



Housing, Transportation, Connectivity Committee

Co-Chairs: Kevin Desmond, CEO, Translink & Paula Hammond, Former WA Secretary of Transportation

Committee Members:

Anne McMullin	BC	CEO, Urban Development Institute (UDI) Vancouver
David Hoff	BC	Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at Ledcor
Kim Logan	BC	Strategic Programs Director, Internet of Things at TELUS
Roger Millar	WA	Secretary at Washington State Department of Transportation
Irene Plenefisch	WA	Government Affairs Director, Microsoft
Alan Hart	WA	Principal, Founder of VIA Architecture
Kate Joncas	WA	Deputy Mayor for City of Seattle, Director of Urban Strategy and Development, MIG

Big Idea:

Build broad support for the Ultra High Speed Rail Corridor (UHSC) by encouraging the recognition of this project as game-changing infrastructure capable of addressing transportation, housing, network connectivity, and job growth in communities throughout the corridor.

While currently known for its promise of a one-hour trip from Seattle to Vancouver, the Ultra High Speed Rail Corridor (UHSC) project has the potential to unlock tremendous economic value for the mega-region if viewed and planned in a larger context. Over the next 30 years, Cascadia will grow by 3.5 million people – creating incredible pressures on the region’s already overloaded transportation systems, network capacity, and housing stock. The UHSC project presents the opportunity to re-imagine the future of Cascadia—where high speed transportation and super fast internet connectivity dramatically alter land use needs—allowing housing and job centers to flourish in communities throughout the corridor. Imagine the possibilities when Tacoma and Everett are a 15-minute commute to downtown Seattle, when Surrey is equally accessible from both Vancouver and Bellingham, or when a start up in Mount Vernon has the same internet speed and access to talent as one in Vancouver.

The UHSC project is a complex, high dollar investment requiring unique international and cross-jurisdictional cooperation. Fast transport between major cities may not be perceived to be valuable enough in the near term to justify costs. But if understood as the lynchpin to solving transportation, housing, and connectivity issues both within and between communities, UHSC quickly becomes a worthwhile endeavour. Cascadia must embrace a more holistic vision of the UHSC and design, plan, and execute the project to ensure it addresses transportation, affordable housing, economic development, network capacity, and access to jobs throughout the corridor.

Action Plan:

ENVISION THE CORRIDOR – The Cascadia Innovation Corridor partnership will embark on an intense stakeholder engagement and planning process that builds broad-based support and a shared vision for the full potential of UHSC as the backbone for a region of smart, connected, complete communities.

By 2021, we will work to launch a **Cascadia Innovation Corridor Envisioning Initiative** sponsored by the newly formed UHSC cross-border authority. This initiative will have multiple phases:

- 1) **Public Engagement:** Harness innovative public engagement tools to ascertain the level of public interest and draw out concerns, ideas, and opportunities.
- 2) **Station Community RFP:** Solicit proposals from communities that want to vie for station stops—create a competitive process based on the criteria of creating smart, connected, complete communities that address regional housing and employment objectives. Encourage partnership with private sector.
- 3) **Spur Innovative Design and Development Ideas:** Solicit the best design ideas and creative development strategies by sponsoring an innovation acceleration event—such as an RFI, a design challenge, or a charette.
- 4) **Feeder Service RFP:** Seek out innovative feeder transportation services concepts to maximize potential ridership at station areas and better serve neighboring communities.

UHSC CHAMPIONS – The Cascadia Innovation Corridor Partnership will form a network of engaged business partners within the mega region committed to supporting the UHSC project and providing resources and expertise where appropriate.

1. 2020: Lead an outreach and education campaign to businesses and other key stakeholders in the mega-region showcasing the game-changing potential of the UHSC project.
2. 2021: Launch a campaign that allows business to publicly show their support for the UHSC by adding their names and logos to a list of UHSC Champions.
3. 2021: Solicit business and other stakeholder support to sponsor needed research, public engagement, and visioning exercises.

CIVIC INNOVATION EXCHANGE – Leverage the growing set of invested UHSC cross-border stakeholders to jointly accelerate both short- and long-term solutions to housing, transportation, and economic challenges throughout the mega-region.

The Cascadia Innovation Corridor will set up a “Civic Innovation Exchange” to:

- 1) Connect the network of housing and transportation professionals across the mega-region.
- 2) Facilitate the sharing of ideas, best practices, and lessons learned in transportation, housing, and connectivity innovation across Cascadia.
- 3) Establish a fellowship program to advance knowledge and research on specific housing, transportation, or connectivity issues, sharing results, prototypes, and research.