural groups and more for input on how the public wants downtown space used. So far, most residents want more intergenerational spaces and parks, more restrooms and better walking routes, and to be made to feel comfortable in all parts of downtown.

- Imagine Greater Downtown is studying 10 "Big Ideas" but covered the three related to transportation: Quality Transit Experience, Streets as Places, and New Mobility

- Transit is ideally uncrowded, frequent, has appropriate wayfinding at stops, is safe, and provides a "sense of arrival." Chas recommended more readerboards on 3rd for bus arrival times. Victoria suggested more benches in shelters to make waiting more comfortable, as well as better payment methods for visitors. Deb pointed out how other cities' transit stations represent the area served. Michael discussed inequity in downtown and asked how to weave different demographics together.

- Streets as Places - How do we utilize the right-of-way? Moving, hanging out, play spaces, stormwater management, outdoor cafes all fall under this umbrella. Chas suggested making better use of alleys. Deb mentioned Melbourne has big street/little street pairs for different uses. The city could do a better job of connecting neighborhoods to the waterfronts, as they are symbols of our area.

- New Mobility includes autonomous vehicles, freight, environment. We need to make sure all communities are served.

- Chas brought up how much construction interferes with pedestrian streetscapes. What are the opportunities for more parks? Piers, Lid I-5. Michael suggested a public rooftop park for the high views we're losing with the viaduct.

- The Imagine Greater Downtown website will solicit comments in mid-December and

outreach will begin in earnest in 2019, with an open house on February 28 (details tbd.)

5. Kevin Futhey introduced Commute Seattle, an organization designed to help companies and their employees survive the “Seattle Squeeze.” They can educate employers on how they can lessen their impact, from allowing employees to work 4 day weeks, shifting hours to off-peak times, telecommuting and incentivizing transit use. Victoria brought up strict rules some unions have for being late. Deb suggested advertising the organization on buses and SDOT leaderboards. Larry suggested publicizing companies with success stories.
6. The suggestion that the Water Taxi run on February 2-3 for the Viaduct events is under consideration.
7. The temporary improvements for the Highland Park Way roundabout location were mentioned briefly. Some neighbors have proposed a paint-only mini roundabout.
8. Random items: T-5 is due next quarter so presumably they will stay within the CIS already done? Tony Fragada brought up the quality of pavement on bus routes and if fixes are planned. Seattle’s Transportation Benefit District is going to expire so it’s time to plan what comes next.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Minutes compiled by Kate Wells.