Minutes

Regional Voting Center Consulting

May 29, 2007
Lydia and Catherine Rooms
King County Administration Building

Members: Jeff McMorris, Larry Evans, Emily Willoughby, Monica Tracey, Nadine Shiroma, Anita Koyier-Mwamba, Sherril Huff, Bill Huennekens,

1. See PowerPoint presentation
2. Mission of Consulting Group
    a. Submit recommendation on number and locations of RVCs and BDOLs
    b. Deadline: July 27, 2007
3. Upcoming meetings:
    a. 6/12/07
    b. 6/26/07 (9-11 am)
    c. 7/10/07
    d. 7/24/07
4. 3 poster boards to aid in illustrating and reminding members of:
    a. RVC criteria
    b. Consulting Group criteria
    c. BDOL criteria
5. Ted Day, Metro Transit Planner
    a. 17 Transit Hubs identified throughout King County
        i. Transit hubs provide greater accessibility
        ii. Renton TC serves Eastside and south county
        iii. Kent Transit Center is major south county hub
        iv. Bellevue is gateway/hub of Eastside; most lines serving Eastside will converge on Bellevue
        v. Redmond TC serves rural areas
        vi. Redmond and Kirkland have 3 routes serving from one to the other
        vii. Shoreline library may be good location as RVC; one transfer will get riders through Shoreline
        viii. Northgate gets riders from Seattle and Shoreline; can serve those locations
        ix. UW may be good location for RVC; a lot of fixed route bus service
        x. Downtown Seattle is most accessible location; many lines go downtown
        xi. Alaska junction is West Seattle transit hub
        xii. List of transit hubs and locations to be dispersed to members; also .pdf/electronic format of map to be sent to RVCCG members
        xiii. Request for creation of map of population and bus lines; and KCC districts and bus lines
        xiv. Q: Do we have information on where disabled are located?
            1. To be covered later in presentation

    xv. Research to be done on facilities in area of 17 transit hubs
    xvi. Q: Is there figure on how many persons and locations of disabled populations?
      1. information is difficult to find; information is protected by law in some cases
  6. Michael Glauner, ACCESS Transportation
    a. Metro Accessible Services
    b. GIS map: disabled population by zip code
      i. Request to create map of disabled populations normalized by area
      ii. More info from Glauner regarding above topic
    c. Transportation Options in King County
    d. Access costs roughly $33/trip as opposed to average of $3/trip on fixed route services
    e. Community Access Program
      i. Not very well known
      ii. Metro gives retired vehicles to community groups; groups may be able to provide accessible transportation.
    f. Travel Training: information for disabled/elderly regarding accessible transportation
    g. ACCESS Program:
      i. 1990 ADA requirements regarding accessible transportations
      ii. KCC added regulations to ADA requirements
      iii. Must apply for ACCESS service
        1. Determination of status within 21 days; 3 statuses for classification of applicants:
          a. Not eligible: applicant has ability to get to fixed bus route
          b. Fully eligible
          c. Conditionally eligible: applicant will be able to use ACCESS when a specific hazard exists that the rider cannot negotiate (i.e. no curb cuts in sidewalk)
      iv. ADA requires comparable services on:
        1. same days of the week as fixed route transportation
        2. same hours of service as fixed route transportation
        3. same service area as fixed route transportation
      v. ACCESS Van service Area
        1. possible increase in area served in near future
      vi. ACCESS is shared ride service; not personal taxi service
      vii. Half-hour pick-up window
      viii. Service limitations
        1. there may be times when a driver cannot provide door to door service
          a. when no line of sight from door to van; for safety of other riders
      ix. Majority of ACCESS employees are contracted out; not employed by King County
      x. Q: Will ACCESS be able to accommodate people on voting day?
        1. On adverse service day, planning is necessary

2. On Election Day; lists of potential riders perhaps would be asked for in advance
   xi. Cooperative education is possible between KCE and ACCESS van service to reach riders
   xii. ACCESS can use automatic call out service; perhaps use for voter outreach
   xiii. ACCESS service area includes all transit hubs as identified by King County Metro fixed route bus service
7. Population
   a. Professor Robert Stein, at Rice University, has been good resource for information on Voting Centers
   b. Issues concerning RVCs
      i. Access to technology
      ii. Accessibility
8. Vote Centers
   a. Research from other Counties
      i. No jurisdiction is exactly like King County which makes "lessons learned" difficult to employ in King County
      ii. Larimer County, Colorado
         1. "Vote Centers"
         2. All equipment is kept in warehouse and can be deployed in case of surge in activity at any one location
      iii. Harris County, Texas
         1. Decide locations of early voting centers based on three classifications:
            a. Central Business District; Rural Business District; Dense Urban Residential
      iv. Clark County, Nevada
         1. Locations in areas where people work, shop and play
      v. Questions/comments regarding research from other counties:
         1. RVCs will serve all voters in entire district
         2. On-demand equipment deployment may not be feasible with limited budget
         3. Q: Have each of the aforementioned counties evaluated their own processes to discover/analyze successes/failures?
            a. Rice University to produce paper that may help King County
            b. Could produce questions/issues that RVCCG has not thought about
            c. Seek call logs concerning voter questions that have been logged by other jurisdictions
            d. Consult various sources for lessons learned
9. Population—King County
   a. Data regarding disabled community is protected by law in some cases which makes it very difficult to get a hold of
   b. Locations: I-net and landmark sites
      i. Removed places not conducive to voting such as correctional facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, etc.

  c. 1,000 and 2,000 foot radii around transportation hubs has produced potential sites for RVCs

  d. Q: Rural areas and RVCs

    i. Rural areas have bus service that goes into major transit hubs

    ii. Rural areas may not have enough access

    iii. Q: Are rural areas accessible by ACCESS van?

      1. Yes, but only in those locations as detailed by ACCESS van service area map

    iv. Q: Can group consider mobile sites as with Nevada?

      1. Must be further investigated

    v. Need more information on location of disabled

      1. Disabled tend to live in dense areas, due to the fact that rural areas lose accessible benefits like curb cuts and sidewalks

    vi. Suggestion to consult Senior Centers, Mt. Si Senior Center in particular

      1. Glauner has more information on a contact person

  e. RVCs fulfill legal requirements

  f. Accessibility is prime criteria

  g. Special Elections will require less (in number) RVCs

10. Ballot Drop-Off Locations

  a. Equal access for rural areas

  b. Upcoming meetings with representatives from King County Library System, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, and King County Community Service Centers

11. Calendar Updates

  a. Q: Is final report 3 days after final meeting?

    i. Schedule has been changed to allow for more time concerning review by RVCCG members of content of report

    ii. Report will reflect aspects of all meetings; culmination of all meetings and work done

12. Questions/Concerns

  a. Concern over rushing selection of RVC locations

    i. KC is very large and complex jurisdiction with thousands of possible locations

      1. Information provided is only suggestion of path to location selection

    ii. Members strongly urged to submit suggestions and concerns to VBM team members to be addressed

  b. RVCCG should not employ methodology that is not right, if not, group may have to do work over again

    i. Take time in implementation; must make sure our work is done correctly

    ii. Doing job correctly is more important than a deadline

  c. Concern of ballot transfer from polling site/RVC to Elections Ballot Processing facility

  d. Rural areas and geographic dispersion are criteria for deciding location of RVCs and BDOLs

Minutes recorded by Alex Herzog