

VMICC Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2021

7:00-8:23 pm

Online, using WebEx

Meeting called by: Vashon-Maury Island Community **Type of Meeting:** Virtual Council meeting

Meeting Chair: David Vogel **Meeting Co-Chair:** Diane Emerson

Minutes: Kyle Britz

Attendees: 34 people attended the meeting.

Adam Day	Evy Horton	Manny Apostol
Adam Foster	Gavin Kovite	Nicholas Simmons
Arliene Wilkerson	Heidi McWatters	Peter Rubin
Beverly Skeffington	Jane Neubauer	Richard Gordon
C. Hunter Davis	Jean Berolzheimer	Rick Edwards
Camille Reeves	Jill Janow	Sarah Ann
Craig Beles	Jim Diers	Steve Bergman
David Vogel	Jim Garrison	Steve Macdonald
Debby Jackson	Justin Hirsch	Sylvia Soholt
Diane Emerson	Kathleen Fitch	Yvonne Kuperberg
Ella Yarkin	Kyle Britz	
Evan Simmons	Linda Fox	

Those interested in watching the video of the meeting can do so for the next 4 months. The video of the meeting with transcription are available at this link: VMICC January 18 Meeting (1 hr 27 mins)

<https://carolinehdavis.my.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/carolinehdavis.my/recording/playback/d041436ce6fa4732bea8144aeb9bd5fe>

Password: kJ4nVnCn

We are working to have the videos archived on our website, www.vmicc.net

Minutes

- **WebEx Instructions: C. Hunter Davis**

- **Welcome and housekeeping: David Vogel**

On this day with homage and tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr reminding us the message for justice and civil rights in community. With what we have seen at the Capitol recently and the tactics some people have used, we have a long way to go towards equity and nonviolence. We are reminded how important it is to care for each other, communicate, listen, and gather as we are.

- **Meeting agenda:** reviewed and approved, with note that “**Member**” presentations are those by residential community members, whereas “**Guest**” presentations often refer to King County and other representatives.

- **December meeting minutes:** reviewed and approved with discussion on inclusivity of the language we use. In the spirit to reduce agism, using the terms “Older people” in lieu of “elders” and using the terms “Younger people” in lieu of “youth”. We are all a spectrum of people.

- **Member presentation: Peter Rubin, Islander and member of Metro Transit Advisory Commission-**

Beginning with a land acknowledgement “I acknowledge with gratitude that I live, work, and play on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples. I endeavor to do so with respect humility and compassion.” Peter spoke as a member of the community and not as a representative of Metro TAC. Reminding us that when thinking about our civil rights & the complexities of our modern world that access to housing, nutrition, healthcare, nature and recreation, accessible mobility is different for everyone on our island. How we are able to get around impacts our wellbeing. Even today MLK day, transformational moments in the civil rights movements were connected with public transit and our access to healthcare providers, foodbanks, gardens, groceries, our parks, our jobs, community and family.

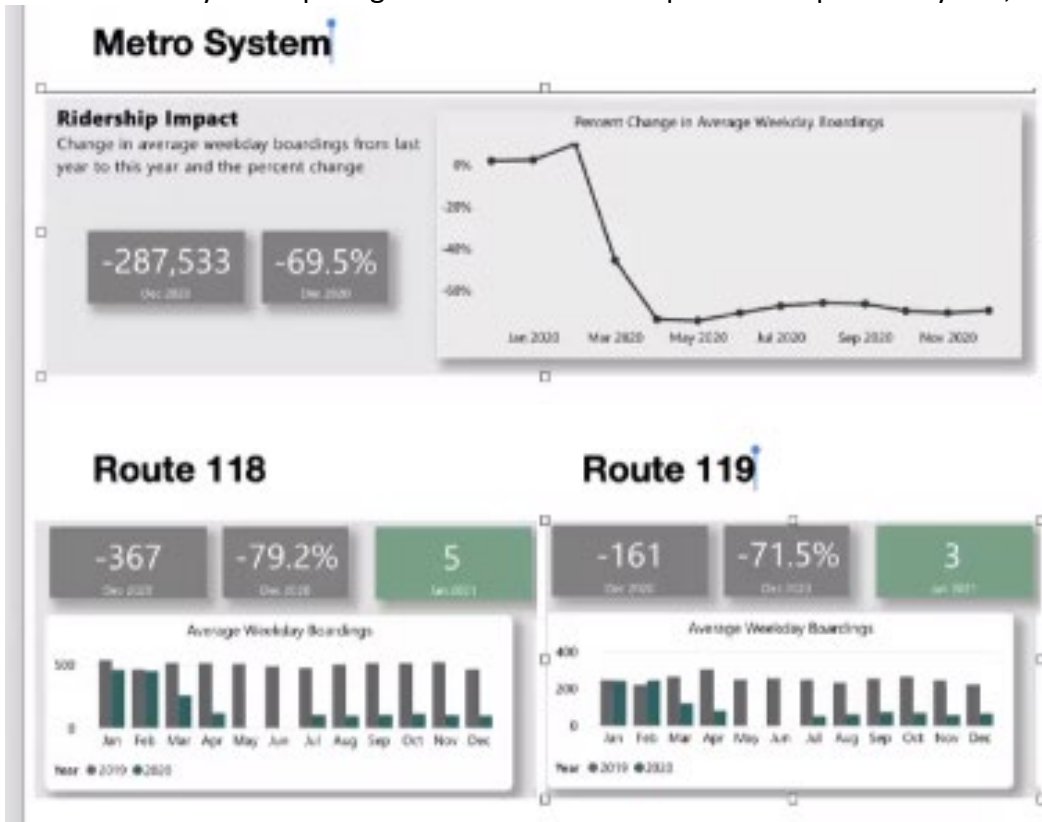
- ❖ The TAC has open seats in August. Suggestion and encouragement for a member of our Vashon community to apply for a seat to join the advisory commission to voice the unique needs of island ridership.
- ❖ Our Metro region for Vashon includes West Seattle and Burien, whose communities are having major adjustments with the repairs and impacts of the West Seattle bridge detour.
- ❖ The TAC is a citizen’s focus group for improving Metro transit services and programs. They have frequent direct conversations with riders and providers, with monthly meetings.
- ❖ It is critical we have a presence in Metro and participate regionally.
- ❖ Peter Rubin can be contacted regarding KC Metro Transit Advisory Commission:
TAC13@Kingcounty.gov

- **Suggestions for improving island bus service:**

- i. Right-size service for varying passenger demand at different times of day.
- ii. Coordinating bus arrival and departure times with ferry schedules for reasonable dwell times between transfers.
- iii. Provide a clear policy for scheduled bus departures in relation to late ferries.
- iv. Have a designated pickup zone at the ferry terminal for community carpool and “thumb” hitch spots.

- v. Ferry schedules change every quarter, but Metro schedules only change twice a year, let us make these changes line up.
- vi. Provide Bus Shelters at key stops so riders don't have to wait in the rain.
- vii. Provide regular service to essential services such as Sunrise Ridge.
- viii. Require Metro to solicit public comment before making significant schedule changes.
- ix. Implement real-time ride share app, set up casual carpool stops, and have more drivers for Community Van.
- x. Consider options for flexible services to get more passengers closer to home.

➤ **Metro Buses:** Full scale bus ridership on island has reduced by 80% this past year. With new county budgeting, we may benefit to explore “Dart” buses that are smaller and more versatile for our roadways. Comparing recent island ridership trends to previous years, we have options.



➤ **Community Van:** people can reserve the van for transportation, arrange with a volunteer driver [or be trained to be a volunteer driver]. Community Van can go off grid of the main bus line, which is a convenient service for the island's rural roads. It has been a fairly underused service lately. Offers alternatives to 118 and 119 routes, including schedules for Westside Highway, Summerhurst, Wax Orchards. Van can also travel off island with route request.

- ❖ Reservations can be made through the website link <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/local-services/programs/vashon-community-van.aspx> or by 206-263-5901. Previously it was used regularly for foodbank runs, shopping, parks and some other semi regular scheduled routes that were an alternative to 119 and 118.

➤ **AccessBus** <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/travel-options/accessible/programs/access-transportation.aspx> can be scheduled for mobility

transportation with a pre-scheduled door to door service. Many people are eligible for the access ridership, and the program can be expanded.

- If there is ever a time that full scale buses can't get to the island, the Access Bus and Community Van are great back up plans.
- When metro had paused services during the beginning of covid19, the **community van** and **access bus** filled in for some of the most critical needs for transit to pick people up from their homes to get them to where they needed to go.
- Historically Metro has had something they call a magic bus- a roving information station that can offer the ability to acquire reduced fare tickets, resources and provide access to additional services, otherwise one would need to travel to 2nd street in Seattle.
- We have an opportunity to develop an active island transit task force coalition committee and the potential for a local transit union.

○ **Active Committee Updates**

➤ **Traffic Safety Issues Committee:**

Adam Foster, temporary Chair. First meeting was the previous week, informal, with a good turnout. Met with King County liaisons. Attendees were able to get to know each other, propose ideas and interests. The next meeting will focus more on the intentionality of the group, which appears to be Pedestrian and Biking, including the naming of the committee. Dialogues have already begun focusing on cross walks and sidewalks.

❖ **Next meeting:** Monday Jan 25th at 5pm. Email adam@vmicc.net for participation.

○ **VMICC board updates:**

- ❖ We have two board seats available with the announcement that both Mariela Franco and Dawn Hylton have resigned their positions from the Board.
- ❖ With these seats available we acknowledge the need and responsibility to be mindful of their replacements and the diversity of:
 - Our community
 - Our sectors and
 - the time commitments of the board.
- ❖ As we know, most people that volunteer tend to volunteer for many things.
- ❖ There will be outreach and publications to invite and elect additional participation of our community.
- ❖ Board meeting minutes are uploaded to the vmicc.net website.
- ❖ Community nominations and self-nominations will be reviewed, and board positions filled at the upcoming board meetings, subject to approval at a general meeting.
- ❖ We would like the board to be a dynamic representation of our island and we encourage diversity and hope we embrace people equally as qualified.

○ **Open Discussion:**

- ❖ Community highlights that both of the board members resigning are BIPOC and stress the need to keep that in mind when filling the board seats to have a broad representation of Vashon, and ask what efforts are being made to reach out to people of color in our community.
 - ❖ All board members were elected or especially selected to connect with key sectors of the island, one of which is our Latino community.
 - ❖ It is important we continue our connections with all our neighbors, as diversity and supporting under-represented voices are listed as one of our goals of the community council and of the board members.
- **Community Announcements:**
 - Justin Hirsch, Island resident and 2year member of the Ferry Advisory committee with 3 participants, spoke about the Ferry Advisory committee. This is a Subgroup of the Washington State Ferries. VMICC can nominate people for the **Ferry Advisory committee, with openings becoming available** in the next few months.
 - The Fauntleroy Ferry dock is needing additional repairs, which provides an opportunity to reimagine the ferry loading process both for the layout of the dock itself and the ferry line neighborhood traffic impacts.
 - We anticipate a series of public meetings to discuss potential changes. Neighbors to the dock are currently having the most input on the new layouts, with some open meetings and some closed neighborhood meetings.
 - Strongly encourage islanders to be conscious of these changes, to participate in the feedback process, and apply for the Ferry Advisory Committee.
 - They have considered: adjusting the dock size; options of dual loading with passengers and vehicles having separate ramps and impacts on the neighborhood and local area with ferry traffic.
 - There may be some changes in the ferry operation schedules and future transit. Contact WSF customer service and our local legislatures to participate in the process.
 - Debby Jackson invites participation in the Wednesday open meetings with our Vashon Healthcare District Commissioners <https://www.vashonhealthcare.org/>
 - SeaMar is up and running as our Healthcare Center at Sunrise Ridge, with many familiar healthcare providers and one new Dr. added to the team.
 - They accept same day appointments, and our healthcare commissioners can help with fielding additional questions. <https://www.seamar.org/king-medical-vashon.html> & 206-463-3671
 - Camille Reeves offers that SeaMar and Vashon HealthCare District Commissioners can make a presentation at one of our next VMICC General meetings.
 - **Next Meeting:** Monday, February 15th, 2021 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm via WebEx
 - **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:21