



Washington State Transportation Commission

Lakewood Meeting Summary
April 20 & 21, 2021

Day 1: April 20, 2021

Chair Jerry Litt opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with introductions by commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and virtual meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 2:

Mayor's Welcome

Don Anderson, Mayor, City of Lakewood

Mayor Anderson welcomed the Commission to Lakewood.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 2, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:19, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 3:

Transportation 101

Reema Griffith, Executive Director, Washington State Transportation Commission

Carl See, Deputy Director, Washington State Transportation Commission

Tamara Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, Washington State Transportation Commission

Commission staff provided an overview of the fiscal and policy framework of the statewide transportation system.

Presentation:

[Transportation 101](#)

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:06:23, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 4:

State Transportation Update

John Wynands, Regional Administrator, Olympic Region, Washington State Department of Transportation

Mr. Wynands provided an overview of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Northwest Region including projects underway or planned, as well as sharing a broader perspective on the challenges faced by the region.

Presentation:

[Olympic Region Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:37:00, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 5:

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Regional Aviation Baseline Study

Jason Thibedeau, Principal Economic Development Manager, Puget Sound Regional Council

Mr. Thibedeau gave an overview of the regional aviation baseline study which establishes the aviation needs in the region. PSRC is leading this study which will set the stage for identifying approaches to addressing future aviation growth and travel needs. The study report will be released in May 2021.

Presentation:

[PSRC - Regional Aviation Baseline Study](#)

For more detail on agenda item 5, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:03:28, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 6:

Sound Transit: South Sound Service Update

Andrew Austin, South Corridor Government and Community Relations Officer, Sound Transit

Julie Marshall, Director of Project Transition Office, Sound Transit

David Wright II, Chief Safety Officer, Sound Transit

The panel provided a briefing on the progress of efforts to resume service and safety enhancements along the Point Defiance Bypass. An overview was also provided on Sound Transit's (ST) South Sound expansion plans, as they work to realign their 25-year capital program (2016-2041) due to lower than expected revenues and higher costs.

Safety is the top priority and will continue to drive the process and pace for resuming service, along the Point Defiance Bypass. ST will ensure compliance of all applicable requirements prior to the resumption of service. Additional safety measures are being put in place including but not limited to positive train control (PTC) and a PTC cut-out protocol. At this time, no date has been identified for the resumption of Amtrak passenger service, along the Point Defiance Bypass.

Presentation:

[Sound Transit - Service Updates](#)

For more detail on agenda item 6, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:38:57, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 7:

City of Lakewood: Transportation Issues, Challenges, and Successes

Paul Bucich, Director, Public Works Engineering, City of Lakewood

John Caulfield, City Manager, City of Lakewood

Mr. Bucich and Mr. Caulfield gave an overview on Lakewood's transportation projects and a Multimodal Transportation Study aimed at increasing multimodal connectivity along the I-5 corridor.

Presentation:

[City of Lakewood Transportation Past and Future](#)

For more detail on agenda item 7, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:08:26, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 8:

Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM): Transportation Issues, Challenges, and Successes

Colonel Skye Duncan, Garrison Commander, Joint Base Lewis McChord

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker, Deputy Garrison Commander, Joint Base Lewis McChord

Colonel Duncan and Lieutenant Colonel Hecker gave an overview of Joint Base Lewis-McChord's (JBLM) transportation needs. JBLM's biggest challenges are encroachment, environment, and encirclement. JBLM has transportation concerns surrounding JBLM as well as maintaining efficient movement between JBLM, the Yakima Training Center, and the Port of Tacoma.

Presentation:

[Joint Base Lewis McChord](#)

For more detail on agenda item 8, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:36:12, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time

Chair Jerry Litt reminded the Commission that the meeting will continue Wednesday, April 21, 2021, and recessed the meeting.

DAY 2: April 21, 2021

Chair Litt opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with introductions by Commissioners.

Agenda Item 10:

The Future of I-5 Across the Nisqually Delta

Bill Adamson, Program Manager, South Sound Military Communities Partnerships

David Troutt, Director, Natural Resources, Nisqually Tribe

Marc Daily, Executive Director, Thurston Regional Planning Organization

John Wynands, Regional Administrator, Olympic Region, Washington State Department of Transportation

Andy Ryder, Mayor, City of Lacey

The Commission was briefed on planning efforts underway for improving the portion of I-5 that crosses the Nisqually Delta, balancing transportation needs and environmental concerns, and honoring treaty rights. Helping to coordinate all this is the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP) which consists of more than [50 member](#) cities, counties, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, JBLM, State, regional, corporate, and non-profit organizations dedicated to fostering outcomes that are mutually beneficial to the South Sound region.

Crossing the Nisqually Delta is the largest component of improvements to I-5 from Mounts Road to Tumwater. The current footprint of I-5 through the Delta restricts critical ecological functions impacting salmon survival, is at a high risk of being overtopped by a major flooding event and has limited capacity to handle the growing South Sound economy and population - a key component to national security, noting 30% of the JBLM workforce live south of the Nisqually River.

Preliminary findings of a United States Geological Services hydrologic study show that I-5 is being impacted by the “Coastal Squeeze” which a term referring to the impacts of the changing rain and snow events in the upland areas of the Nisqually Watershed as a result of climate change, and how that interacts with the measurable and anticipated increase in sea level in Puget Sound. The study shows flooding events in the Nisqually will increase in magnitude and frequency, potentially leading to the overtopping of I-5 on a more regular basis. The risk of a major event, such as the destruction of I-5, is not a matter of if, but when, which could be as soon as 17 years from now.

Presentation:

[Crossing Nisqually Delta - South Sound Military Communities Partnerships](#)

[Crossing Nisqually Delta - Nisqually Tribe](#)

[Crossing Nisqually Delta - Thurston Regional Planning Council](#)

For more detail on agenda item 10, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:42, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 11:
Nisqually Tribe Transportation Issues, Challenges, and Successes
Joe Cushman, Director, Planning, Nisqually Tribe

Mr. Cushman provided an overview of the Nisqually Tribe's transportation activities and plans, covering how transportation on the reservation is greatly impacted by non-tribal neighbors. Over the past ten to fifteen years, the Tribe has become increasingly aware of the importance of off-reservation connectivity and how the external road system is critical to tribal community development.

Presentation:
[Nisqually Indian Tribe - Transportation Overview](#)

For more detail on agenda item 11, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:25:40, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 12:
Addressing Transportation Service Disparities
Penni Belcher, Director, 2-1-1 Services, United Way Pierce County

Ms. Belcher provided an overview on South Sound "2-1-1 Ride United" program, a free helpline service that was launched in early 2020. 2-1-1 Ride United, is a connector service to create and enable access to hundreds of services and programs for under-served populations, including utilities, transportation, behavioral health, housing, and employment. During the COVID-19 Pandemic 2-1-1 Ride United has connected people to many vital services including getting to grocery stores and vaccination clinics.

Presentation:
[211 Ride United - Transportation Access](#)

For more detail on agenda item 12, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:37:00, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 13:
Tacoma Equity Tool
Jacques Colon, 2025 Strategic Manager, City of Tacoma

Mr. Colon provided an overview of the Tacoma Equity Index, a GIS mapping tool that allows mapping opportunities by census tract and block level, across Tacoma. The index can be used to inform decisions with an applied equity lens. The index is currently populated with data for Tacoma but is being expanded to include data from across Pierce County.

Presentation:
[Tacoma Equity Index](#)

For more detail on agenda item 13, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:56:55, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 14:
Translating Data to Operations
Lindsey Sehmel, Principal Planner – Scheduling, Pierce Transit

Ms. Sehmel provided an overview on how Pierce Transit is incorporating available regional data into its fixed route service level decision making. For the September 2020 service change, Pierce Transit considered equity, efficiency, and geographic connectivity impacts. Moving forward, Pierce Transit will continue evaluating service adjustments for various routes and gaining a better understanding of equity impacts across the Pierce Transit service area.

Presentation:
[Pierce Transit - Translating Data to Operations](#)

For more detail on agenda item 14, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:17:35, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 15:

Commission Business

Reflections and Recommendations

- Low-Income Tolling Study cannot do everything to improve equity. We need to consider how can we utilize transit networks to improve equity of the transportation system.
- The Commission should explore how we can use data similar to the data in the Tacoma Equity Tool to further inform decision making at the state level.
- The tolling decisions before us are going to be very difficult and are unfortunately coming at a time when the economy is just starting to pick back up.
- There was a theme today demonstrating what coalitions can do when everyone works together.

March Meeting Summary

There were no revisions requested for the March meeting summary.

2021 Legislative Update

Ms. Jones provided an update on the legislative session.

AV Work Group Proposed Membership Change – *ACTION*

Ms. Griffith reviewed a change in membership to the Autonomous Vehicle Work Group Executive Committee. The Commission agreed to add a representative from the “Self-Driving Coalition for Safer Streets”, replacing the current seat filled by Uber.

- **Action:** Commissioner Jennings moved to approve the change in membership of the Autonomous Vehicle Work Group Executive Committee as proposed. Commissioner Restucci seconded the motion. It was adopted, 5 yay, 2 excused.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

For more detail on agenda item 15, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:32:15, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Next meetings:

May 11, 2021 - Special Meeting – Toll Rate and Ferry Fare Setting Preparations

May 18 & 19, 2021 - Regular Meeting