

# A thank you, a graduation and a look into the future of mass transportation in Seattle

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By Bret Anderson

A lively start up today with inspiring words from **Jaime Mendez** to remind us that everyday ordinary people do extraordinary things. To prove the point, **Virginia McKenzie** led us in the Disney classic of Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah, academy winning 1946 song from the movie *Song of the South*.

**President Cathy** welcomed Marco Lowe who will be the successor to **Stan Gent** to continue the 80 year long association between Rotary 4 and Seattle Steam.

Virginia reminded us to check the new website for the new rules about attendance.



**Jerilyn Brusseau** thanked Rotarians for their support of the Rotary Foundation which, among many other things, has supported the Boys and Girls Club. This fantastic organization has served a total of 35,000 boys and girls since its founding in 1939. Last year, the Foundation provided a van that allowed 65 youngsters to get to the club. It also supported food 60 hungry kids. Anyway that you look at it, a great service and investment in the future. Club director **Patrick Carter** expressed her thanks. What means most to her is that the club is able to inspire youth to reach their full potential as productive citizens.

President Cathy introduced **Hamilton McCulloh**, who introduced Greg Hanscom photographer and Editor-in-Chief of the local news blog [crosscut.com](http://crosscut.com), to be the moderator for the discussion of the future of the Sound Transit. The speakers were Kevin Wallace and Craig Kinzer.

Craig Kinzer is a partner in a real estate firm and a lawyer. He feels that the extension of the light rail system is all about the future. How will we get to work in 40 years? Seattle is an international city and we need to keep our infrastructure up to a standard or lose out to other cities in attracting development. We have to make plans now because this kind of project takes years to come to fruition. We don't want to miss the window on light rail since technology is advancing so quickly. Is it true that Atlanta got



‘our’ subway?

Kevin Wallace is also a lawyer and real estate developer. In addition, he is a council member for the City of Bellevue. Kevin feels that the Sound Transit that we have is sufficient because it will be augmented by future technology such as driverless cars and busses. The \$54 billion price tag is too much to pay for a system that will only come on line fully in 2041. Proposed taxes will cost an individual resident \$169 per year and \$1007 per year for a family of four with a house. Studies show that busses, mini coaches and park and ride lots can be just as effective in reducing traffic congestion and would cost 20% of what is planned for the Sound Transit. Wallace would rather see that money spent on education and other needs. And, he asks the question, can this type of large project be effectively managed?

Kinzer pointed out that putting more vehicles such as busses on the existing highway system would increase congestion. The light rail would be opening up an additional transportation channel. Both men agree that Seattle will continue to grow and that the movement of people must be factored in to plans for growth. Wallace feels that education is also a priority but that it does not have to be an either-or situation.

The development of the light rail is not a good solution for the cost and will take too long to show any benefit, feels Wallace.

Kinzer quoted hockey great Wayne Gretzky, “Skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been.” His final comment was, “Think of your children, think of your business.”

President Cathy closed the meeting with a reminder that we should read the recommended book “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates. There will be a book club meeting to discuss it. She told us that we will get under the hood of prejudice and learn more about implicit bias in the future.

