Destination Access Community of Practice

Inaugural meeting

August 21, 2025 – noon to 1:00pm (Central)

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Deanna Belden, TTI

Kelly Rodgers, Oregon DOT

Liz Williams, MassDOT

Joe Lehman, MnDOT

Chris Berrens, MnDOT

Thor Morris, Oregon DOT

Stephanie Dock, District DOT

Andrew Owen, University of MN Accessibility Observatory

Henry McKay, Caltrans

Thomas Craig, WSDOT

Beverly Quinlan, Virginia OIPI

Kurt Winner, WSDOT

Dani Walker, WSDOT

Anson Stewart, Conveyal

**Purpose & Charter**

Deanna and Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the purpose of the community of practice. The group did introductions then discussed the example charter.

Suggested changes to the example charter are to include MPOs and cities, academics and researchers. Below is the example from ODOT and WSDOT discussed at the meeting.

“The COP is a collaboration between ODOT and WSDOT to share information about destination access data, methods, and uses.

 The goals of the COP are to:

* Support mutual learning between agencies
* Promote consistency of analytical methods for regional analysis
* Serve as a sounding board and provide feedback on concepts and analysis
* Build agency confidence and credibility in applying accessibility analysis in decision-making”

**Brainstorm – what are you most interested in?**

* What are the questions and challenges that you are facing with destination access?
* How does destination access inform decisions in your agency?

Below are ideas captured from the conversation including the chat:

* Regarding capital planning, would love to learn how to scale down Virginia’s smart scale for different size organizations
* The difference between urban and rural; the land use context
* Reliable land use data, how to capture destinations in a more updated way
* How to capture things like road diets. Also, cross border challenges with data and how to find reliable data sets when some national data sets are likely going away
* A deep long-term hope, that transportation agencies engage with land use and experiences by users
* Project evaluation is technically interesting but has reached a mature phase. The challenge is communication with executives and the marketing around it
* Challenges with decisions made through a political process but agency executives are hesitant to engage in what might be perceived as political. How can we raise “objective transportation science” in a way that is not perceived as political?
* Would like project level evaluations/post implementation evaluations, and year over year changes in accessibility
* Would like to deliver accessibility data to other part of organizations, expand the set of users
* Some really great analysis on regional and corridor accessibility has been done, but how to communicate over time and understand outcomes?
* Methods for differentiating when destination access improvements are more effectively done via land use, transportation, or both
* There is value in having communication-oriented conversations/learning; difference between making the case for funding and being used to actively prioritize funding
* Interested in long-term monitoring and if outcomes are aligned with what an agency policy says
* Discussion about BCA and how folks would like to measure access and not speed.

**Meeting frequency**

* The group decided to meet monthly for the foreseeable future as there is plenty of material people would like to present and discuss. Will meet the second Thursday of the month at 10 am pacific/noon central. Next meeting will be September 11.
* Presentations for upcoming meetings will be:
  + September – Kurt Winner and Thomas Craig
  + October – Andrew Owen
  + November – Joe Lehman
  + December – Henry McKay

**Online presence and communication**

* The group decided on a GitHub site, with Anson’s assistance to set it up. We will reserve some discussion time about it at the next meeting.
* [destination-access-community](https://github.com/destination-access-community) or https://github.com/destination-access-community

**Wrap-up (5 min.) –Deanna Belden**

* Next steps