Elevate SD 2020: Education Working Group Meeting 1 – Executive Summary

Date: Thursday, August 8, 2019
Location: South County Regional Education Center
Attendees: 16

Overview:

In addition to presentations from MTS marketing and planning staff, attendees were asked to participate in two interactive elements: a values priority activity, and small group discussions. The following summarizes the feedback provided from those activities.

Top Values:

Participants were given five stickers, and asked to identify their top values that should help shape the future of transit. Below are the results:

1. Provide faster service - 5
2. Provide access to jobs and education - 16
3. Provide more frequent service -11
4. Reduce traffic congestion - 5
5. Reduce GhGs/Benefit the environment - 2
6. Help seniors/disabled with mobility - 7
7. Improve roads/highways to support transit - 4
8. Provide viable alternatives to the car - 4
9. Provide low-cost fares –8
10. Connect directly to more destinations- 11
11. Other - Safety Education: For community and students regarding homeless.
     Reliability- Focus on speed and road improvements.

Round-Table Summaries:

Participants also broke up into small groups for a round-table discussions facilitated by MTS staff. They were asked to share what they thought of the project concepts discussed in the presentation by MTS staff. Feedback is as follows:

Group 1:

More routes in East County, services mi-day

Access to jobs for students. Increase service depending on hour demand.

More safety at night and increase education outreach for students.

Improve service levels at night and weekends that can allow for students to reach their jobs, explore, and access more activities.

Student housing hubs (Beach areas i.e Mission, Pacific Beach, Mission Bay Aquatic Center)

Increase frequency and service for local commuter students across the region coming from SDSU, Point Loma Nazarene.

- Mira Mesa, Claremont Mesa, (UCSD) –Increasing frequency

Improve speed and reliability

Dedicated transit lanes shared with HOV

Invest (A LOT) in bus service for Trolley extension.

Invest in technology for fare system and real time bus schedule.

Integrate with campus shuttle services for real-time bus alerts.

Service around pick up drop off times at schools.

Better infrastructure including expanding to air and underground.

Student trends:

- Less and less students looking to get licenses.
- Preferring Uber or Lyft
- Students are more open to using transit, but reliability is a factor as well as capacity issue at UCSD
- Price points are a barrier compared to parking.
- Newer generations are more receptive to transit messaging and are motivated by sustainability.
- USD survey.
- Possibility of weekend only pass for students who live on campus and only travel far distances on the weekends.

3 Main takeaways:

1. Speed and reliability
   a. Increase frequency
2. Capacity

a.   More routes and service in more areas
    3.   Service areas where students are
        a.   Housing hubs park and ride options

Group 2:

More frequency

Increase safety

Use for homeless families, lower fares

Youth passes for low income students coming from south Bay/TJ to Grossmont.

Need to better align bus schedule with school schedule

Fare costs can be a make or break for students.

Include service planning for rural areas, and increase to daily service as opposed to only a few days a week.

Mobility on demand

Drop off and pick up near or coincide with the K-6 child drop off times.

Parents don't trust children walking alone anymore.

Shuttles around trolley stations. Gillespie to Grossmost shuttle

Explore possibility of creating an emergency fund for students who can't afford monthly passes due to financial hardship.

 Eliminate or make transfers more convenient

Connect childcare institutions with schools or campuses

Other fair options: 2-day per week pass.

Infrastructure:

Skyway to connect to beach.

National City has a lot of new development, lots of housing construction in the works, but little parking is being provided.

3 Main Takeaways:

1.   Flexibility
2.   2. Equity Access to all areas for students
3.   Frequency/ duration- Help drop off and pick-ups at school zones and areas.