**West Coast Communities Transportation Meeting Agenda**

**Friday June 24th, 2016**

**NETP Office, Ucluelet BC**

**10:00 pm – 12:00 pm**

**Present**

**Marilyn McEwan,** District of Ucluelet and Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce; **Don Buchner,** Wheels for Wellness; **Tony Bennet,** ACRD, Area C; **Trevor Wickham,** Ucluelet First Nation; **Aaron Rodgers,** District of Tofino; **Jesse Rache Sharpe,** Leadership Vancouver Island; **Marylin Touchie,** Leadership Vancouver Island; **Tamara Rampanen,** Coastal Family Resource Coalition; **Jade Yehia,** Island Health; **Jen Dart,** Tofino Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

**Wheels for Wellness**

**Review**

Since April the program has seen a slight slowdown which is on par with program trends for spring. Numbers from April to June where:

April – 23 Riders

May – 30 Riders

June – 39 Rides to date

Wheels for Wellness is keeping close tabs on what is spent for the program to operate in order to apply for next year’s gaming grant - $21 000 has been spent out of the projected annual $40 000.

**Next Steps and Wrap Up**

Program requires additional marketing to increase awareness of how the program works; target is medical offices and professionals

* Tamara to convene a meeting with local CHR’s in First Nation communities to increase information distribution, work with FNHA and invite others who may require additional information
* Investigate Ukee Days booth – approach CBT to see about partnering on a booth, W4W to provide pamphlets, posters and cards for booth. Don will investigate van in parade and presence at the booth.
* Division of Family Practice information distribution to local GP’s and program information on medical office tear away pads being developed
* Marcie will update the program one pager to reflect donors and increase program information

Questions arouse around the 60 km minimum trip and needs of the community. Will the van be able to provide transportation between Ucluelet and Tofino?

* Marcie provided a quick reminder of history of the project and September meeting decisions.
* Implement the pilot, assess viability and address one very small aspect of local transportation needs identified with this immediate and easily actioned initiative.
* Reconvene in June to come back to three identified needs around transportation on the peninsula – medical, employment/economic development, vulnerable populations (youth and seniors).
* Don addressed rational behind the organizations policy
* W4W is a program which operates throughout Vancouver Island, policies in place are to ensure best service for all communities and there are currently no exceptions to organizational practices in communities served. There are 16 communities served with 2 part time staff providing coordination and a volunteer Executive Director.
* West Coast van is currently operating at capacity with volunteer drivers and ridership operating 4 to 5 days a week on average.
* Opportunities to identify one scheduled day for the van to travel between communities would take the van out of operation and limit the ability for a patient to travel out for a medical appointment.
* Travel between communities would require an additional van (double the capital purchase) as well as increased operational costs for program coordination and
* After the initial capital investment from our regional partners W4W has taken on the operational costs of the program, roughly $40 000 annually. This amount is not covered through Island Health funding available in other areas or through gaming grants at this point. Don will be tracking program numbers closely with hopes to have success with Gaming Grants once the program has operated for one full year.
* Current operational funding sourced completely through donations and ridership through First Nations Health, WCB and the Ministry of Social Development who pay $0.21/km for patient travel.

**Regional Transportation Assets Mapping Project**

**Update**

Marcie provided a quick summary of the project and overview of the project plan – attached in emails – and a quick intro to project team. Jade Yehia was present and gave a more thorough introduction to her role and access to information.

**Data discussion**

To increase the usability and functionality of the tool we are checking in with working groups and action tables to gather feedback. Discussion followed, great comment around name of project with data base to be used instead of mapping to reflect the depth of information being collected.

* Are there specific days which travel is needed?
* Is there data which points to increased frequency on certain days?
* Age and demographics of travellers?
* Dental and other medical offices not associated with Island Health services?
* Wheels for Wellness data, may be able to provide some depth to above questions
* Data associated with hospital usage, critical care and non, for what reasons if info available.
* Medical companion required?
* Data sets outside of medical services – who is hitchhiking, what about school and work
* Info available through schools, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust surveys (youth and community), Vital Signs, etc.

**Transportation Priorities Review**

**Data from Leadership Vancouver Island Pilot**

LVI group joined meeting to present back findings, recommendations and lessons learned. Reports attached.

* 8 day pilot which was extended to 11 due to increased funding and partnerships from Tofino Bus
* 472 people transported
* $7000 in operational costs
* Advertising through facebook, posters and radio
* Pre survey of community and survey of users, feedback available in report

Lessons Learned

* Data collection was based on drivers ability to track, not as detailed or thorough as hoped, numbers likely exceeded what was recorded
* Frequency was important – one buss helped everyone a little but nobody a lot
* 2 to 3 buses would be ideal to increase accessibly to users on the end of the lines (Hitacu and Tofino)

**Opportunities and Next Steps for Next Meeting**

* Don from W4W identified that W4W vans come up for sale and would be available to purchase
* $7000 for this week long pilot points to about a $750 000 annual program if 3 vehicles were used
* Look to further cost projections
* Follow up with Dylan
* Investigate other potential transit and funding opportunities for next meeting
* Bring on Transit Facilitator for next discussion – Marcie and Aaron to follow up and plan
* Update and discussion on Community Connector Trail.

**Next Meeting**

August – September TBA