

West Seattle Transportation Coalition

Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2019

In attendance:

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

Guests: Scott Morgan, Charlie Torres, Paul Meyer, Mick Schultz, Anne Porter, Ray Deardorf, Hadley Rodero, Lindsay Wolpa, John McNulty

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by Michael Taylor-Judd
2. Introductions
3. January minutes approved
4. T-5 Modernization:
 - There will be a 6-week bid process for the rehab, including crane installation, berth deepening, dock work and slope stabilization, followed by construction beginning in July. Berth 1 should be ready for a tenant in 2021 and berth 2 in 2023. In the meantime, Matson will temporarily move to T-5 during construction, OOC to T25/30, MSC/Maersk to T-18. Matson will leave T-5 in 2020.
 - T-5 construction concerns: Will construction vehicles be required to be clean? Probably not. Noise? There will be about 6 months of noise during allowed hours. Vibration impacts are not expected to travel far.
 - Air Quality, Noise, Traffic and Stormwater at T-5 are all concerns for the Port, and they strive to run a cleaner operation through equipment efficiency and encouraging shore power use. If mitigations fail, the city and Clean Air Agency will step in.
 - Traffic: EIS traffic data spurred a Gate Queue Management Plan to keep lines from backing up to the lower Spokane Street bridge. Much of the cargo will leave via rail, and the northernmost spur of W. Marginal Way will be closed to facilitate trains. This closure may speed up the light cycle at the Chelan intersection. A quiet zone will include about 5 crossings along W. Marginal to reduce train noise.
5. Ferries Long Range Plan: Washington has the largest ferry system in the US and ridership is growing on most routes. To keep up with demand WS Ferries is addressing the following:
 - Reliable Service: The fleet is aging and many new vessels are needed.
 - Customer Experience: Use technology modernize fare collection
 - Manage Growth: Fare adjustment (vehicles vs. other modes) and technology will help improve loading.
 - Sustainability and Resilience: Half of the fleet needs to be replaced by 2035 with electric hybrid vessels. 16 vessels will replace the 13 in operation to better juggle maintenance. A second slip at Southworth and new Fauntleroy dock will improve resilience.

- The Fauntleroy-Vashon-Southworth route will be getting 3 new 124-car vessels. Longer dwell times will be needed to load boats. As of March 31 every vessel will go to both Vashon and Southworth to simplify loading. A Kitsap foot ferry may be added in 2020.

- Ridership grew in the 1990's with population growth and then fell after car tab funding was cut and fares were raised.

- WS Ferries was asked if climate change is being considered in planning, including higher winds. More routes seem to be canceled recently and a better alert system is called for. Another question posed whether electric hybrid was the best choice. WSF said yes.

- Fauntleroy dock replacement is planned for 2025-2027, with alternatives development beginning this year and engineering in 2021-25. The new dock will need to be consistent with the long range plan, and take into account the seismic vulnerability of the location.

- Could the new dock include conservation/educational and art displays? Yes. Will WSF begin running foot ferries? No, but they will work with local agencies and cities. The Morgan Junction feels ferry traffic was ignored in the HALA plan and it is a major impact on the area. WSF should work better with the city to mitigate impacts.

6. Sound Transit Delridge meeting recap:

- Good turnout, lots of concern regarding demolition of homes. The neighbors are unhappy with the current options. Sound Transit is looking for a chosen alternative that does not require extra funding, and one that does. Bellevue found funding, and maybe the Port will be open to pitching in? Should WSTC draft a letter regarding previously deleted options? Could the purple line still be a possibility?

- Should there be another walk and talk?

- A meeting on March 12 at Youngstown will focus mainly on station placement.

- Should WSTC concern ourselves with impact concerns or mainly efficiently moving the residents?

7. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm

Minutes compiled by Kate Wells.