



Advisory Group Orientation Meeting Summary

September 15, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall – Bertha Knight Landes Room

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Penny Mabie, facilitator, welcomed members of the One Center City (OCC) Advisory Group (Group) and led a round of introductions. Penny explained her role as meeting facilitator and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials. Penny then introduced Jon Scholes, Executive Director, Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) and Victor Obeso, Deputy General Manager, King County Department of Transportation, to provide opening remarks.

Jon thanked Advisory Group members for their interest, noting that he recognized many familiar faces and that he appreciated the diversity of voices included within the group. He highlighted the unique opportunity that the OCC project represents due to the innovative public/private partnerships that the project fosters. Jon cited growth and technology as two key drivers for planning for transportation in Seattle's Center City area, and he noted that the challenge facing Advisory Group members and partner agencies would be ensuring that the Center City was accessible to everyone and that transportation options would continue to be reliable. Jon thanked members and partner agencies for their investment in the OCC process.

Victor stressed the importance of the Center City area as a critical hub for regional transit and noted that King County Metro has some of the fastest growing transit ridership in the nation. Victor emphasized the need for a coordinated plan for how all transportation modes will move through Center City and that maximizes opportunities for people to move through, to and experience Center City. Victor noted that everyone plays an important role in building this plan and that collaboration between the partner agencies, the Advisory Group and the broader public is essential to ensure that growth and change are not just accommodated, but to build synergy. Victor thanked Advisory Group members for their willingness and enthusiasm to participate in this process.

Penny facilitated a small group discussion activity and Advisory Group members had the opportunity to respond to the question "what brings you here and why are you interested in participating in this effort?" Group members highlighted several themes, noting that many of them lived or worked within

the Center City, were interested in best planning practices, were interested in learning about accommodating growth from other city models, valued safety and accessibility for all, and were challenged by the space limitations of the downtown area. Some members were surprised that others felt that getting around town is easy, and these members noted that this was not a universally shared perspective.

Penny closed the meeting introduction by reviewing the draft ground rules for the advisory group process, noting that members should:

- Treat one another with civility
- Respect each other's perspectives
- Listen and participate actively
- Honor each other's time by being succinct and to the point
- Express yourself in terms of your needs and interests and the outcomes you wish to achieve
- Silence electronic devices during meetings

One Center City Overview and Discussion:

Scott Kubly, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), outlined both the challenges and opportunities posed by Seattle's growth. He noted that the next twenty years will likely bring 50,000 more jobs and 25,000 new households into the Center City neighborhoods. Scott highlighted the need for a wide variety of transportation options to accommodate this growth. Scott also pointed out that Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the nation, which underscores the need for freight mobility in our region. Scott noted his enthusiasm for the Advisory Group process, as it will provide a diversity of perspectives and opinions to help shape and craft the plan. Scott added that Seattle has a good track record of implementing the plans it develops and expressed excitement for the ideas and strategies that the Advisory Group will help to shape.

Mike Harbour, Deputy CEO, Sound Transit, highlighted his agency's role as a regional transit provider and recognized the tremendous number of people who move through the Center City each day. Mike noted that Puget Sound residents have shown that they are willing to use alternative modes of transportation when they are made available, citing a 76% increase in Link ridership between 2015 and 2016. He closed by noting that growth presents options and choices, and can provide many benefits to the region if collaborative, proactive transportation planning takes place.

Eric Tweit, One Center City Project Manager (SDOT) presented information on the Center City area and on the purpose of the One Center City plan, including detail about the role of Advisory Group members and anticipated outcomes of the Advisory Group process.

Questions and Discussion

Question: The planned outcome for the Advisory Group process is a 20-year vision for mobility within the Center City. What is the scope of this vision? Will the Advisory Group consider topics such as growth and land use?

Response: *As the Advisory Group works to build a 20-year vision, the group will consider growth projections for the Center City area (both household and employment) and the anticipated transportation projections that may be required to accommodate that growth.*

Question: Once the Advisory Group authors a 20-year vision for Center City transportation, what will happen next? Is there funding and political will to implement the Advisory Group suggestions?

Response: *The 2104 Transit Levy and the Move Seattle Levy demonstrate that city residents are willing to fund transportation projects. The Sound Transit 3 package will go to regional voters in November 2016. This will provide the Advisory Group with additional clarity on upcoming transportation enhancements. Proposed projects that are not included within the scope of these levies may need to secure additional funding, but there is a strong commitment to effective transportation by City leadership. SDOT and agency partners will likely leverage more Seattle funding in coming years to implement transportation enhancement projects, and agencies will look to the Advisory Group to begin the conversation of how Seattle may be able to fund long-term transportation projects.*

Question: The employment data represented in the presentation includes individuals commuting into the Center City for work. What statistics do the agencies have on individuals who do not fall into that category (e.g. youth, seniors, people experiencing homelessness, consumers)? It would be helpful to see demographic information as to who lives, works, and visits Center City.

Response: *The agencies are starting the conversation about this data in conjunction with the Puget Sound Regional Council survey data on regional travel characteristics. These sources are limiting, however, and there is likely a need for additional clarity. People move into the Center City for a variety of other regions, and this is important to capture.*

Response: *Transportation planning currently focuses on peak periods of demand—agencies need to ensure that there is adequate capacity during these times.*

Comment: Agencies may be able to work with area schools to get additional information on youth usage of the Center City.

Question: What is the residential population of the Center City neighborhoods?

Response: *Approximately 70,000 individuals.*

Question: With regard to individual who commute into the Center City for work—do the agencies have data as to where these individuals are commuting from?

Response: *Yes. Agencies will share this information with Advisory Group members at upcoming meetings.*

Comment: To facilitate Advisory Group work, it would be helpful for members to be provided with a summary list of the status of the various modal projects that are currently underway (e.g. streetcar, bike network).

Roles and Responsibilities:

Sam Assefa, Director, Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD), noted via video recording that his department is charged with ensuring that Seattle effectively integrates land use planning with public transportation investments. He stated that Advisory Group members would prove to be a vital asset in this strategic planning over the next year; he was hopeful that the Advisory Group meetings will be a forum for sharing information between the project agencies and the constituencies represented by the Advisory Group members. Sam thanked members for their interest and participation.

Kim Becklund, Strategic Partnership Advisor, King County Department of Transportation, reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the partner agency executives and staff, as well as the role of the Advisory Group. In addition to the Advisory Group Draft Charter, members were provided with an infographic detailing anticipated Advisory Group meetings, milestones, and key considerations as well as a project information sheet.

In preparation for the next Advisory Group meeting, Penny encouraged members to review the Advisory Group Draft Charter. Penny noted that materials for upcoming Advisory Group meetings would be distributed in advance of the meetings for member review and consideration. She noted that the project team is willing to help accommodate Advisory Group members in their role as ambassadors to their communities, and encouraged members to reach out with any needs.

Questions and Discussion

Question: Are there any relevant historical documents about coordinating transportation planning that members should review?

Response: *The project team will consider this question and review the work of past advisory committees to see if any relevant, helpful materials were identified during those efforts.*

Response: Each of the OCC project agencies has planning documents and model plans that may be shared with members to facilitate upcoming work. One important document that members may find useful is the King County Metro Long Range Plan.

Comment: There is an incredible level of knowledge and expertise represented by the Advisory Group. At future meetings, it would be helpful for members to review information prior to the meeting in order to limit presentation time and maximize discussion. In addition, this will allow members to share information with constituents more effectively.

Question: In addition to the Advisory Group's 20-year vision, there are other planning groups that are discussing the Center City (e.g. the Freight Plan and the Pedestrian Plan). How will these plans fit together to create a cohesive vision?

Response: Many different planning documents exist, and there is a lot of ongoing work. Think of the planning documents as a Venn Diagram—parts of them intersect. Planning agencies need to keep the work of various advisory committees in mind and strategically synergize planning efforts to ensure effective outcomes.

Next Steps:

Meghan Shepard, SDOT, thanked the group for their attendance, participation, and discussion. She noted that the group's next meeting is planned for October 2016. The project team will provide members with additional information on the meeting date and time within the next week and will send out meeting materials in advance for their review and consideration.

Identified Action Items:

1. Project team to send out all meeting materials to Advisory Group members
2. Project team to compile a list of available information resources and share with Advisory Group members
3. Project team to provide Advisory Group members with information on the makeup of the Advisory Group and how the advisory group was formed
4. Members to consider whether or not a contact list for the Advisory Group would be useful.

Attendees:

Advisory Group Members:

Derrick Belgarde
Jennifer Butler
Michael Davis
Deanna Dawson
Jim Erickson
Brian Ferris
Erin Goodman
Staci Haber
Holly Houser
Corey Hess
A-P Hurd
Jeff Keever
Elizabeth Kiker

Carl Leighty
Peggy Martinez
Amalia Martino
Cary Moon
Bree Moore
John Pehrson
Jenny Schmitz
Hester Serebrin
Monica Smith
Reese (Marissa) Tanimura
Sabrina Villanueva
Maiko Winkler-Chin
Cindy Zwart

Project Staff:

City of Seattle

Scott Kubly, SDOT
Chisaki Muraki-Valdovinos, SDOT
Meghan Shepard, SDOT
Eric Tweit, SDOT
Diane Wiatr, SDOT

Sound Transit:

Mike Harbour
Wesley King

Downtown Seattle Association:

Jacqueline Gruber
Jon Scholes

King County DOT:

Kim Becklund
Victor Obeso
Paul Roybal

Other Project Staff:

Tom Brennan, Nelson/Nygaard
Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Justin McCaffree, EnviroIssues
Erin Tam, EnviroIssues