

Minutes
INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
June 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the June 20, 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 Olympia Councilmember Clark Gilman; Citizen Representative Karen Messmer; Citizen Representative Don Melnick; Labor Representative Art Delancy.

Members Excused: City of Yelm Councilmember Molly Carmody; County Commissioner Bud Blake.

Staff Present: Ann Freeman-Manzanares; Dave Kolar; Paul Koleber; Steve Krueger; Rob LaFontaine; Pat Messmer; Jim Merrill; Brian Nagel; Eric Phillips; Rena Shawver; Heather Stafford-Smith; Steve Swan; Thomas Van Nuys.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was M/S/A by Vice Chair Warner and Citizen Representative Melnick to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Ernest, Lacey, WA. Mr. Ernest depends on transit to get to his job at the Washington State Human Resources, and when he moved, he made sure he was in an area with good bus service and access to Dial-A-Lift. He understands the need for service changes, and hopes Intercity Transit will keep in mind how difficult it is for people with disabilities to find employment and how much they depend on transit.

Heath Reynolds, Lacey, WA. Mr. Reynolds was concerned about changes to Routes 66 and 68. He asked that Intercity Transit consider individuals with a visual impairment when making changes.

Derek Kengerski, Lacey, WA. Mr. Kengerski fears the loss of express service which could affect his ability to keep his job in Tacoma. He takes the 68 to the Lacey Transit Center where he continues to the 512 park-and-ride. He needs to be in Lakewood between 7 and 8 a.m. for his job.

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Viola Bentson, Tumwater. She and her husband leave for their jobs in Seattle at 5:30 a.m. in order to get to work by 8 a.m. An issue they are having is getting home from work on the 12. If the proposed changes go through, it will no longer stop at the Walmart on Linwood and G. Moving to Barnes to get the 12, 68 or 43 would not be good for those with a visual impairment because of the potential to get turned around and lost since those streets are “curved” and not straight. If the buses no longer go to Tumwater Square that will remove their ability to grocery shop. These changes will significantly affect people who are visually impaired.

Zandra Brown, Olympia, WA. Ms. Brown has lived in Olympia for 35 years, and Intercity Transit has helped her engage in the community as a visually impaired person. She purchased a home on North Street with bus service in mind. When a stretch of North Street was rebuilt, bus service discontinued. She can access the bus by crossing a very busy intersection a block away from home. If the proposed change to Route 68 takes place she will no longer be able to access downtown without a bus transfer. This adds time and confusion as she has difficulty reading the bus numbers and crossing busy streets can be troublesome. She also feels limiting the number of buses that access Tumwater Square by Safeway by only two is a disservice for the Tumwater community. She also has concerns about the community outreach for the proposed service changes. She only found out about this from a neighbor mentioning it on a neighborhood listserv. Historically, Intercity Transit has reached out to the blind community through the Capital City Council for the Blind with these types of changes, and that has not happened with this change. Ms. Brown said having access to transit can make the difference as to whether those with a visual impairment keep a job, finish a school program, volunteer in the community, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation Policy Board. Don Melnick said the TPB met June 13. The members reviewed the applications for the Federal Call for Projects and made a funding recommendation to the Council. The proposed applications included all those Intercity Transit submitted.

- STP for Pattison Street Facility Renovation and Expansion Project - Phase II (922,846)
- TAP for Walk N Roll for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 (\$218,000)
- Propane-Fueled Vans for Dial-A-Lift Service – IT asked for 6 vans but received approval from two different fund sources to cover 3 vans; and there is the potential for a 4th van.

In addition Veena Tabbutt reported on the I-5 Near-Term Actions which is an effort to explore what can be done with existing infrastructure to improve transportation; and that includes transit.

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Freeman-Manzanares said the Transportation Policy Board did make a recommendation to TRPC and they will review that recommendation at their July 6 meeting. Our understanding is they are going to make a recommendation to either keep \$170,000 in an account for a potential south county project or they are looking at providing funding for a fourth Dial-A-Lift vehicle.

B. Community Advisory Committee. No report.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 Bicycle Commuter Challenge Results. Duncan Green provided the results of the Bicycle Commuter Challenge (BCC). He noted the 12th annual Earth Day Market Ride was a success with over 100 participants.

Each jurisdiction has declared May as Bike Commute month (Cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tenino, Tumwater, Yelm and Thurston County). Staff also connects with many different groups and businesses within the community.

Another fun event is the Thurston County Bike to Work Day where 542 BCC participants rode to work (broke a record); and 7 bike stations in 3 cities served hundreds of riders. Green looks forward to seeing everyone at the Prize Hoopla on Saturday, June 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the Farmer's Market.

2018 BCC Statistics:

- Participants logging rides: 1,139
- Teams: 74
- Sponsors: 48
- Prize winners: 200+
- Total Miles: 99,901
- Total Days: 12,225
- CO2 Prevented: 50 tons
- School Bike Challenge: 7 schools participated – 166 students rode 1,410 days – 3,776 miles
- Bike to School Day: Approximately 500 students participated.

B. Service Change Update. Planning Manager, Rob LaFontaine, asked all those who provided public comment to please remain after the meeting so staff can speak one-on-one with them to get specific details of their concerns and travel needs.

LaFontaine proceeded with an update of the service change process, noting 150 written comments have been received along with over 200 petitions. Staff is putting all of the pieces together in order to start the decision-making process about what is

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appropriate to change. There is a lot of data research to ensure what is being proposed is supportive of the service change proposal.

Staff issued an amendment to the proposal extending the public comment period to June 30. The amendment also included a proposed change to Route 612 that starts express service to Tacoma – changed the northern terminal point from 10th and Commerce to downtown Tacoma to the Tacoma Dome station; added Route 45 to be rerouted in west Olympia to provide additional service on Harrison/Mudd Bay; and Kaiser Road and 7th Avenue or Capital Mall Drive to compliment the proposed changed Route 47 and provide buses going in both directions; and Route 41 to reduce the amount of service provided during the school year. We currently provide 15-minute service to Evergreen State College. It would be reduced to 30-minute service.

Staff is piecing together the final recommendation for Authority consideration at their July 18 meeting.

Messmer asked if there are situations where there would be an option based on comments received where you could do this or do that, rather than a singular staff recommendation, as opposed to all or nothing. Freeman-Manzanares said this was proposed by the consultant as a package deal, balancing each route accordingly.

Melnick asked if on the day the changes are implemented, will staff be available around the community for the public who were not notified or heard about the changes. Eric Phillips said staff will be out within the community on the Sunday before, making sure the numbers on the shelters and sign changes are carried through, schedules get replaced, etc. On Monday morning, staff will be available at the transit centers. We'll need volunteers in addition to staff. Freeman-Manzanares said we'll involve the CAC and Bus Buddies as well as the Authority who would like to volunteer.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Freeman-Manzanares, along with Councilmembers Cox, Sullivan and Gilman attended the Olympian Editorial Board meeting today (6/20/18). They covered a wide range of topics from the short-range plan to the long-range plan; and the potential of a ballot measure.
- Staff took the Olympia Transit Center project to design review at the City of Olympia. Staff will return in July with hopes to be in the ground late summer or early fall.

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- All are invited to the July 3 fireworks in Lacey. Staff is working with the City of Lacey to enhance safety and transport people more quickly.
- The IT Roadtrip Public Engagement 2.0 is starting this week with a goal to share what was heard from the 3,500 survey responses and share the 10,000 comments and ask how they would prioritize all of the service and programs they asked for. The survey response date is July 31 and Intercity Transit is offering participants a chance to win two \$250 VISA cards. The Roadtrip web address is <http://itroadtrip.net>
- There are a list of activities taking place over the next few months in which folks can sign up to volunteer or attend:
 1. Yelm Prairie Days Parade on Saturday, June 23 @ 9:30 a.m.
 2. Prize Hoopla, Saturday, June 23 @ 9:30 a.m.
 3. South Sound BBQ Festival
- The local Roadeo was a huge success. The winners going on to the State Conference are: Dan Savage on Dial-A-Lift Body on Chassis; Rob Wood on 35' Coach; Dave Randall on 40' Coach; and the Maintenance Team: Joe Bell, James Bush and Grant Swidecki.
- The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is moving their August meeting to Monday, August 27 due to the timing of the State Conference.
- The CAC are in the process of conducting their Self-Assessment. They will conduct a review of the survey at their July meeting; and the results will be shared at the ITA/CAC Joint meeting in September.
- The Authority will conduct a Special meeting on July 11. Staff anticipates having preliminary polling results. Final polling information should be available at the July 18 meeting. At the August 1 meeting staff will review the outcome of the long-range plan and the Authority will decide whether to move forward with a November ballot measure. Freeman-Manzanares wants to make sure the Authority is receiving all the information needed to make a decision.
- Freeman-Manzanares notified the County about the ballot measure, and she was told the initial ballot cost is estimated at \$32,000. Staff is making arrangements to move forward in terms of a public education campaign if the Authority decides to move forward.

AUTHORITY ISSUES

Melnick thanked staff for presenting to the Democratic Study Group at Panorama.

Gilman said he's very excited to move forward with a transformation.

Messmer attended the Local Roadeo and she was very impressed with all of the comradery that took place among the competitors, staff and guests.

Cox referred to a letter she received from Mr. Robert Garnon regarding safety concerns about the security at the Amtrak Centennial Station. Mr. Garnon is suggesting installing security cameras using the money allocated for landscaping. Cox is interested in pursuing this request with the jurisdictions or sheriff's department.

Freeman-Manzanares said Intercity Transit does administer the maintenance of the Amtrak Depot and helps coordinate volunteer activities. She explained how the process works with the various jurisdictions and the Port of Olympia to pay for and maintain the Amtrak Depot. The Authority would like to conduct more conversations on this topic. Freeman-Manzanares said she would contact the consultants who are working on the OTC project about potentially performing work at the station.

Warner invited everyone to the State Roadeo and the Wall of Fame Conference being held in Kennewick August 18 - 22.

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 (4) (b), Chair Sullivan announced once the meeting is adjourned, there will be a Closed Session to conduct a discussion related to the ATU Lodge 1765. No further action will be taken.

Attending the Closed Session: General Manager Freeman-Manzanares; Admin Services Director Heather Stafford-Smith; Authority members Sullivan, Cox, Messmer, Melnick, Gilman, Clarkson and Warner.


ADJOURNMENT

It was M/S/A by Citizen Representatives Melnick and Messmer to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY


Debbie Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST


Pat Messmer
Clerk to the Authority

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Date Approved: July 11, 2018.

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

