



Date: July 16, 2019
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dennis Higgins	Councilmember	Present	
Les Thomas	Councilmember	Present	
Bill Boyce	Council President	Present	
Dana Ralph	Mayor	Present	
Satwinder Kaur	Councilmember	Present	
Brenda Fincher	Councilmember	Present	
Toni Troutner	Councilmember	Present	
Marli Larimer	Councilmember	Present	

II. PRESENTATIONS

1. Rapid Ride I/Mobility Plan

April Delchamps, Senior Transportation Planner and Greg McKnight, RapidRide I Line Project Manager, provided the Council with information regarding the RapidRide I Line.

RapidRide is a robust arterial bus rapid transit service that is the "Best of Metro," has high quality service and facilities, employs state-of-the art innovations, travels natural transportation corridors, has the highest level of speed and reliability investments among Metro services and partnerships with local jurisdictions.

RapidRide I Line is the next project coming to Renton, Kent and Auburn. Planning during 2019, preliminary design 2019-2020, final design and construction 2021-2023, and service to start in September of 2023.

In anticipation of the RapidRide service, Metro is working on the Renton-Kent-Auburn Mobility Plan to best serve the mobility needs of the region. There is a focus to increase network efficiency and investment in equity priority areas and to develop a network of mobility services. The goal is to create a single route from Renton to Kent to Auburn to be upgraded to the RapidRide I Line. The timeline was reviewed.

The first assessment phase was completed in June. Metro collected feedback and shared project information to the Kent City Council, City staff, a Mobility Board was convened, members for a Partnership Review Board were

recruited. There were stakeholder interviews, tabling events, outreach at 30 bus stops and surveys conducted.

Metro is getting the word out through a press release to local media, targeted media release to ethnic media, information posted on King County Metro website and blog, jurisdictional newsletter and tabling at community locations.

Key themes and feedback from outreach included:

- Feedback on RapidRide alignment, including Canyon Drive vs James Street pathway
- Consider need for service investment, improve transit service coverage through Kent, east-west connections and service frequency
- Ensure RapidRide stations serve important local destinations, including regional transit centers and services providers
- Continue engagement strategies to prioritize historically underserved populations

McKnight provided details on plans to provide security at bus stops.

Summer outreach and engagement included:

- Providing information and gathering input at community events
- I Line online open house
- Renton-Kent-Auburn Area Mobility Plan survey
- Mobility and partner review boards

What's next?

- Concept Development Phase through early September
- Ongoing Outreach and Engagement during the summer
- Mobility Board in September
- Kent City Council briefing anticipated in October to update on corridor concept and plan development
- Coordination with City Staff will be ongoing.

McKnight indicated lots of lessons have been learned and Metro is doubling down on what they are calling this RapidRide investment.

McKnight addressed the Council's concerns over security and crime and indicated better east/west connections throughout the day is one of the focus areas for concepts.

McKnight advised Metro is looking at changes to dial a ride, the pilot last mile program, a fixed network and other services and how RapidRide will connect to Sounder and link light rail.

There was discussion on how the connection from the Renton transit center to Seattle will happen.

2. Rally the Valley Vision

Hayley Bonsteel, Long Range Planning Manager, provided a brief introduction to the Rally the Valley presentation.

Bonsteel indicated the Mayor and Council are invested in this project and this is the time to change the way we invest and think about valley.

First draft deliverables include strategic issues, goals to address those issues, and an overarching vision. Bonsteel indicated that staff needs agreement on the fundamental issues at play, the directions our solutions need to point and the overall vision we are trying to achieve.

Danielle Butsick, Long Range Planner, introduced the strategic framework - the overarching piece that will guide how we think about and articulate issues and will guide how we move forward. Butsick indicated she will be introducing each of the problem statements - existing conditions, the goals to address the issues and that the goals will be tied into one cohesive vision.

Strategic Issue #1

Kent has a unique concentration of industrial land and infrastructure; absent other significant economic activity, and combined with state-imposed limitations on revenue, more diverse and resilient forms of funding are needed.

Kent, state and region made investments in industrial infrastructure in the valley. The State legislature rules on taxes to collect and how to spend revenue.

Sales tax is the primary source of revenue - more flexible to use for maintenance of access - need to look at diversifying funding sources.

Goal #1

Optimize the City's financing mechanisms to support public services and infrastructure that keep the City financially resilient and the valley productive.

Butsick indicated we need to identify opportunities and make a lot of small changes. Possibly utilize LIDS, community facility districts, transportation benefit districts and look at how we market businesses.

How do we focus our resources for creating a habitat for businesses?

Strategic Issue #2

The Kent Valley lacks visible cues of the high value of business activity taking

place. The visual experience of the Kent Valley can be disorienting, and signals indifference rather than investment in a shared vision.

Goal #2:

Elevate people's experience of the Valley by introducing visible cues of dynamic business activity and desirable amenities.

Larimer suggested reviewing property restrictions on signage.

Strategic Issue #3

The City's land use policies and regulations fail to encourage market-based opportunities for new economic activity and preclude firm diversity.

Goal #3

Encourage more business types, uses, and economic activity to complement the City's current strengths as a manufacturing and industrial hub.

Butsick suggested simplifying code. There is a demand for industrial land in the valley. It's reasonable for Kent to say we want to work with you to make a better industrial valley - maybe put business uses on property next to warehouse, contribute to low income housing fund to help community.

Strategic Issue #4

The physical and built environment presents human safety and connectivity challenges impacting worker well-being and commerce.

Goal #4:

Invest in a public realm that supports people and their activities

Draft Vision:

The Kent Valley is recognized as a thriving, economically resilient industrial ecosystem; a center for productive business; and a healthy, desirable place to work.

Butsick indicated we need to think about who the vision should be focused on. The Valley is Kent's employment center and it should be all about the workplace environment. There should be connections to business and connections between the Valley and the rest of the City.

Council discussed possible variations to the vision that would include all of Kent.

Bill Ellis, Chief Economic Development Officer advised of the plan to update the business community. Ellis is working with partner jurisdictions to create a brand for the valley.

Ellis indicated he is speaking to major developers, real estate development and businesses at large. There is broad support on Rally the Valley Subarea Plan.

3. Human Services Master Plan/CDBG Plan

Merina Hanson, Parks and Human Services Manager, provided the Council with a brief presentation on the 2020-2024 CDBG Consolidated Plan and Human Services Master Plan.

Hanson indicated the CDBG Consolidated Plan process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the CDBG program. The Human Services Master Plan provides the blueprint for the City's General Fund investments in our community over the next four years.

The timeline for both plans include data collection & analysis, prioritization and strategies, draft report, approval process and submitting the report. The department is currently prioritizing strategies and moving into a draft report.

The department has expended the most energy on community engagement and outreach. Hanson reviewed the completed and pending work on community engagement and outreach.

Hanson indicated that Lori Guilfoyle has done the vast majority of community engagement, along with the help of Dinah Wilson. Hanson advised that a consultant will be reaching out to the council to provide individual feedback.

Hanson reviewed feedback trends to date, including gaps in services and priorities. Common themes include equity, resilience and well-being (links between culture, arts, social networks, prevention, and well-being), and opportunity fund (consider adding for emerging or innovative programming).

Hanson advised she will be back for a lengthy workshop presentation in September.

Meeting ended at 6:41 p.m.

Kimberley A. Komoto

City Clerk