

Equity Working Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting title: Equity Working Group (EWG) Meeting #1

Date: December 05, 2024

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Trinity Baptist Church, Everett, WA

Purpose: Discuss process overview, methods and assumptions, existing conditions, purpose and need, engagement strategies.

EWG Attendees:

Name	Organization
Doug Raiford	DEI Manager, City of Lynnwood
Ch'nell Amos	Senior Communications Specialist, Swedish-Providence and Snohomish Co. resident/community leader
Rick Proctor	Member, BIKES Snohomish County
Kresha Green	Regional Director, YWCA, Seattle, King & Snohomish
Brandon Park	Healthy Community Specialist, Snohomish County Public Health Department
Mary Schroeder	Regional Director, Pioneer Human Services
Krystal Fick	Rise Up Academy (part of Trinity Baptist Church)
Tyrone McMorris	Casino Road Kids Ministry

Study Team Attendees:

Name	Organization
April Delchamps	WSDOT
Joshua Shippy	WSDOT
Amber Stanley	WSDOT
Jeanne Acutanza	WSP
Henry Yates	Yates Consulting
Julius Brooks	Yates Consulting
Linda Kennedy	Yates Consulting

Welcome and Safety Moment:

April Delchamps, WSDOT, welcomed everyone and shared a safety moment as well as a land acknowledgement. April facilitated introductions and reviewed the agenda.

Background

April provided background information on funding for the project highlighting the Sandy Williams Grant and a PSRC equity grant with matching funds from WSDOT. April also reviewed earlier study efforts that began in 2022 and brought the group up to date on the current study status. The scope of the study from Airport Way to 212th St SW along SR 99 was defined with the vision of providing safe convenient connections for all.

Engagement Overview

Henry Yates, Yates Consulting, discussed the current engagement the study team is doing and shared a list of who they are engaging with. Feedback was requested.

Discussion on engagement overview

- There is a new Small Business Manager in Lynnwood. It would be good to talk with that person about small businesses to include in your outreach
- Immigrant businesses that were displaced during other projects should be included
- Someone representing small businesses should be “at the table,” especially those that may struggle to stay open during any construction.
- Members of the Tlingit tribe, newly arrived in Lynnwood, should be consulted about the project.

Equity Working Group, Schedule and Process Overview

April reviewed the study team responsibilities and EWG responsibilities.

April reviewed the study schedule. The study is expected to be complete in December 2025. WSDOT is planning for two periods of focused engagement at major decision-points. There are six steps in the study process.

- June – Sept 2024: Review Current Conditions and Look at Future Plans
- Sept – Dec 2024: Assesses community preferences and needs
- Jan – March 2025: Develop Options
- March – May 2025: Evaluate Options on Pros and Cons
- May – Sept 2025: Adjust Options and Talk Tradeoffs
- Oct – Dec 2025: Recommend Future Design

The process, engagement and recommendation for the corridor will be documented in a final report. We are hoping to engage with the EWG and communities using strategies that work best for them. We are considering a range of strategies to inform and collaborate. These range from emails and other communications to share updates to workshops, individual meetings, and community gatherings and events to collaborate. We would like to convene the EWG when feasible and desired by EWG members. We welcome additional strategies.

Discussion on the Schedule and Process

- Suggests we use the app “Next Door” to get surveys and questionnaires answered.
- Offers to host community events.
- Translate written materials into several languages so more immigrants can be involved.

- Immigrants are often afraid to seek help from hospitals (some have been struck by cars and hobbled away) or other service providers for fear of being deported. There is a need for a way to allay their fears. Newsletters printed in several languages would help and mentioned an app that will translate English into other languages automatically.
- Wants us to emphasize the urgency of this project—did not detect urgency/importance
- Volunteered to connect us with groups we've not been successful at engaging in project

Purpose, Need and Goals

April talked through the purpose of the study, the preliminary needs, and the preliminary goals. The preliminary needs and goals are based on the existing conditions analysis and the initial community engagement. April also reviewed the feedback received from the Technical Working Group, Executive Advisory Group and other partners.

Community Profile and Previous Study Feedback

Amber Stanley, WSDOT, reviewed the community profile for the study area and briefly summarized the previous engagement that was done in 2022, highlighting the feelings of unsafety shared by survey participants.

Discussion on the Schedule and Process and Purpose, Need and Goals:

- ADA compliance and the need to accommodate wheelchairs on SR 99 is important
- When it snows, plows throw snow on the sidewalks and there is no place for people to walk.
- There should be a more secure place for bikes to be stored because that is the only means of transportation for some, especially immigrants.
- Bike riders do not feel safe on SR 99 because of the heavy traffic.
- There should be a dedicated bus lane on SR 99 for emergency vehicles, concern for hospital ERs
- Suggested skybridges for crossing SR 99 because the street is wide, and it takes more time to cross.
- The green lights should be longer for pedestrians.
- Mothers crossing SR 99 with small children and strollers need more time
- Sometimes bikers and scooters take up all the space for walking next to SR 99
- Suggests consideration for where bus stops are placed because there are respiratory and environmental health issues in high density housing areas where vehicle fumes may be present.

Existing Conditions

Josh Shippy, WSDOT, started the discussion on roadway safety by going over the safe system approach adopted by WSDOT in the Target Zero Plan and the methods and assumptions for the safety analysis for the corridor, highlighting the focus on killed and serious injury (KSI) crashes. The safety analysis was broken into Unincorporated Snohomish County and City of Lynnwood and the following data was shared: total number of severe crashes, roadway safety trends, high KSI locations, KSI collision types and KSI contributing factors. Josh also discussed the existing conditions for freight and vehicular mobility and transit and reviewed the land use, major institutions

and environmental context of the study area. Josh dove deeper into what the WSDOT complete streets requirements are and how they would be applied to this study. The analysis of the levels of traffic stress for the existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities was reviewed.

Next Steps

April went over action items and next steps for engaging with the Equity Working Group.