



NORTH SOUND TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE (NSTA)

2018 Health and Transportation Workshop Executive Summary

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INTRODUCTION

The September 14, 2018 North Sound Transportation Alliance (NSTA) Health and Transportation Workshop held in Mount Vernon, Washington defined data collection needs and prioritized solutions developed at the same workshop held the previous year. The objective of the gathering was to narrow the large list of issues, priorities and possible solutions to actionable pilot projects and/or studies that could be completed in 2019. Participants also engaged in a data gathering exercise to lay the groundwork for cost-benefit analyses and performance metrics for resulting efforts.

NORTH SOUND TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

The North Sound Transportation Alliance (NSTA) is a coalition of citizens, elected officials, and agency staff from Washington State's five northwestern-most counties: Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Snohomish. NSTA strives to improve ways for people to travel in the region by pursuing the following objectives:

- 1) Collect travel and system data to identify needs
- 2) Improve regional connections and sustain and expand services
- 3) Enhance mobility through sustainable, equitable, and innovative transportation solutions
- 4) Inform the public about transportation services to enhance awareness of the regional transportation network.

PARTICIPANTS

Workshop participants included staff from health care, transportation, transit agency, and regional planning agencies; tribal representatives, and representatives from specific vulnerable populations; and private citizens. Forty-five individuals from all five North Sound counties were in attendance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop sought to engage the audience in three areas:

1. Examine case studies of existing multi-agency health and transportation partnerships (specifically, the Homage Service partnership with Providence Hospital and 211 North Sound services).
2. Review available and missing data resources needed to develop defensible cost-benefit measures.

3. Review the thirty solutions identified in 2017 to find 3-5 projects to advance based on feasibility, size and scope of impact, and the availability of a champion.

TOP FIVE PROJECTS

After a group prioritization process, five projects rose to the top as having the greatest envisioned impact with relative consensus about feasibility and completion (based on scope, cost, etc.):

1. 2-1-1 expansion to include direct links to transit agencies and other transportation service providers
2. Universal broadband for the entire five county region
3. Study of on-demand transit feasibility for the five counties
4. Study of the feasibility and efficacy of transit flyer stops on I-5 and corresponding park n rides
5. Implement and/or expand mobile medical health clinics

AVAILABLE & NEEDED DATA SETS TO COMPLETE PROJECT REQUESTS

Data identified to complete a regional health transportation analysis were broken into five categories: existing services, target population identification, I-5 medical travel, telemedicine, and health care facilities. Participants provided resources for the questions asked (see report of proceedings for a full list). A completed checklist of available data and the collation of these data will be completed in the next three months.

NEXT STEPS

A funding opportunity with a short turnaround does currently exist through the U.S. Federal Transit Administration's Access & Mobility Partnership Grants. Because the deadline is soon (November 13, 2018) the group agreed to focus on the first project identified (2-1-1 expansion to include direct transit planning services with agencies) for this opportunity.

Other project concepts will be defined based on data gathered and cost estimates and presented at the NSTA Legislative Forum to be held December 14, 2018 at Everett Station in Everett, WA. Each project will need a champion to pursue funding in the 2019 fiscal year to complete either a pilot project or a study.

MORE INFORMATION

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