

Authority Meeting Highlights
a brief recap of the Authority Meeting of February 5, 2020

Action Items

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Adopted the March 22, 2020, service change package with associated staff recommendations on the implementation of Route 65.
- Authorized the General Manager to execute and issue an assignment of funds to the City of Olympia for an amount not-to-exceed \$225,000.
- Canceled the February 19, 2020, Authority meeting.
- Elected Citizen Representative Ryan Warner as Chair of the Intercity Transit Authority. Elected City of Lacey Councilmember Carolyn Cox as Vice Chair.
- Completed committee assignments as follows:
 - Thurston Regional Planning Council:** **Councilmember Carolyn Cox**
Alternate Councilmember Debbie Sullivan
 - Transportation Policy Board:** **Citizen Representative Don Melnick**
Alternate Councilmember Clark Gilman
 - Pension (401K) Committee:** **Citizen Representative Ryan Warner**

Other Items of Interest:

Welcomed: ***Jason Hanner, Safety Program Manager/CSO; Austin Gabrielse, Network Systems Analyst; and Zach Heinemeyer, Village Vans Supervisor.***

Received an overview of ongoing and planned agency projects for 2020. *(Steve Krueger).*

Received a 2019 Village Vans Update *(Zach Heinemeyer).*

Welcomed a new class of 20 Operators on January 27. There were over 300 applicants who applied.

Congressman Denny Heck visited IT on February 3. He is intrigued by the zero fare demonstration project.

The Grand Opening Celebration for the new OTC building is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020. Public officials are being invited. We hope to officially open the facility and be in service on Monday, March 30, 2020. Greyhound will also be running service on site.

The 16 new 35' coaches should arrive by the end of February.

The Dial-A-Lift pilot project starts February 24 and 14 vehicles should be ready by March 18, 2020, and should be on the street by Spring.

Intercity Transit won first place in the 2020 Annual APTA AdWheel Award for Best Marketing and Communications to Highlight Transit Needs/Funding. This was for the IT Road Trip and the IT Proposition 1 Comprehensive Campaign. The agency will be recognized during the AdWheel Awards Celebration at APTA's Marketing and Communications Workshop being held in Orlando. Nicky Upson will accept the award on IT's behalf.

The data results for January 2020 are in on fixed route boardings since the start of Zero Fare:

| January | 2019 | 2020 | Difference of: | % Change |
|----------|---------|---------|----------------|----------|
| Weekday | 288,284 | 331,675 | 43,391 | 15.1% |
| Weekend | 46,410 | 69,348 | 22,938 | 49.4% |
| Combined | 334,694 | 401,023 | 66,329 | 19.8% |

Duncan Green is back and working on the Winter BCC, which started February 1. There are currently two hands-on workshops to prepare you to ride your bike for transportation.

- **Bike Commuting Basics:** Tuesday, March 3 - 5:30-7:30 p.m., or Saturday, March 7 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Basic Bike Care:** Tuesday, March 17 - 5:30-7:30 p.m., or Saturday - March 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Location:** Intercity Transit Walk N Roll Youth Education Center, 215 N. Washington St., across from Olympia Transit Center.
- **Cost: \$5** (Free for Intercity Transit employees)
- **Register:** All non-Intercity Transit employees need to register at: <https://bcc.intercitytransit.com/events>

Customer Comments:

- A teacher at the Olympia public schools said she and her students are thrilled with the way zero fare is going. It's an excellent way for all of students to safely get around the community.
- A rider wrote, "I am so happy that fare free public transit has been implemented in Olympia! I feel so proud of our city. I love being able to take the bus without fare collection slowing us down. My experience so far has been positive and I am able to take the bus to and from Evergreen, home, and work with less delays and stress due to uncertainty over potential fare related conflict. Over the time I have lived and rode the bus here, I have occasionally forgot or misplaced my bus pass and had to deal with so much undue hassle until I could be reunited with it. Imagine how annoying and stress-inducing it is to be on the way to class and realize your bus pass isn't in your pocket and you don't have time to get it, then have to scrounge for change or solicit tiny donations to pay for the bus or plead with the driver because you hadn't anticipated needing the exact fare amount in cash. You're forced to choose between paying again for something you already paid for or being late. The point of having a bus pass is to ensure you will always be able to ride the bus so I think zero fare is a substantial improvement of that system--it truly ensures you will always be able to ride the bus with no potential for being unexpectedly and unfairly double-charged."

"I have noticed and appreciate that more people seem to be riding the bus now, making it a more useful and optimal public service. I have talked to many people, including strangers about their excitement over the decision to remove fares. My hope for the future of Olympia is more buses going more places more frequently, without fares! Funding transit through tax revenue is a much more efficient and sensible way than fares, as it allows for better planning and a more streamlined process.

This is a great step forward for Olympia.

- An unsolicited testimonial from SPSCC Student Success Campaign, "I facilitated a PacMtn Board retreat. They had a guest presenter who had gone through an opioid addiction recovery-to-employment program. After weaving through a very gut-wrenching life story, she talked about the path to stability and said one of the most important things has been zero-fare, as someone in her position could neither get a license nor afford fare on minimum wage. Now she can get to work on time and afford her other basic necessities."