

KING COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

KyMBER WALTMUNSON, County Auditor

King County International Airport: Accountability and Transparency Could Strengthen Community Engagement

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GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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Key Takeaways



Lack of strategic plan limits accountability



Gaps in community engagement

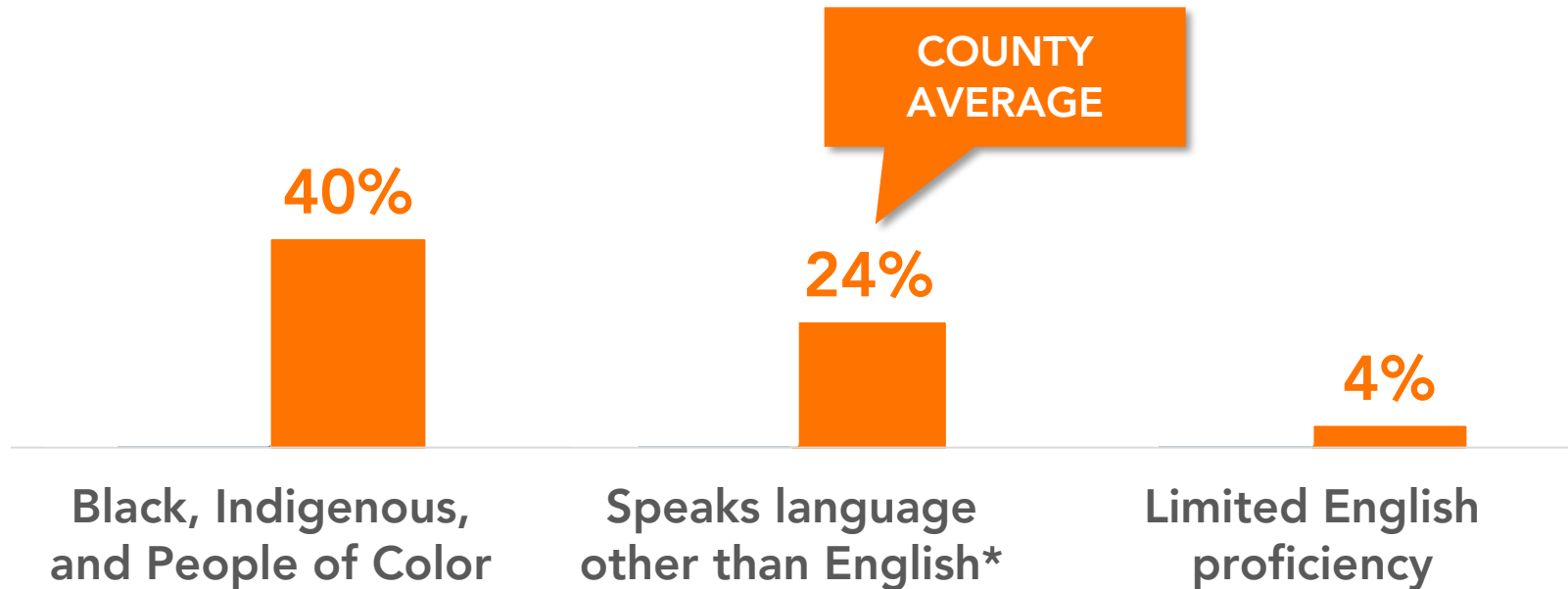


Roundtable not meeting its purpose

Airport impacts surrounding area



Diversity of airport area





County goals include airport impacts

- Strategic Climate Action Plan
- Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan

Airport and countywide goals

CATEGORY: CLIMATE POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Strategy GHG 1.3. Local operations.

Priority Actions

Government

Priority Actions

GHG 1.3.5 **Integrate aircraft emission targets developed by the Joint Aircraft Emission Technical and Community Taskforce into King County International Airport plans and operational decisions where KCIA has jurisdiction.** *(Climate Action Team, KCIA)*

Connections and Considerations

GHG 1.3.5 **Integrate air Joint Aircraft Taskforce into plans and operational decisions where KCIA has jurisdiction.** *(Climate Action Team, KCIA)*

Implement



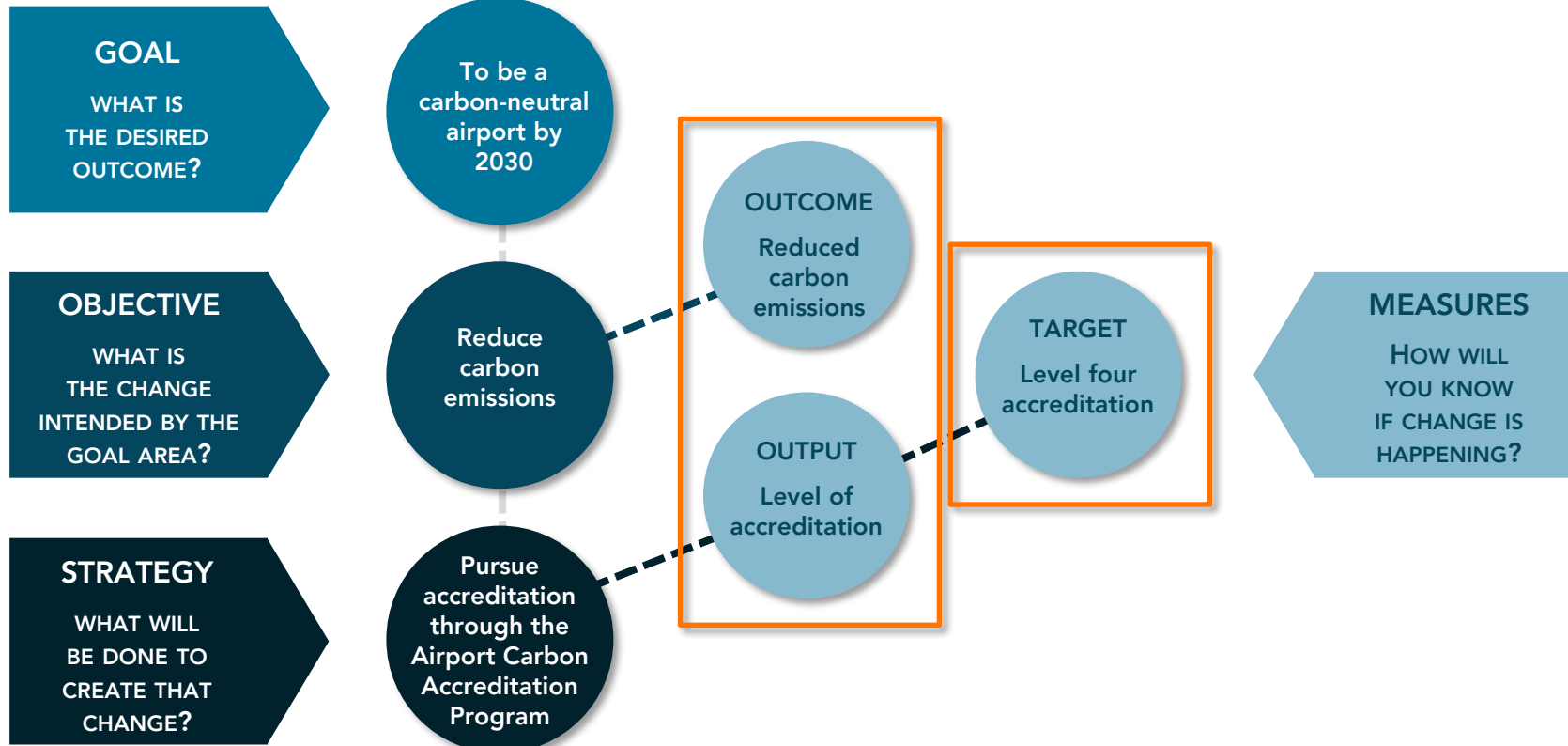
Public Priority



Airport's efforts lack context

- Peers use strategic planning
- Other county functions also use strategic planning
- Previous airport Strategic Plan ended in 2020
- No current goal-setting framework

Airport efforts and strategic planning





Recommendations

- ▶ Create strategic plan addressing environmental and equity goals



Limited communication hinders community relations

- Community relations essential part of transparency
- Noise management program does not display key data





Recommendations

- ▶ Clearly communicate and report on status of sustainability and equity-related efforts
- ▶ Publish noise level data on its website

KCIA has taken positive steps to engage



ROUNDTABLE

Group of community members and stakeholders that meet monthly to discuss airport operations



WORKING GROUPS

Convened at project charter phase of certain capital projects to provide community input



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISON

Works with community organizations to inform them about airport operations





Airport lacks clear engagement strategy

- KCIA has started to develop a plan
- Described as an informal process
- May miss opportunities to address community concerns



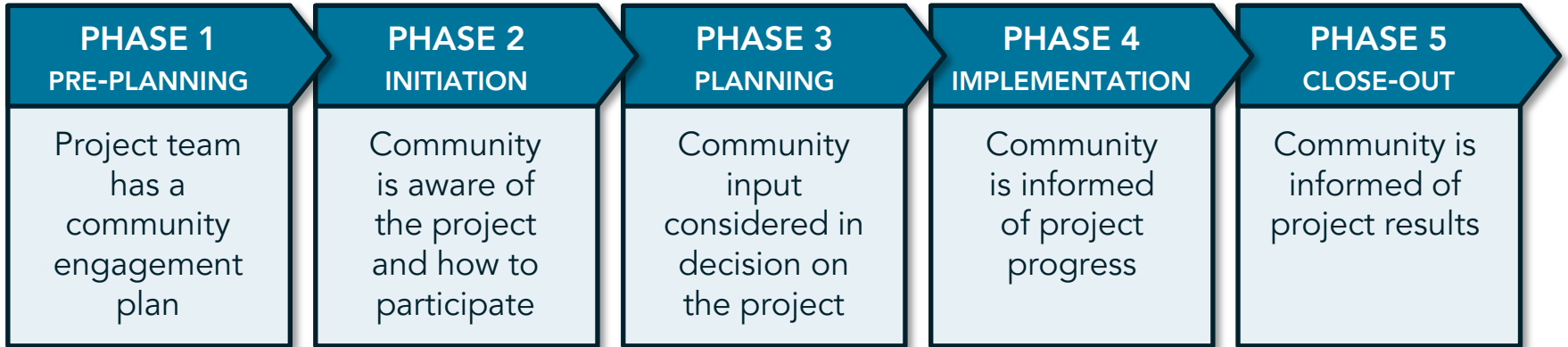
Recommendation

- ▶ Develop, document, and implement community engagement plan



Community may be engaged too late

PROJECT LIFE CYCLE



Source: The Federal Aviation Administration



Recommendations

- ▶ Identify opportunities to engage community as early as possible on projects
- ▶ Choose projects that support strategic plan goals





Roundtable not meeting its purpose

- “the purpose of the Roundtable is to advise and make recommendations to the airport”
- Not making formal recommendations
- Roundtable members do not see their role as influencing airport





Roundtable not meeting its purpose

- Agendas give minimal time for discussion
- Limited conversation and debate during meetings
- No independent third-party facilitator





Recommendations

- ▶ Ensure Roundtable recommendations are proposed to and considered by KCIA leadership
- ▶ Identify and use an external third-party to facilitate Roundtable meetings



Key Takeaways



Airport needs strategic planning to focus its environmental and equity efforts



Airport needs strategy for community engagement



Airport Roundtable needs support as an advisory body



Thank you

Full report available online at
[KingCounty.gov/Auditor](https://www.kingcounty.gov/Auditor)

Questions?