



This Week from the Mayor



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Summit tackles transportation issues

Last Thursday morning I convened a transportation summit designed to look for answers to the tough challenges we're facing with a growing workforce.

There's been tremendous population and economic growth in Renton and with that comes the need for accessible and predictable public transportation. Employees must be able to get to and from work without having to spend a long day in transit. Employers need to know their workforce has an option of getting to and from work other than using their cars.



The summit brought together Peter Rogoff, Sound Transit CEO; Rob Gannon, General Manager of King County METRO Transit; Dr. Damien Pattenau, Renton School District Superintendent; Dr. Kevin McCarthy, Renton Technical College President; city staff; and about two dozen Renton business owners, representing many of the 62,000 workers we have in Renton. METRO and Sound Transit provided updates on planned improvements for Renton, but a majority of the morning was spent listening to the business leaders express their ideas.

Both the business community and transit representatives were in agreement on the importance of ensuring bus rapid transit to and from Renton.

Some of what we heard:

- Establish connections from existing light rail stations to Renton
- Fast track the enhanced METRO bus service to and from the NE 44th Street bus rapid transit station (currently scheduled for 2021)
- More bus service to the southern part of the city and the re-routing of existing routes
- Better access and safety improvements from the Sounder train station
- Improved van pool services, including building partnerships between businesses

It was a very productive session. Our business leaders came with strong ideas, which were well received. Transit officials stressed a desire to work with businesses to solve the issues. The next steps will involve city staff, business leaders, and transit officials working together to take these ideas from the meeting room to our streets and highways, benefitting both employees and employers in Renton.

We are committed to working with our transit agencies to provide better access and service for Renton residents and those working here. We also will be working internally and externally on ways to address the traffic that is severely impacting Renton streets during commute hours by motorists trying to avoid the freeway system.

Civic leader Andee Jorgensen passes away

Some very sad news as I learned that Andee Jorgensen, who many of you know as a tireless volunteer and advocate for Renton, has passed away.

Andee was a past president of Renton Rotary, chamber board member, Renton Technical College trustee, and RTC foundation board member. Her list of civic organizations is also extensive including Renton Area Youth Services, Renton Sister City Committee, Civil Service Commission, and Hazen High School PTSA Board.

In 2014, it was my great honor to present Andee with the chamber's Outstanding Citizen Award. Her tireless energy had a profound impact on our city. She will be missed.



Andee Jorgensen

Under Our Skin: A conversation about race

In Renton we stand for inclusion. Every day our efforts are designed to ensure all our residents feel welcomed and safe. Those efforts include sponsoring events that ask us to look inside ourselves and view issues from another perspective

Tonight we are partnering with King County Library System, and Renton History Museum to present "[Under Our Skin: What Do We Mean when We Talk About Race?](#)" another thought-provoking event at the [Renton Community Center](#) from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The evening will include a discussion around issues of race and relations, designed to get us thinking deeper to build common ground. It will be an evening that is well worth your time.



Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading.