

CIVIC BOOT CAMP RESOURCE GUIDE

**TRANSPORTATION
ACCESSIBILITY IN THE
PUGET SOUND REGION**



THIS IS A VIRTUAL EVENT

[SEATTLECITYCLUB.ORG](https://seattlecityclub.org)



DESCRIPTION

How can we improve our region's transportation accessibility for all? We'll address this question in this virtual program, part 1 of a three-part Civic Boot Camp series on transportation accessibility. In the first panel, we'll hear from executives with the Seattle Department of Transportation, Community Transit, King County Metro and Sound Transit on their current work and future vision. In the second panel, we'll address the same topic with leaders from local non-profit transportation-related organizations and learn about how they advocate for transportation accessibility solutions.

ABOUT CIVIC BOOT CAMP

Civic Boot Camps offer participants in-depth perspectives from local leaders on critical local issues and inspiration to take action in their communities. Civic Boot Camps address the historical and current context of local and regional issues such as racial justice, homelessness, climate change, economic equity, healthcare, immigration, and civil rights.



ABOUT SEATTLE CITYCLUB

Seattle CityClub is a 40-year-old nonpartisan, civics-focused nonprofit providing a platform for insightful and educational conversations that include a diverse range of perspectives.

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Segment 1

- **Greg Spotts**, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation
- **Ric Ilgenfritz**, CEO, Community Transit
- **Michelle Allison**, General Manager, King County Metro
- **Julie Timm**, CEO, Sound Transit
- Moderator: **Mike Lindblom**, Transportation Reporter, Seattle Times

Segment 2

- **Kirk Hovenkotter**, Executive Director, Commute Seattle
- **Staci Sahoo**, Director, Mobility Management, Hopelink
- **Kelsey Mesher**, Deputy Director, Transportation Choices Coalition
- Moderator: Jeff Carter, Program Specialist, Seattle CityClub

Michelle Allison



Michelle Allison is the General Manager of King County Metro, the Puget Sound region's largest public transportation agency. Metro provides bus, vanpool, and water taxi services, and operates Seattle Streetcar, Sound Transit Link light rail, and Sound Transit Express bus service. Michelle was previously Deputy General Manager, overseeing all Metro Operations across bus, rail, and marine service; facilities; and vehicle maintenance. She began her Metro career in 2017 and has also served as Chief of Staff.

Ric Ilgenfritz



Ric Ilgenfritz joined Community Transit as CEO in January 2021. As CEO, Ric leads a workforce of nearly 800 employees, guiding the agency's vision and mission, and providing organizational leadership to deliver safe, high-quality, innovative public transportation options to the people of Snohomish County.

Ric serves on a variety of boards representing Community Transit, including:

Economic Alliance of Snohomish County (EASC) Board of Trustees

Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation (SCCIT) Board of Directors

Washington State Transit Association (WSTA), Treasurer of the Board (2022 – 2023)

Washington State Transportation Demand Management (WSTDM) Executive Board

Additionally, Ric partners with Community Transit's Board of Directors, community leaders, and elected officials to promote and improve public transportation. As a member of the Regional Mobility Partnership, he works closely with transit general managers and senior transportation leaders to ensure travel is made easy for all, within the county and across the region.

Ric Ilgenfritz (cont.)



Ric's career is committed to public service. He is a seasoned transit leader with nearly 20 years of executive experience in public transit. Before joining Community Transit, Ric served as vice president for the Puget Sound region at David Evans and Associates, where he was responsible for transportation business development, including transit, roads, highways, and structures throughout the region, including Snohomish County. Ric also spent more than 16 years as a member of the executive leadership team at Sound Transit, working to plan and implement a more robust regional transit network to strengthen communities and support our economy. He led multiple departments including Planning, Environment, Project Development, Customer Service, and Communications.

Ric received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Oregon. He has been active in the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the Urban Land Institute, and Railvolution. Ric grew up in the Pacific Northwest. He and his spouse raised their three grown children in Seattle.

Julie Timm



Julie Timm is the CEO of Sound Transit, the regional agency that provides light rail, commuter rail and bus service to connect more than 50 cities and the nearly 50% of Washington State residents who live in the Puget Sound area.

Before joining Sound Transit, Julie was the CEO of the Greater Richmond Transit Company, where she oversaw the operation of regional bus routes and more than 400 employees.

From 2016 through 2019, Julie served as Chief Development Officer for WeGo Public Transit in Nashville, Tennessee. Her work there included directing development activities and agencywide staff functions, including engineering, outreach, customer care, planning, grants, marketing, communications, service quality and innovation. She also oversaw implementation of major regional capital projects associated with the more than \$6 billion Motion Strategy that the Nashville region adopted in 2016.

From 2012 through 2016, Julie served as Transit Development Officer and Title VI and Environmental Justice Compliance Officer for Hampton Roads Transit in Norfolk, Virginia. She worked with state and local partners and the Federal Transit Administration to manage capital project and strategic planning processes supporting light rail and other transit projects through approval, funding and implementation.

Julie Timm (cont.)



From 2000 through 2012, Julie worked in North Carolina in senior positions developing transit, highway and other types of projects for Moffatt and Nichol, Carter and Burgess, and URS Corporation. From 1996 through 2000, she worked as a contract employee managing projects and programs for the United States Air Force Air Combat Command Headquarters in Virginia.

Julie earned a master's degree in business administration degree from Vanderbilt University as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Old Dominion University.

Greg Spotts



Greg Spotts has been the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) Director since September 2022. Greg believes in co-creating and delivering projects with the communities SDOT serves and prioritizes listening tours with people walking, biking, riding transit. He leads by example, espousing the values of responsiveness, innovation, transparency, and accountability. In his first few months at SDOT, he is conducting a rigorous review of the Vision Zero program, to identify which interventions in which places are most likely to save lives. Greg is a big fan of innovations small and big and is working to ensure that SDOT has the people, systems and technology needed to implement best practices and bring life to SDOT's first of its kind Transportation Equity Framework.

Prior to joining SDOT, Greg served as Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer for the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, (StreetsLA), shaping policies supporting active transportation, climate change adaptation, vehicle emissions reductions, and the adoption of sustainable construction practices. Greg is an internationally recognized leader in the emerging field of urban heat island mitigation, and oversaw a growing program of cool pavement, tree planting and shade structure installation in underserved communities.

Greg Spotts (cont.)



Prior to joining StreetsLA, Greg served Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for nearly four years as Director of Performance Management and then Director of Transportation Project Delivery. In the latter role, Greg served as the Mayor's lead on a \$370M portfolio of city transportation projects including traffic signal synchronization, and a \$10B portfolio of regional Metro mega-projects including the 405 freeway widening and the Purple Line Subway Extension.

Greg has obtained a BA in Political Science from Yale University, and a Masters of Public Policy from UCLA, including a Leadership in Sustainability Certificate.

Kirk Hovenkotter



As the Executive Director of Move Redmond, Kirk led the organization's work to make it easier to walk, bike, and bus for the 100,000 people who go to work or school in Redmond, Washington. During his six years at TransitCenter, he developed the organization into a nationally recognized leader in transit policy. He advised mayors, county executives, and transit agencies on effective approaches to bus network redesigns and fare policy. He has spoken about ridership trends and what makes transit useful in national outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, Wired, and Governing. He grew up just outside of Redmond, is fluent in Danish, and enjoys film and dance performances in his free time.

Staci Sahoo



Staci Sahoo is the Director of Mobility Management at Hopelink in King County, WA. Staci oversees collaborative initiatives and projects to improve transportation opportunities for historically underserved communities. Before joining Hopelink in 2016, Staci received her Master's degree in Urban Planning from New York University and coordinated mobility management programs in New York City, India, and Israel.

Kelsey Mesher



Kelsey Mesher serves as Deputy Director for Transportation Choices Coalition, a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to bringing Washingtonians more and better transportation options. Kelsey served as TCC's Advocacy Director for three years before stepping into her current role, where she built intersectional coalitions and led campaigns to support fair fare enforcement, increase transit and multimodal funding, and advance Sound Transit light rail project development. Prior to joining TCC, Kelsey worked as a bicycle advocate, launching campaigns and organizing efforts for safe and protected places to bike in Seattle. She has a Masters in Public Health from the University of Washington, and sees transportation policy and planning as a means to building healthier, fairer and more resilient communities.

Links related to the speakers:

[Roadside Chat, Welcoming Greg Spotts to SDOT](#)
SDOT Blog

[Meet Greg! Director of SDOT](#)
SDOT

[Michelle Allison confirmed as King County Metro general manager](#)
King County Metro

[Community Transit picks Ric Ilgenfritz as CEO with regional transit experience](#)
HeraldNet, Dec 2020

[Sound Transit Board approves Julie Timm as next CEO](#)
Mass Transit, June 2022

[Meet Kelsey Meshner, Deputy Director, Transportation Choices Coalition](#)

[Meet Kirk! Executive Director of Community Transit](#)
Commute Seattle, May 2022

Civic Engagement Opportunities

Our region's civic health depends on each of us getting involved in civic life. Here are some ways you can get engaged.

Donate

- Donate a used bike to Bike Works.
- Donate pre-loaded Orca cards to local homeless shelters, students, and domestic violence shelters in your neighborhood.
- Donate your time by offering your vehicle to the elderly and youth.

Learn

- Subscribe to podcasts to learn more about the transportation departments interconnectivity.
- Read the latest news and blogs posted on their websites.
- Subscribe to their email newsletters.

Advocate

- Ride public transit.
- Pay it forward by covering another person's fare.
- Provide employees with cost-reduced or free transit passes.
- Bring awareness to carpooling and car-share opportunities with your friends and network.

Advocate

- Build connections with your neighbors and start a ride-share group.
- Offer to carpool with coworkers to reduce carbon emissions and build friendships.
- Take the foot ferry from Downtown to West Seattle instead of driving.
- Participate in a Group Ride with Cascade Bike Club!

Civic Engagement Opportunities (cont.)

Volunteer

- **Bike Works** – Committed to making cycling accessible, affordable and welcoming to people of all backgrounds, abilities and incomes.
- **Catholic Community Services** – Provides transportation and other volunteer opportunities to support seniors and people with disabilities in King County and Western Washington.
- **Find-a-Ride.org** - By offering rides to disabled, elderly, and other people you can make a difference!
- **HopeLink** – Donate your time or money to help others get around.
- **Sound Generations** – Provides transportation to senior citizens of West Seattle.
- **Transportation Choices** – Advocacy work to bring affordable transit and commute opportunities for all.

RESOURCES

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RESOURCES AND
DATA.](#)

