

Snohomish County Transportation Coalition

[Snohomish County Transportation Coalition](#) (Snotrac) is a mobility management coalition located in Snohomish County in the city of Everett, Washington. The coalition is planning to update previous research to guide transportation improvements in a rural area.

Project Goal:

This project will create an action plan that recommends a mobility solution for serving people with disabilities, older adults, people with low incomes and other transportation-insecure populations in the rural area along US 2 from Monroe to Skykomish, where few-to-no transportation options exist.

Population Served:

- Older adults and people with disabilities.
- Low income: 300 percent Federal Poverty Level \approx 65 percent Area Median Income
- The organization is also focused on the transportation needs of people with low incomes and youth.

Transportation Barriers:

A 2022 community survey conducted by the Snohomish County Transportation Coalition (Snotrac) revealed the following:

- 83 percent of respondents identified barriers to being able to get to where they need to go without driving.
- 65 percent said service levels of transit was a barrier to getting around without a car.
- 38 percent said streets were too unsafe to walk or bike.

Community Needs:

- The 2022 survey gave insight on desired solutions, but only 72 people participated. Sample results:
 - 77 percent prioritized building multi-use trails.
 - 74 percent prioritized new sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks.
 - 72 percent prioritized expanding Homage Senior Services' Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) to include more places currently not served.
- The work group has not created a formal action plan for implementing any of the solutions.
- Community Transit (local buses, etc.) recently completed a long-range plan and a planning effort for a major service change. Neither plan recommended increasing fixed-route or paratransit service past Monroe up valley. There is potential for Community Transit to explore a microtransit project within the City of Monroe within the next few years.

Community Engagement Efforts:

- Surveys were fielded for a more in-depth community survey than in 2022. The goal was to get 250+ responses and broader community engagement, and 303 people responded. Most respondents were low to very low income, 20 percent were over 65 and 14 percent have disabilities, representative of the local demographics.
- Postcards were mailed to 10,684 households.

- Eight focus groups were held, but attendance was challenging. A Community Open House on the survey results and potential solutions held at the library attracted 30 attendees.
- The outreach effort was publicized through social media, local media, public spaces and partner communications.

Multi-sector Collaborative Partnerships:

Snotrac invited more than 141 people to join the Steering Committee, and 22 members joined. They represent transit, senior services, human services, city leadership, department of transportation, county legislative staff, county sheriff, school district, Boys & Girls Club, libraries, center for independent living, disability services organization, mobility coalition and addiction recovery organizations.

Funding and Sustainability:

- Snotrac is funded through 5310.
- Homage Senior Services is funded by 5310 funds, Snohomish County Human Services and other community support to provide its Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) as an on-demand, curb-to-curb paratransit-like service outside of the paratransit service (DART) area of Community Transit. However, TAP is insufficiently resourced to provide reliable and timely service to the most rural parts of the county, including the Skykomish Valley area.
- Snotrac's Snohomish County Coordinated Transportation-Human Services Plan is due to be updated in 2029.
- Snotrac is advocating for inclusion of action plan recommendations in the next PSRC Coordinated Mobility Plan.
- Consolidated Grant funding may be available for summer 2027 to 2029.

Outcomes:

- Respondents gave feedback on specific routes, leading with requests for trails and walkability over bus expansions. Outreach yielded the following recommendations:
 1. Improve in-city pedestrian & bicycle networks.
 2. Pilot microtransit service.
 3. Build roundabouts in Sultan.
 4. Provide travel training at senior center.
 5. Advocate for Amtrak stops.
 6. Community vans.
 7. Strengthen Homage TAP.
 8. Pilot Trailhead Transit.
 9. Explore flex-route to Skykomish.
 10. Multi-use trail.
- Snotrac shared draft concepts of the plan with survey and focus group participants to solicit feedback. No additional significant iterations were necessary. The near-final Action Report was completed and presented.

Learnings:

- A good concept to explore is to incorporate the [University of Michigan Transportation Security Index](#), the first validated measure of the experience of being unable to move from place to place in a safe or timely manner.
- Using an incentive to take the survey may improve returns.