

Minutes
INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
August 1, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the August 1, 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; County Commissioner Bud Blake; City of Yelm Councilmember Molly Carmody; Citizen Representative Don Melnick; Citizen Representative Karen Messmer; Labor Relations Representative Art Delancy.

Staff Present: Ann Freeman-Manzanares; Emily Bergkamp; Steve Krueger; Ally McPherson; Pat Messmer; Todd Morrow; Brian Nagel; Eric Phillips; Rena Shawver; Heather Stafford-Smith; Nancy Trail; Nicky Upson; Thomas Van Nuys.

Others Present: Community Advisory Committee Members, Jan Burt, and Ursula Euler; Legal Counsel, Julie Carignan; Jason Robertson, JRO+Co.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Sullivan announced an amendment to the agenda. Agenda item 7-A "Vehicle Wraps and Graphics" was pulled from the agenda.

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

INTRODUCTIONS

A. Patrice Debe, HR Analyst (*Heather Stafford Smith*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roy Treadway, Lacey, WA – Mr. Treadway is in support of the resolution to increase the sales tax by four-tenths of one percent. If the system was more robust more people would utilize the system. The current level of service is not adequate for him to use the service as frequently as he would like. He found the 60-minute intervals made scheduling doctor appointments difficult, causing him to wait 30+ minutes for an appointment or a return bus. Also, there is no service after 7 p.m. He would like to take the bus to events and social outings but cannot because service ends so early. The buses to Lakewood and Tacoma require early morning departure and late return times. He realizes the scheduled are structured for commuters but other would utilize the

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service if mid-day service was available. Also, it takes two transfers on the local buses just to get to the commuter buses on Martin Way. It would be nice if that could be simplified in some way to save time. He also finds the fare system antiquated and confusing and is a proponent for no fares. It is a barrier to transportation for a good segment of the community.

He urges the Authority to support a ballot measure to increase the sales tax in the area allowing Intercity Transit to improve and expand crucial transportation services.

Mike Rogers, Lacey, WA – Mr. Rogers is in favor of the sales tax initiative. He said the bus is his lifeline. Without it, he doesn't have a life. He hoped the Authority would give him and the community an opportunity to support this measure instead of eliminating service. Eliminating service would hurt him, his spouse and many others that have no other transportation to work and to see family and friends. He said he was in favor of the service changes but wanted to insure if something didn't work well staff would reconsider the changes. He asked the Authority to consider removing the fareboxes.

Paul Enns, Lacey, WA – Mr. Enns encourages the Authority to adopt the resolution to increase the sales tax. He is an advocate for increased mass transit services. Mr. Enns said Intercity Transit is a vital and necessary component to the overall well-being of the area; and it's doing a good job providing transportation to students, shoppers and those in the workforce as well as retired citizens who choose or can no longer drive.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

- A. Approval of Minutes:** July 11, 2018, Special Meeting, and the July 18, 2018, Regular Meeting.
- B. Payroll – July 2018:** \$2,418,028.68.
- C. Accounts Payable:** Warrants dated July 6, numbers 25217-25265 in the amount of \$341,665.94; Warrants dated July 10, 2018, numbers 25266-25269, in the amount of \$48,699.24; Warrants dated July 13, 2018, numbers 25272-25320, in the amount of \$253,370.33; Warrants dated July 20, 2018, numbers 25321-25365, in the amount of \$292,831.23; Warrants dated July 27, 2018, numbers 25368-25409, in the amount of \$228,354.02; Automated Clearing House Transfers for July 2018 in the amount of \$5,289.83 for a monthly total of \$1,170,210.59.

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D. Schedule Special Meeting: Scheduled a special meeting for Wednesday, September 19, 2018, to conduct a joint meeting of the Authority and the Community Advisory Committee. (*Ann Freeman-Manzanares*)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Community Advisory Committee. Jan Burt reported the CAC met July 16. The members received an update on the Transit Development Plan. Burt said they reviewed their Self-Assessment; however, she is disappointed that only 13 out of the 20 members participated. Planning Manager, Rob LaFontaine provided an update on the service changes and reviewed the recent changes to three routes - the 42, 45, and 47. There were no consumer issues. Burt said Freeman-Manzanares shared that Intercity Transit participated in various parades in Yelm, Tumwater, and Olympia's Lakefair. The agency participated in a pilot for the 3rd of July fireworks at Rainier Vista which generates a great deal of traffic congestion. Intercity Transit moved between 500-800 people and the area cleared out earlier than it has in the past. Operators were able to help a group of foreign exchange students from Evergreen and get them back to campus. And the CAC members took their photo shoot for the upcoming CAC fall recruitment.

NEW BUSINESS

Long Range Plan - IT Road Trip Public Engagement 2.0 Update. Jason Robertson from JRO+Co. provided an update on the Road Trip Public Engagement 2.0. The results show people want a transformational system (82.76%), and 67% are willing to pay for that service. He said the survey wrapped up with 1,500 responses, and he provided highlights:

- There's been little change in enhancement ranking percentages from July 7
- A few of the "lower-rated" enhancements saw a positive boost
- 83% support for Transformational Scenario
- 67% support for additional sales tax (18% not supportive)

Increase transit service to stay ahead of congestion and population growth

- 71.99% very supportive
- 20.95% somewhat supportive

Extend service to growing population and economic activity centers

- 70.29% very supportive
- 22.56% somewhat supportive

Maintain service for riders who depend on transit to get to work, school or doctor

- 88.79% very supportive

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- 8.61% somewhat supportive

Speed up service and provide real-time route data to attract more riders

- 62.28% very supportive
- 24.83% somewhat supportive

Expand morning, night and weekend service to help workers who don't have a 9-5 schedule

- 70.43% very supportive
- 20.67% somewhat supportive

Create dedicated in-county commuter lines that get people where they're going faster (many not responding are non-riders – this is a perception value)

- 56.28% very supportive
- 26.03% somewhat supportive

Attract more riders by simplifying the fare structure and increasing frequency

- 56% very supportive
- 22.13% somewhat supportive

Make transit a transformative service for social and economic wellbeing

- 52.89% very supportive
- 20.34% somewhat supportive
- 21.81% neutral
- 2.65% not very supportive
- 2.35% not at all supportive

Invest in comfort to attract and maintain high ridership

- 36.29% very supportive
- 29.75% somewhat supportive
- 26.48% neutral
- 5.40% not very supportive

Expand innovative programs like Vanpool and Dial-A-Lift

- 49.33% very supportive
- 25.80% somewhat supportive
- 20.195 neutral
- 3.41% not very supportive

Enhancement Rankings (out of a possible 5.0) from most current results

- Improved frequency - 4.05
- Bus rapid transit - 4.07

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- Maintain on-time performance - 4.09
- Extended span of service - 4.09
- Service to new areas - 3.97
- Enhanced commuter service - 3.93
- Night owl service - 3.64
- Enhanced capital facilities - 3.58
- Change the way fares are paid - 3.47

A. Sales Tax Ballot Measure Resolution. Freeman-Manzanares presented Resolution 02-2018 to move forward with a sales tax ballot measure for four-tenths of one percent to maintain, improve and expand service. Included in the document are the Authority's previous suggestions: mention that the increasing population between now and 2040 is increasing by 43.5% within the PTBA; mention the increase in the aging population; describe the community input process; identify that emerging area and travel patterns have changed; the reduction in service that would occur if IT didn't have funding to move forward; and to insure IT covered all bases in the terminology we the funds could be spent on operations, maintenance, capital, etc.). The Authority provided additional comments:

Gilman would like staff to provide "plain talk versions" of documents to assist in talking with the public - a literal translation of the resolution.

Messmer thanked all who testified and for making it personal because that's what it is - personal for individuals who need or want to use the system.

Blake acknowledged the hard work of all staff in putting this together as well as previous board members who stayed with this the entire time. He thanked community members like Larry Watkinson and all others who testified; bipartisanship on both sides to push through this important measure; and thanked Freeman-Manzanares for her diligence in in pushing this through at the request of the Authority.

Melnick said it's comfortable for him to vote "yes" since engaging the community. The community had an overwhelmingly positive response to increasing service. And that, along with the positive results from the Elway Research survey, made him feel very comfortable.

It was M/S/A by Councilmember Cox and Citizen Representative Melnick to adopt Resolution 02-2018 submitting a proposition to the voters within the Thurston County Public Transportation Benefit Area, authorizing the sales and use tax imposed by Intercity Transit to be increased by four-tenths of one percent.

Commissioner Blake left the meeting.

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Planning Session is August 17, 2018, and will be facilitated by Jason Robertson and Thomas Wittmann. Freeman-Manzanares asked the Authority for suggestions for the agenda:

Messmer would like to see the conversation about a sustainability commitment and how to relate to the increased interest at the jurisdiction level and how this can be weaved into where Intercity Transit is headed.

Gilman said he'd like a discussion about improving and expanding Intercity Transit. He'd like to have it clear in his mind on how to focus on telling the story and imagining what the expense might look like.

Melnick would like a draft list of talking points. Freeman-Manzanares said staff is in the process of putting together talking points and FAQ's.

AUTHORITY ISSUES

Delancy said a fare free system is worth taking a good look into and having further discussion about the pros and cons.

Cox said the City of Lacey voted to send the creation of a metropolitan park district to voters this November. Lacey voters will decide whether to create a taxing district to maintain, fund, acquire and create parks and recreation opportunities in the city. Funding would come in the form of a property tax. If approved, the city aims to levy 47 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or about \$11.75 a month, or \$141 per year, for a home valued at \$300,000.

Carmody said the City of Yelm held a UFO Festival last week, the Jazz in the Park Festival is this weekend, and October Fest is coming soon.

Messmer referred to the draft Ballot Title, and recommended a word change. In the 2nd sentence that begins, "These funds...change the word "would" to "will" preserve current services." And she asked if the resolution number is required in this document.

Gilman said the City of Olympia is working on a purchase sale agreement of a dental office across the street on Martin Way and the plan now is a short-term use as emergency housing for homeless individuals and then to have that property available to attract another affordable housing or permanent supported house like Drexel House. They are also looking at the city nursery behind the old city hall hoping secure additional options.

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Gilman would like to return to St. Francis house with Intercity Transit staff to discuss Dial-A-Lift and problem solving for people who have schedule changes that would complicate their routine.

Gilman complimented Commissioner Blake for his steady work in advocating for more taxes and expanding the service.

Melnick referred to the resolution and suggested adding "page 1 of XX" at the bottom.

Sullivan said the City of Tumwater will not meet during the month of August.

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, Warner, Melnick, Gilman, Messmer, Carmody, and Cox.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Authority, Chair Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

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Debbie Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST



Pat Messmer

Clerk to the Authority

Date Approved: September 5, 2018.

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

