

Minutes
INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
April 18, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the April 18, 2018, meeting of the Intercity Transit Authority to order at 5:30 p.m., at the administrative offices of Intercity Transit.

Members Present: Chair and City of Tumwater Councilmember Debbie Sullivan; Vice Chair and Citizen Representative Ryan Warner; City of Lacey Councilmember Carolyn Cox; City of Yelm Councilmember Molly Carmody; County Commissioner Bud Blake (via phone); Citizen Representative Karen Messmer; Citizen Representative Don Melnick; Labor Representative Art Delancy.

Members Excused: City of Olympia Councilmember Clark Gilman.

Staff Present: Ann Freeman-Manzanares; Emily Bergkamp; Jessica Gould; Paul Koleber; Steve Krueger; Rob LaFontaine; Jim Merrill; Brian Nagel; Pat Messmer; Carolyn Newsome; Eric Phillips; Rena Shawver; Nicky Upson.

Others Present: Community Advisory Committee Member, Peter Diedrick; Tracey Christianson and Joanne Kerrigan from WSTIP.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was M/S/A by Councilmember Carmody and Citizen Representative Melnick to approve the agenda as presented.

WSTIP PRESENTS ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

Executive Director, Tracey Christianson from WSTIP presented their Above and Beyond Award to Operator David Cabe. Cabe was recognized for helping a lost elderly woman get home safely.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston Regional Planning Council. Karen Messmer said TRPC met April 6. The members **adopted** the Thurston Community Economic Alliance (TCEA) Resolution; **approved** the Executive Director's evaluation; and **received** a presentation by WSDOT Secretary, Roger Millar on the status of the state transportation system and his vision for the agency. Highlights of that presentation noted data supports that

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

April 18, 2018

Page 2 of 8

Washington State won't be able to build its way out of congestion. By 2027, 70 cents on every dollar of transportation funding will go to pay off the debt of connecting Washington and other past investments.

Warner said the presentation from WSDOT is available online at TDW.

B. Transportation Policy Board. Don Melnick said the TPB met April 11. The members received a presentation from WSDOT staff on the I-5 Derailment. WSDOT reported on what was learned from the efforts taken to notify the public, transport people from the wreckage, clear I-5, and guide travelers to alternate routes; took action on Amendment 18-04 to the 2018-2021 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to add a new Intercity Transit project - Bus Replacements; received an update on the Thurston Thrives Active Community Design - After Event; and received a briefing on the Journeys Regional Transportation Annual Report.

C. Community Advisory Committee. Peter Diedrick said the CAC met April 16. Members received an update on the 2018 Bicycle Commuter Challenge; heard a presentation on the Bus Procurement for high mileage vehicles and on the Short-Term Recommendations. He said comments from the CAC were positive; however, there was concern about changes to the commuter route; and there were questions about the new Route 47 to Capital Medical Center; and about the Route Change for Route 12 service on Blacklake Blvd.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Establish 2019-2022 Public Hearing Date for TIP. Jessica Gould, Grant Program Coordinator, requested approval to schedule a public hearing for May 16, 2018, to receive public comment on the draft Transportation Improvement program (TIP).

The draft 2019-2022 TIP is consistent with projects that are identified in Intercity Transit's long range capital and budget planning model (an internal planning document), the *2017- 2022 Transit Development Plan*, and the *2018-2023 Strategic Plan*. Both of these documents are published and available on the agency website. The agencies TIP is the first step in the annual cycle of reviewing and updating Intercity Transit's planning documents and identifying projects that need to be programmed into the state and federally required State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Additionally, this process provides an opportunity to encourage public input and participation for the programming of federally funded projects.

Program elements in the draft 2019-2022 TIP include:

- Preventive maintenance of vehicles in IT's fleet during the years 2019-2022;

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

April 18, 2018

Page 3 of 8

- Construction of Phase 2 - Pattison Expansion and rehabilitation project to include the Vanpool Service Center;
- Purchasing of heavy duty coaches (40) to replace ones that have been in service at or beyond their expected useful life;
- Purchasing of 142 replacement vanpool vans;
- Continuing Youth Education Program(s) that fosters skills and provides education on using transit and bicycling as transportation;
- Constructing and improving bus stops and facilities, including ADA improvements, in partnership with local agencies;
- Funding for operating services and capital replacement of vehicles within the Seattle- Tacoma Everett metropolitan area utilizing "earned share" formula funds for approved projects.

A summary of the proposed schedule and process highlights for this year's TIP review and adoption process is as follows:

- **April 18, 2018** - Brief ITA on schedule and request Public Hearing Date.
- Public Participation and outreach - April 19 - June 5, 2018
- **May 16, 2018** - Public Hearing on Draft TIP
- **June 6, 2018** - Consideration of 2019-2022 TIP for adoption
- **June 8, 2018** - Submit Approved TIP to MPO and State, Update and Enter Projects in STIP (Early July is the typical deadline for local jurisdiction to forward their approved TIP to the MPO for inclusion in the RTIP)

Projects are identified in the draft TIP for public review and comment and consideration for ITA adoption on June 6, 2018. They are also subject to review by the Thurston Regional Planning Council and Puget Sound Regional Council (for projects that include secured or anticipated PSRC Earned Share formula funds), for inclusion in the respective regional TIP (RTIP). Federally funded projects must also be included by IT through TRPC/PSRC for federal and state approval in the STIP prior to actual funding being available. 2019-2022 TIP projects total more than \$70.9 million with more than \$56.8 million of federal funding planned.

It was M/S/A by Citizen Representatives Melnick and Warner to schedule a public hearing for May 16, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on the draft Intercity Transit 2019-2022 TIP.

- B. **Short Term Recommendation - Public Process.** Rob LaFontaine, Planning Manager, provided a review of the service change proposal and short-range solutions as recommended by Thomas Wittmann of Nelson-Nygaard. LaFontaine brought forward the critical pieces of information needed to prepare for a public outreach.

Why Change?

Buses are experiencing delays due to congestion, and data shows there are a handful of routes that struggle with on time performance, particularly the express routes that operate on I-5 as well as the local routes operating on Martin Way, and Route 12 operating in Tumwater.

In the fall, staff met with operators in a focus group, and with their feedback and other data, staff was able to gain a better understanding of the current environment. In addition to on time performance, many routes are routed through the Olympia Transit Center which requires some passengers to travel out of direction. And ridership is low as a result of the express service struggling with on time performance and challenges with congestion.

The Road Trip resulted in a great initial outreach from the public weighing in asking for increased frequency, better reliability or direct service to west Olympia, SPSCC and expanded service into northeast Lacey. Staff is looking into being "resource neutral" meaning what changes can be made now without adjusting fare structure, hire more drivers, or go out for additional tax.

Resource neutral requires balance. To make changes with existing resources, we need to understand the tradeoffs. LaFontaine reviewed the recommended changes:

Currently there are 25 fixed routes and the recommended changes will affect 13 of those routes. Routes were specifically identified for their reliability and on time performance.

Route 47 would make significant alignment changes to provide **shorter and simpler** service between the Olympia Transit Center and Capital Mall. As a result duplicated bus service on Harrison Avenue would be reduced, and service on a portion of Black Lake Blvd. would be discontinued. New bus service would be introduced on Kaiser Rd. but discontinued on McPhee Rd and Yauger Way.

The tradeoff is this new clockwise loop would extend service to Kaiser Road but remove bi-directional service on Capital Mall Drive requiring passengers to board/alight on the north side of the road.

Warner asked if an analysis was performed about crosswalks to assist people who cross the street. LaFontaine said yes. And that particular segment of Capital Mall Drive has nice cross walks and bus stops in close proximity. Messmer noted that area has a large cross walk area and it may be a long distance to cross. The city may be in a position to help mitigate any issues.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

April 18, 2018

Page 5 of 8

Route 60 would provide consistent service all day by removing the deviation onto 12th Ave. The deviation currently occurs between 10AM & 3PM on weekdays and all trips on the weekends.

The tradeoff is deviations for specific bus stops provide access to the system, but require additional time that often makes it difficult to operate.

Route 62A/B schedules would be adjusted to provide **additional time** to mitigate heavy traffic congestion. The expanded schedule would allow a change of alignment to Route 62A introducing new service to a portion of northeast Lacey on Willamette Drive and Marvin Road north of I-5. The change would result in a one-way loop beginning/ending at the intersection of Martin Way and Galaxy Drive.

The tradeoff is this new counter clockwise loop would extend service to NE Lacey but remove bi-directional service on Martin Way requiring passengers to board/alight on the south side of the road.

Route 94 needs added time in weekend schedule caused by delays from traffic congestion. Hours of Operation would generally remain unchanged; however the number of trips on Saturday & Sunday may be reduced by 1 each day.

The tradeoff is providing additional time in the schedule helps the bus stay on time, but may result in fewer weekend trips between the Olympia Transit Center and Yelm.

Carmody asked if buses can take the by-pass around Yelm Highway. LaFontaine said staff will explore that option. She said construction will begin on the by-pass section in 2019.

Route 12 would provide new trip options between Tumwater and west Olympia. Frequency would improve to 30 minutes all day and provide more direct access to destinations including SPSCC.

Route 42 would operate between OTC and the Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court via SPSCC. The **new alignment** would provide bi-directional service on Dr. Nels Hanson Way/29th but would remove 5 bus stops on RW Johnson Blvd/21st Ave. and Black Lake Blvd between 29th Ave and Cooper Point Rd.

The tradeoff is providing direct service to west Olympia will result in the need to transfer if traveling to Capitol Campus.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

April 18, 2018

Page 6 of 8

Messmer said for public information purposes, will notices be posted on the individual stops. She wants to be sure it's made clear to the public the routes where buses are no longer stopping.

Warner asked where service is being removed is a Title VI analysis being conducted. LaFontaine replied yes.

Melnick asked if staff has had conversations with the cities involved regarding improvements to crosswalks.

Route 68 would provide new trip options between south Lacey and west Olympia including Capital Mall and SPSCC. **Frequency would increase to 30 minutes all-day** although the route would no longer operate between Tumwater Square and the Olympia Transit Center.

Messmer asked how transfers will work at Tumwater Square. LaFontaine said IT uses a "day pass" system, which costs \$2.50 which allows riders to ride wherever they wish all day.

With these proposed route changes come potential changes to the Dial-A-Lift Boundary area. Those changes include a proposed new alignment to Routes 62A, 42, and 47.

There's a restructure to improve on time performance of the Express Commuter Routes.

Routes 603, 605 & 612 would be consolidated into one single route (612) with the same stops on each trip providing a shorter, more **efficient trip** overall.

Route 620 would be left unchanged under the proposal.

Increased Frequency

The schedule would be adjusted to provide service every 15 to 30 minutes during peak periods, and 60-90 minute service midday with an emphasis on weekday trips originating in Pierce county in the morning and returning northbound in the afternoon/evening.

Tradeoff is Express service is expected to be faster and more reliable, but stops at the Hawks Prairie Park-and-Ride, the Lacey Transit Center, and the Tacoma Dome Station, along with several stops in downtown Olympia would be removed.

Outreach and Next Steps

- April 16th - CAC Review

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

April 18, 2018

Page 7 of 8

- April 18th – Authority approves release for public comment
- April 23rd – Public outreach process begins
- May 21st – CAC update
- May 23rd – Public Hearing
- June 6th – Authority update
- June 20th – Authority update
- July 16th – CAC update
- July 18th – ITA consideration of Final Adoption
- July 19th to September 22nd – Staff prepares for implementation
- September 23rd – Service change implementation date

Messmer said it will be helpful for the public to know in advance when the written comment deadline will be, and have that information available a few days after the public hearing. It's important the public is aware of a specific deadline.

It was M/S/A by Citizen Representatives Warner and Melnick for staff to finalize and release the draft September Service Change Recommendations for public comment.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

May is Bicycle Commuter Challenge month all are encouraged to join the Crank IT team. The Earth Day Market Ride is Saturday, April 21.

There are a number of grant application deadlines due to Thurston Regional Planning Council. They include:

- Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) – There are expected funds for 2020/2021/2022. Intercity Transit's proposal is to ask for the Walk N Roll Program for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year. The Federal ask is \$218,000 plus \$34,023 local match for a total of \$252,023.
- Surface Transportation Program (STP) – Intercity Transit's proposal depends on the outcome of the joint program regarding the Martin Way Corridor project that involves Olympia, Lacey and the County. IT will ask for phase II construction for the Pattison Street Project in the amount of \$950,000.
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAC) – IT looks at what is available region-wide and make sure there are projects that can be covered. IT's proposed request is 6 DAL vehicles because they will be powered with propane which fits within this program.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

April 18, 2018

Page 8 of 8

- The Department of Ecology presented a VW grant up to \$500,000 for electric vehicles. Staff is talking with vendors to determine if that works for IT depending on the cost of those electric vehicles. There's a requirement that vehicles under this program must be surplus.

Messmer asked if there is the prospect to use the grant for Dial-A-Lift. Freeman-Manzanares will research this and see what is allowed under this grant.

Freeman-Manzanares is meeting with the General Manager of Pierce Transit to talk about commuter services between Pierce and Thurston County.

AUTHORITY ISSUES

Representing Intercity Transit, Messmer said she gave a presentation at the South Sound Climate Action Convention on Saturday, April 14 held at South Puget Sound Community College. She co-presented with Chris Hawkins with the County Health Department. The focus was on community design and the co-benefits of healthy transportation. That included walking and cycling.

Melnick provided a quick review of the YouTube video entitled "Clean Disruption - Energy & Transportation."

Melnick said Rick Walk from the City of Lacey is pleased with Intercity Transit's long-range planning process, and he appeared interested in going out for the remaining sales tax increase.

Cox thanked staff for hosting the new Board member orientation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was M/S/A by Citizen Representative Melnick and Councilmember Carmody to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY



Debbie Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST



Pat Messmer

Clerk to the Authority

Date Approved: May 2, 2018.

Prepared by Pat Messmer, Recording Secretary/
Executive Assistant, Intercity Transit