

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Transportation Advisory Board**

6:00 PM
June 26, 2023

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave SE,
Issaquah

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Julian Mydlil, Vice Chair
Dave Waggoner
Micah Zeitz-Chua
Erika Boyd
Hany Maklad

Administration/Staff:

John Larson-Friend, Transportation Program
Coordinator
Emily Moon, Public Works Director
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator
Stephen Padua
Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk

Excused Absences:

Cynthia Krass, Chair
Jeri Bernstein
Tom McDonald

Guest:

Brian Henry, Metro

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Julian Mydlil at 6:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) There being no proposed changes, the Minutes of May 24, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Metro Flex (D)**

Presented by:

*John Larson-Friend, Transportation Program Coordinator
Meredith Sampson, King County Metro*

John Larson-Friend gave an overview of the process to analyze a shuttle program and arrive at a recommendation. John reviewed the community outreach that had been performed.

The board discussed the concept of a community van, which was not one of the recommended solutions following community input in 2018.

Meredith Sampson, King County Metro, gave a presentation about On Demand Services. Metro consolidated its on-demand services under one program umbrella and rebranded it as Metro Flex. The service is the same fare as a bus and is cash/paperless. ORCA, TGT and credit card payments are accepted. Riders can create profiles to identify if they need wheelchair accessibility, translator services or have other needs. The board discussed service evaluation criteria. Meredith shared information about the Metro Flex mobile application. She discussed the service proposal including service area, outreach plan and targeted number of service hours (3,700 hours). This proposal will require a contribution from the City of approximately \$260,000. The board discussed the timing of the launch (Fall 2023), which was a product of when the service would be ready and when sufficient outreach could be conducted. Riders will be able to go from one point in the service area to any other point in the service area and riders will not be restricted to using the service for only first/last mile, which is consistent with the program elsewhere.

Board members discussed whether additional data might be needed in order to make a recommendation to City Council or whether data can be collected as the program runs for a term. A suggestion was made to look at the data from other cities who are running these programs. There was discussion about whether the service should only focus on first/last mile, as that had been described as a priority or whether this service is meant to enhance intracity mobility and to be first/last mile plus more. There was a discussion about the cost of service per ride, what Sammamish is paying, and whether this pilot service is worth the cost. The board discussed how the service is driven by demand; therefore, if demand is higher at a peak hour, more vans would be in Issaquah to provide service.

Board members moved to take a vote on the proposal.

Question and Feedback:

- **Question:** Now that you have seen the proposal, does TAB recommend City Council move forward with the Metro Flex Program partnership with King County Metro?
 - **TAB:** Outcome 3 to 2 Opposed. The opposed members cited concerns about service success due to past outcomes, concerns about spending this much money on a pilot project, and requested more data from King County Metro. The members in favor cited concerns about good mobility opportunities being missed out on, saw point-to-point service as needed in the community, and believed that the cost to the City is minimal for what service would be provided.

b) **TAB Training/Refresher (I)**

Presented by:

John Larson-Friend, Transportation Program Coordinator

John Larson-Friend presented a TAB Training, which provided an overview of Issaquah's Plans and Documents pertinent to the work done by TAB, where to find Ordinances & Municipal Codes, and Regional Partnerships. After that, the largest portion of the presentation was spent going over the Mobility Master Plan. John went over the Format of the document, Guiding Principles, Goals & Policies, Plan Implementation, and Project Evaluation Criteria.

REPORTS

a) **Board Work Plan**

John Larson-Friend presented the Three Month Look Ahead, which includes an Intro to Light Rail Planning and the ADA Transition Plan in July, a full discussion about Light Rail Planning in August, and Traffic Calming in September.

b) **Staff Report**

John Larson-Friend had nothing to report.

c) **Chair Report**

None

d) **Youth Report**

None

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next month, the meeting will be back at Tibbetts Creek Manor on Wednesday July 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Mydlil at 7:52 pm PDT.

INQUIRIES