

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Innovation in action

Seattle Transit Advisory Board Briefing

December 20, 2017

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We'll Get You There



Your Big Backyard

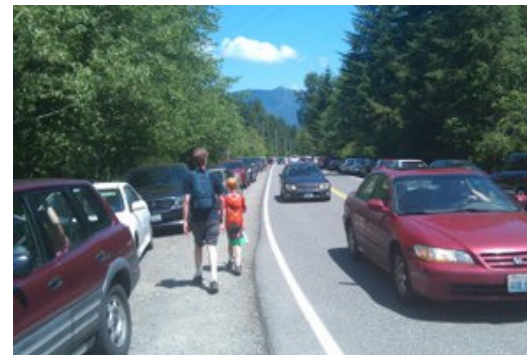
What is Community Connections?

- Previously known as the “Alternative Services” program
- Established as a four-year demonstration program by the County’s 2015/16 budget ordinance; \$15m approved for 2017/18
- Program work has been guided by the priorities established by the funding ordinance
 - Service reduction mitigation – 8 projects
 - Delivery against the Five-year Plan – 7 projects
 - Developing complementary services – new projects in 2017 and 2018

Project origination



Jim Whittaker Wilderness Peak Trailhead,



Mt. Si Trailhead, North Bend

Outreach Process Overview



- Project scoping
- Community stakeholder analysis
- Service analysis
- I-90 trailheads survey

Phase 1: Needs Assessment

Goal: Understand and identify transportation needs and gaps.

Process: Solicit feedback from community key stakeholders via a Stakeholder Working Group.

SWG Meeting #1 (February 8, 2017)

Phase 2: Concept Preference Analysis

Goal: Develop and refine alternative service solution concepts.

Process: Develop solution concepts with Stakeholder Working Group using survey analysis. Solicit community feedback via surveys etc.

SWG Meeting #2 (April 19, 2017)

Concept Preference Survey (May 2017)

Phase 3: Report Back

Goal: Communicate results to community stakeholders and decision makers.

Process: Convene final Stakeholder Working Group meeting, update project webpage, public meetings/council presentations, etc.

SWG Meeting #3 (June 14, 2017)

Solution Concepts

Community Shuttle Models

Metro route with a Flexible Service Area, provided through community partnerships



Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride Connection

A Community Shuttle route which connects trail-heads and the Issaquah Highlands park and ride



Nearby Leased Parking Connection

A Community Shuttle route that connects a single trail-head to a nearby parking lot.

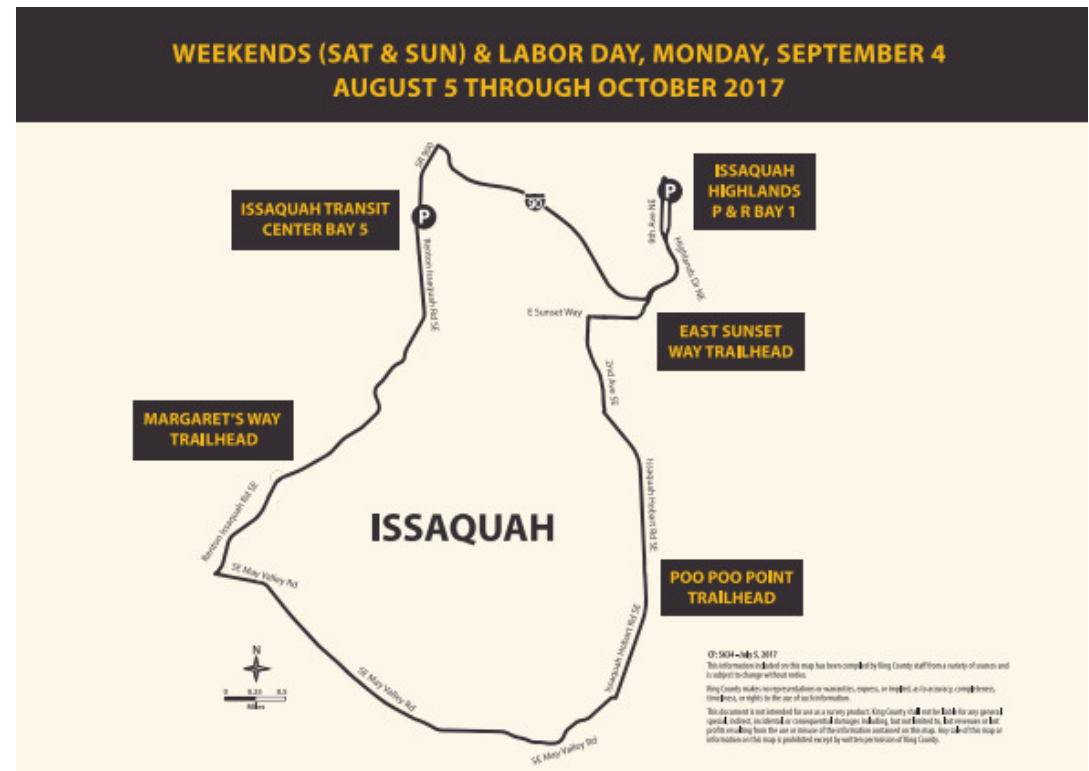


Alternative Shuttle

A program which provides preferred parking and services for people who carpool to trail-heads

What was the 2017 Trailhead Direct trial?

- Metro Transit service between Issaquah and trailheads in the Issaquah Alps
- Available on Weekends and Holidays
- Every 30 minutes between 7AM and 6PM
- Connecting services:
 - Metro Route 271
 - ST Route 554



2017 Trial Operational Highlights

- Service ran from August 5th to October 15th
- Over 900 riders
- Average 40 riders/day
- Used Metro vehicles that were idle and Park and Rides that are underutilized on weekends



What we heard about the 2017 trial

- 91% of survey respondents felt Trailhead Direct could address parking overcrowding at trails
- Most requested changes:
 - Service to more trailheads
 - Service to urban centers
- Largest barrier to use was not hearing about the service until the it was ending

Selected quotes from survey respondents

“In addition to reducing parking congestion, Trailhead Direct can improve access to trailheads for people who don't have cars!”

“Thanks for the service hope you continue this next season”

“Great service! Hope to use next year if you pick up downtown.”

“I only heard about it at the end of this season! I will definitely be using it to get to trail heads next year!”

What's next for Trailhead Direct?

- Exploring service concepts for connecting urban centers and trailheads
- Issaquah Alps service
 - Route revisions
 - Span adjustments
 - Possible service to urban centers
- North Bend area
 - Connection between trails near North Bend and satellite parking lots in North Bend



Questions

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