

**Agenda**  
**INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

**For the Purpose of Reviewing the Composition of the  
Thurston County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority  
(Intercity Transit Authority)**

**Intercity Transit Administrative Offices  
526 Pattison Street SE  
Olympia, WA**

**May 16, 2018  
5:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** *(Ann Freeman-Manzanares, General Manager, Intercity Transit)*

- I. INTRODUCTIONS** *(Ann Freeman-Manzanares, General Manager)*
- II. SELECTION OF CHAIR**
  - A. Designation of a Recording Secretary**
- III. BACKGROUND REPORTS** *(Ann Freeman-Manzanares)*
  - A. Requirements of the Interjurisdictional Conference**
  - B. Historical Perspective**
- IV. DETERMINATION OF AUTHORITY COMPOSITION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES  
INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE  
INTERCITY TRANSIT  
MAY 7, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Intercity Transit's General Manager, Ann Freeman-Manzanares, called the May 7, 2014, Interjurisdictional Conference to order at 5:00 p.m., in the board room of the administrative offices of Intercity Transit, 526 Pattison SE, Olympia, WA.

**Members Present:** Mayor Ron Harding, City of Yelm; Thurston County Commissioner Karen Valenzuela; City of Lacey Councilmember Virgil Clarkson; City of Tumwater, Nicole Hill.

**Others Present:** Ann Freeman-Manzanares, Intercity Transit's General Manager; Authority Member, Citizen Representative Karen Messmer; Pat Messmer, Intercity Transit's Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

All present provided self-introductions.

**SELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was M/S/A by Mayor Harding and Commissioner Valenzuela to select Councilmember Clarkson as Chair for the Interjurisdictional Conference.

Chair Clarkson designated Pat Messmer as Recording Secretary.

**BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Freeman-Manzanares reviewed the purpose of the conference, which is required every four years, per RCW 36.57A.055. The purpose of the conference is to provide a periodic review of the composition of Intercity Transit's governing body.

Freeman-Manzanares explained the current composition of Intercity Transit is comprised of one Thurston County Commissioner; one elected official from each of the cities of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and Yelm; three appointed Citizen Representatives; and one non-voting Labor Representative. Per RCW 36.57A.050, the governing body of a single county public transportation benefit area such as Intercity Transit cannot be greater than nine voting members.

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Freeman-Manzanares reminded the members that Intercity Transit is the only transit agency in the state of Washington with Citizen Representatives. Intercity Transit cannot have more than three citizen representatives, and if one of these positions is forfeited, it cannot be gained back at a later time.

***Discussion:***

Mayor Harding asked if Intercity Transit received any comments or other correspondence pertaining to the Public Transportation Benefit Area. Freeman-Manzanares replied no. The members indicated they did not receive any direction from their jurisdictions to change the current composition.

**DETERMINATION OF AUTHORITY COMPOSITION**

**It was M/S/A by Mayor Harding and Commissioner Valenzuela to maintain the current Intercity Transit Governing Board composition of:**

Thurston County Commissioner	(1)	City of Yelm Councilmember	(1)
City of Lacey Councilmember	(1)	Citizen Representatives	(3)
City of Tumwater Councilmember	(1)	Labor Representative	(1)
City of Olympia Councilmember	(1)		
<b><i>Total Governing Body Members</i></b>	<b>(9)</b>		


**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Interjurisdictional Conference members, Chair Clarkson adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

**INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

  
Virgil Clarkson, Chair

**ATTEST**

  
Pat Messmer, Recording Secretary

## **THE GOVERNANCE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THURSTON COUNTY APRIL 5, 2018**

The following is a historical perspective on the governance of public transportation in Thurston County, as background for the May 16, 2018, Interjurisdictional Conference.

Public transportation existed in Thurston County since the late 1800's, when streetcars connected downtown Olympia with Tumwater, West Olympia and the eastside. Transit service was provided by the Olympia Traction Company, and later, after buses replaced streetcars, by the Olympia Transit Company. In the late 1960's, the private operator announced its intention to discontinue service unless local government was willing to help subsidize the operation.

In 1969, the leaders of the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater decided local bus service was of sufficient value to warrant public assistance. The three cities joined together under the Interlocal Cooperation Act and formed the Intercity Transit Commission to oversee the taxpayer subsidized bus service.

The Intercity Transit Commission was comprised of seven members – one elected official and one citizen representative from each of the three cities, plus one citizen representative chosen at-large by the Commission. The Intercity Transit Commission governed public transit for twelve years, first overseeing the private operator, and after 1972, actually operating the bus service itself.

In the mid 1970's, the state legislature passed legislation allowing the formation of Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) Authorities to provide transit services to areas of the state. Under this legislation, the PTBAs were given access to Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) as a funding source that would match a local sales tax. The cities and Thurston County decided in 1980 to form the Thurston County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority. Voters approved the sales tax of 0.3% in the fall of 1980. On January 1, 1981, Intercity Transit began operation as a PTBA.

The PTBA governing board was originally comprised of four members – one elected official from each of the three cities and one County Commissioner. The original PTBA legislation allowed only elected officials to serve. The Intercity Transit Authority proposed legislation allowing those PTBAs that had formerly had citizen board members to continue having them. This legislation passed in 1983. The Intercity Transit Authority appointed three members selected at-large from the public to serve three year staggered terms. In 1987, this composition and the selection process were codified in the Authority bylaws.

In May 1992, through a vote of the citizens of Thurston County not included in the original PTBA, service was expanded county-wide. On August 3, 1993, an interjurisdictional

conference was held to establish the new board composition which expanded the board to nine members (six elected officials and three citizen representatives). Membership was expanded to give south county jurisdictions a shared seat on the board.

Thurston County Commissioner	(1)
City of Olympia Councilmember	(1)
City of Lacey Councilmember	(1)
City of Tumwater Councilmember	(1)
City of Yelm Councilmember	(1)
Cities of Tenino, Bucoda & Rainier	(1)
Citizen Representatives	(3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

In November 1999, the voters of the State of Washington passed Initiative 695 which eliminated Motor Vehicle Sales Tax, which comprised 42% of the operating revenues for Intercity Transit. Intercity Transit asked the County Commissioners to consider calling a Transportation Improvement Conference to consider the boundaries of the PTBA. A public hearing was scheduled for March 28, 2002. A continuation of the conference was held April 4, 2002, at which time the members of the Public Transportation Improvement Conference approved a reduction in the boundaries of the Public Transportation Benefit Area.

An interjurisdictional meeting was held April 30, 2002, to review the nine member board composition of the governing body. The jurisdictional representatives approved a new eight member composition for the governing body of Intercity Transit. At the April 5, 2010, Interjurisdictional Meeting, the jurisdictions approved the same structure as in 2002.

In 2010, the state Legislature amended RCW 36.57A.050 to add a nonvoting labor representative to the governing bodies of public transportation areas and certain other entities. The current composition includes the addition of a Labor Representative position:

Thurston County Commissioner	(1)
City of Olympia Councilmember	(1)
City of Lacey Councilmember	(1)
City of Tumwater Councilmember	(1)
City of Yelm Councilmember	(1)
Citizen Representatives	(3)
Labor Representative	(1)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>