

Authority Meeting Highlights
a brief recap of the Authority Meeting of June 3, 2020

In order to comply with the Governor's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" and in keeping with the Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamation 20-28.4 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act, this meeting was held remotely.

Action Items

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Authorized the General Manager to increase the DES Project Management Agreement by \$571,490 for a total not-to-exceed cost of \$854,341.
- Authorized the General Manager to have the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) allocate the construction funding necessary, in an amount not-to-exceed \$47,438,466, for contracts necessary to complete the construction of both the Administration/Operations (ADOPs) building and the Fuel Wash Facility (FWF).
- Conducted a Public Hearing on the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.
- Conducted a Public Hearing on the proposed adjustments to bus service anticipated for September 20, 2020, including the Route 42 at SPSCC.

Other Items of Interest – General Manager's Report:

- We've been preparing to restore approximately 35% of our bus service later this month.
- The run cuts and rosters are complete and the Operator Bid was posted earlier this week. Refresher training begins next week and is anticipated to be completed in approximately two weeks.
- We are completing installation of the Plexiglas barriers around all of the drivers' compartments.
- Generally speaking, the span of service is 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. with the majority of routes operating hourly, with the exception of the 94 which will be about every 2.5 hours. We will also be operating DAL and try to fill the gaps with the Advanced Reservation System for early and late trips. The dates and the path to restoration all depend upon our available workforce.
- Our Operators are required to wear masks when transporting individuals. We are requiring our passengers to wear masks, and that is supported by the County requirement to wear a mask while in public. It is all the more important for our passengers to wear a mask to protect our Operators allowing them to keep service on the street.
- We encourage passengers to come prepared, but if individuals do not have a mask, we are offering a mask.
- I want to reiterate how very important it is to keep our Operators safe and healthy. We estimate we consistently have about 45% of our workforce available to drive.
- We are assisting Tenino with a Community Van to deliver food during the COVID-19 crisis.
- The Intercity Transit Community Vans being used by the City of Olympia have been distributing 150 meals a day/7 days a week to regional homeless camps with help from the CCS Community Kitchen

at the Salvation Army. The City of Olympia says, “Thank you for allowing us to utilize the vans!” And we say “thank you” for doing the amazing work you are doing with those vans.

- Family Support Services and the Olympia Fire Department shared a huge “THANK YOU” for IT’s help on Friday, May 22 responding to the fire at the Quality Inn in Olympia. The homeless families being housed at Quality Inn were evacuated with only what they could carry. Many of these families lost their EBT cards, shoes, clothing, glasses, stuffed animals and other personal items. The fire was so catastrophic that none of these lost items were retrievable. Joe Bell and Kyle Rogers from Maintenance assisted by driving two coaches transporting **13 households, equaling about 50-80 people**, to their new temporary “home.” They helped provide a warm, safe place during the chaos.
- A special “thank you” to Heather Stafford-Smith and Jonathon Yee for receiving the call for help and coordinating our response.
- “Thank you” to Curtis Prouty, DAL Supervisor, for quickly coordinating transportation for these families so they could replace some much needed items.
- Although Village Vans is currently not operating in its former capacity, they are helping with our Advanced Reservation System, and they are still helping people gain employment which is really exciting.
- At the OTC, we are replacing cracking bus lane panels and installing underground utilities in preparation of adding lighting and cameras to the bike locker area. Although the temporary shutdown of the OTC was unexpected, we have taken this opportunity to do work that would have otherwise been much more complex and costly if the OTC was operational. Painting is anticipated to begin next week and be completed by the end of June.
- The budgeted painting project began at the LTC this week. It should be completed mid-July. The painting project is anticipated to start at the Centennial Station the beginning of July and finish the beginning of August.
- We submitted two Regional Mobility Grant application concept letters to WSDOT for the 2021-2023 biennium. The first concept application was for construction funds to design and build a transit-only direct access from the NB I-5 ramp into the Martin Way Park-and-Ride (P&R) to reduce delays getting in/out of the P&R. The ability to do this was incorporated into the original design of the P&R, but Federal Highways was not interested in providing approval for what they call a “break-in access.” They have reconsidered and are willing to approve that break-in access. It will be safer and save us considerable time not having to traverse three lanes of traffic from the off-ramp to the entrance of the P&R, then having to wait on Martin Way to make a left-hand turn into the P&R.
- The second concept submitted was for funding our BRT implementation plan so the project is eligible for federal funding.
- We completed our 2019 Annual National Transportation Database Reporting, which is a significant process to go through every year.
- We’ve been working with SCJ Alliance to improve and install bus stop pads along Route 65 and on Mottman Road (near SPSCC). We anticipate advertising for the construction of the bus stop pads mid to late-June.

Customer Comments:

A customer wrote, “As a long-term resident of Thurston County, I’ve ridden the bus well over two decades. I’ve seen routes change, new routes added, and remember when the transit center moved to its current location. Intercity Transit has been a part of my life for so long, I honestly don’t know what I would do to get myself around without IT. When my husband and I were preparing to buy our home, proximity to a bus stop was a high priority. I consider myself very lucky to not only have found a home within four hundred feet of a bus stop, but I am also lucky to have access to a transit company that is responsive and respectful of their patron’s needs and health.”

“I have found IT’s response to the pandemic to be reasonable and based on logic. It’s a sad sign of these times that reasonable precautions that are proven to save lives will be received with anger and vitriol. I sincerely hope IT continues with the life-saving precautions that have been implemented. I also believe it is because of these precautions that Thurston County has not had a far more serious outbreak. Keeping bus drivers from being exposed means they can’t catch or spread the virus.”

“In short, please keep doing what you’re doing. These are not precautions taken because of fear; they’re precautions that are based on an assessment of the risk. Just like I’m not willing to ride in a car without a seat belt or cross a busy road without looking both ways, I am not willing to risk my life for the sake of convenience. With much appreciation and respect, Melanie Leiren.”

Prepared June 5, 2020
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board