

# Statewide Public Transportation Plan

## Questions from the Panel and Working Group Members

Sound Transit Ruth Fisher Conference Room  
Seattle, WA  
September 10, 2013

Questions from the Planning Council and Technical Work Group based on the panel presentations:

1. The State Role
  - a. What is the state's role in public transportation?
  - b. Does the state's interest go beyond corridors; beyond constructing projects to how facilities should be used?
  - c. If the state contributes more funding to transits, should it have a larger, stronger role in how those funds are spent, or coordinating how those funds are spent?
  - d. How can the state provide leadership to overcome individual organizations' pursuit of their agendas? In other words, how do we break down silos?
  - e. Have we created a message for the Legislature that describes the value that public transportation has in creating access to jobs and how much the state's economy depends on public transit?
  - f. How does the state DOT (and the new secretary of WSDOT) view local transit? How do they define the state's interest in public transportation?
  - g. If each transit agency were a part of division of WSDOT, would it get funded more?
  
2. Measuring Performance
  - a. Does WSDOT have example of performance metrics that measure the whole transportation system?
  - b. Are there model land use codes or ordinances that support Smart Growth and public transit?
  - c. How do we improve connectivity between modes for ferry riders, students, seniors, tourists, rural to urban centers, etc.?
  - d. How do we build connections with native sovereign nations as transit providers and for public policy support in Washington, DC?
  - e. How do we change the conversation with state and federal leaders so they see public transportation as vital to community success?
  - f. Is WSDOT or the State going to develop performance measures for the overall system efficiency? If this was done, the Planning Council and the Technical Work Group could discuss public transportation role/contribution to overall efficiency. At this time, and without these measures, we cannot engage in that discussion.

### 3. Financing the Future

- a. Given Congress passing MAP-21, which significantly changes funding for transit systems at the local level, what role do you feel WSDOT (and the state legislature) should have in supporting vital transit services as it relates to WSDOT's efforts with "Moving Washington"?
- b. With the Highway Trust Fund about to go broke, how can we fill fund?
- c. Where should additional state money for transit come from? Fuel tax, Vehicle miles travelled tax, Property tax, Income tax, Other
- d. Is there agreement among the speakers on the concept of a universal state transit fare system?

### 4. Odds and Ends

- a. Would the State (and others, like Sound Transit) make a commitment to investments in affecting how people use the facilities that they build and maintain once the construction is done?
- b. Most transit systems in Washington state are much smaller than the ones represented on the panel. What advice do you have for the smaller systems?
- c. How are we making connections in Washington State?
  - i. Ferry riders from the docks to the transit systems
  - ii. Students from the airports to colleges
  - iii. Elders from their home to community services
  - iv. Rural to urban
  - v. Tourists
- d. What are we doing to embrace a new partnership with native sovereign nations? Are bingo/casino buses included in the public transportation definition? Without tribal advertisement in the buses, what would the shortfall be?

### 5. System specific questions

- a. How does the #99 Waterfront Shuttle relate to Coleman Dock connectivity to International District Station and light rail? Why doesn't that service satisfy the WSF's interest?
- b. Why is Sound Transit focused on light rail to Everett and Tacoma when the highest need for high capacity transit is within the densest city, Seattle?
- c. Are there any plans for a High Speed Rail service in Washington state? Have you heard of or have an opinion on Elon Musk's Hyperloop proposal for California?
  - i. (Musk said his idea is similar to the "old pneumatic tubes used to send mail and packages within and between buildings," but would operate under much less pressure to save on energy. The cars would be pushed or pulled through the tube by a series of electric motors, possibly similar to the ones used by the Tesla Model S. Each car would be mounted with a fan in front to move the air out of the way. The air itself would then be directed underneath the car, forming a cushion on which it would ride. The entire thing would be powered by solar panels mounted on top of the tube.  
<http://money.cnn.com/2013/08/12/news/economy/hyperloop-elon-musk/index.html> )

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