

Work Session Notes

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Chuck Green (Chair), Franklin Johnson (Vice Chair), Sue Cameron, Cass Freedland, Amy Gross, Mel Sanchez, Larry Smith, Tanya Stewart, and Meghan McCarthy

Absent:

Staff: Susan Ellinger and Jenna Kay, Community Planning

1. **Review of May 18, 2022 work session and regular meeting notes and June 15, 2022 retreat notes**
There were no suggested changes to the notes.
2. **Updates on Aging Readiness Plan Update and 2023 Work Plan**
 - Chuck provided an update that the county is close to having a consultant under contract. The contract is scheduled to be considered by County Council at their August 16 meeting. The consultant can start work once the contract is approved.
 - Staff are in discussion with the consultant to have them attend the September commission work session, if possible.
 - More details about the 2023 work plan are forthcoming once the project schedule is further refined with the consultant.
3. **Additional retreat and retreat survey follow-up items**
 - Resource videos:
 - During the retreat Cass suggested that with the commission stopping the program highlight portion of their agenda, the group could consider sharing community resource information in another way such as through short videos.
 - Instead of a regular meeting agenda item, there could be an opportunity to watch videos offline and debrief them quickly during a work session on what we heard/what we learned/follow-up information.
 - **Action Item:** If commission members want a program to be featured, please send a link to staff.
 - Webpage updates:
 - Based on feedback from the pre-retreat survey, there was one suggestion for updating the Commission's webpage to make it easier to find the Commission's meeting information.
 - The group discussed what that might look like including the following key points:
 - The meeting page could become the Commission on Aging landing page with some additional information on top about the Commission. That landing page would have clear links to other information such as background information.
 - Make sure key questions are answered on the landing page such as: What is the CoA? When do you meet? What have you done?
 - Be flexible and open to updating the page in the future based on changes



- **Action Item:** staff to work on webpage revisions and share with the Commission for their review.
- Facebook:
 - The pre-retreat survey provided a mixture of suggestions on whether to keep managing the Commission's Facebook page or to discontinue it.
 - Staff suggested a third option where the Commission could post key updates through the Clark County Facebook page.
 - The group generally liked the idea of being more connected to the county's main page and shared examples of other projects that started out with their own social media accounts and then merged with the agency's main accounts.
 - **Action Item:** staff to work with county communications office to discontinue

4. Officer elections

- Per the commission's by-laws, the group confirmed that Chuck has reached his limit as chair, having served two consecutive years.
- The group opened discussion for commission members interested in any of the officer positions to share that with the group. Cass expressed interest in the chair position. Franklin expressed interest in vice chair.
- The group reviewed the voting process that would take place during the regular meeting.

5. Coordinated Transit Plan-Human Services Transportation Plan (CTP-HSTP) presentation

- Presenter: Lynda David, RTC
- For a full copy of the presentation, please refer to the slides and project information posted on the Commission's webpage: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/commission-aging-meetings>
- Lynda provided an overview of the Coordinated Transit Plan-Human Services Transportation Plan (CTP-HSTP project) due later this year. The plan addresses the transportation needs of people who are elderly, young, have disabilities, have low income, and/or who live in rural areas and can't provide their own transportation.
- Lynda reviewed what the plan is and the required elements as well as the project timeline, demographic data, transportation challenges and gaps, and outreach.
- Lynda shared a list of question prompts to consider for providing feedback to inform the plan. Those prompts are:
 - How does transportation or lack of transportation affect you?
 - What transportation services are needed in the 3-county region of Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat?
 - Is there a lack of accessible transportation in the region? If yes, be specific/provide examples.
 - Are there gaps in transportation?
 - Where are the places you generally need to get to?
 - Services (medical, shopping, etc.)
 - Geographical areas (neighborhoods)
 - Recreation
 - What transportation currently works for you?
 - What needs enhancement?
 - What means of transportation do you use?
- Commission members provided initial feedback/questions, including the following key points:
 - Question: You mentioned a shortage of drivers and ridership. Is that trend changing as we have lived longer with COVID-19? Response: The hope is that the community will be able to hire more bus drivers. This has not been as much of an issue with C-Tran as it has been with Trimet. The Washington State Transportation Commission is trying to track COVID-19 impacts. In regards to community drivers, many were older

and retired. With COVID-19, many older volunteers were not as likely to want to volunteer. RTC has heard from Community in Motion is actively recruiting drivers.

- Question: Is there funding to pay for drivers? Response: Community in Motion allows for reimbursement for volunteer drivers for things like gas mileage.
- Comment: My son in law works for Trimet and there is a lot of fear of driving a bus. There are many people who do not pass the Commercial Drivers License test and are not passing the training program. Response: The Washington State Transportation Commission is trying to make it easier to get a commercial driving license.
- Question: Several weeks ago we heard an update on the new tolling system that would impact Southwest Washington residents who travel into Portland. Has there been any consideration on how that might impact this plan? Response: It has been part of the discussion related to equity and it should be raised in the updated plan.
- Comment: I am concerned on the reliance on volunteer drivers, in rural communities in particular. You can't rely on volunteers to get people to food sites, etc. I recommend moving away from the volunteer driver model.
- Comment: my husband had a stroke and we had been a 2-car, 2-driver family. Now we are a 1-driver family. My husband looked into C-Van and it has been a life-saver. The drivers are kind and nice and on time.
- Comment: Safety is important. If going to be transporting elderly people, it has to be safe for them to get where they are going.
- Comment: It is important to also consider the distance a person needs to walk to a pick-up spot. I recommend incorporating on-demand public transit or elevating that as part of the plan.
- Comment: with the Battle Ground Non-motorized Transportation Action Plan, connection became a big focus. You can get people to a certain point, but how do you get them around within the city? Ideas like motorized scooters/micromobility and wayfinding may be helpful.
- Comment: How can new services like The Current potentially be expanded, or alternative options provided that can serve that need?
- Question: CoA is about to launch an update to the Aging Readiness Plan and transportation will be considered in that plan update. That work will wrap-up after the CTP-HSTP update. Is there a way to update the CTP-HSTP more frequently than every four years? Response: We don't usually update it more frequently, but we could if we needed to.
- Question: Is there anything CoA can do in sync with the CTP-HSTP efforts to provide any additional benefit? Response: Any additional input would be great before September 1. If you or anyone you know is experiencing transportation challenges, reach out to Lynda and let her know. Also, in the fall when non-profit agencies submit project applications, the CoA could provide letters of support.
- Question: In Battle Ground, there is an assisted living home near the Walmart. There is a path, but there is no way in a motorized cart to get between the two locations. Can RTC do any physical work? Response: RTC could work with Battle Ground to submit a grant for funding a project such as that.
- **Action Item:** Commission members can share any additional feedback on the CTP-HSTP in the next few weeks to inform a draft that is due by September 1, 2022. Feedback can be submitted to Lynda in the following ways:
 - Online: <https://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/hstp/>
 - Email: info@rtc.wa.gov or Lynda.david@rtc.wa.gov
 - Mail: Regional Transportation Council, PO Box 1366, Vancouver, WA 98666-1366
 - Phone: 564-397-6067
 - In-person: provide testimony at an RTC Board meeting
- **Action Item:** If non-profit agencies want a CoA letter of support for a transportation project, the CoA could consider their requests this fall.

6. Public comment debrief

No written comments to the commission have been received since the last meeting.

7. Other

Staff provided an update that nominations for the Silver Citizen Award will open next week and be due by 5pm on August 26, 2022. The nomination form has been updated to reflect feedback provided by last year's review committee to revise the criteria language to be more clear. Commission members can expect to see a news release go out next week.

9. Upcoming meetings/topics:

The next commission meeting is scheduled to take place on August 17, 2022 and will be focused on peer to peer educators.

8. Adjournment

The work session adjourned at 4:21pm.

The Clark County Commission on Aging provides leadership in community engagement and advocacy of Clark County's Aging Readiness Plan, especially for those 65 and over who plan to age in the place of their choosing.