

Minutes
INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
Held Remotely
November 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Warner called the November 18, 2020, meeting of the Intercity Transit Authority to order at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was held remotely keeping in compliance with the Governor's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" and in keeping with the Governor's Proclamation 20.28 Open Public Meetings Act.

Members Present: Chair and Citizen Representative Ryan Warner; Vice Chair and City of Lacey Councilmember Carolyn Cox; City of Tumwater Councilmember Debbie Sullivan; Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser; Citizen Representative Don Melnick; Citizen Representative Sue Pierce; City of Olympia Councilmember Renata Rollins (Alternate); and Labor Representative David Sharwark.

Members Excused: City of Yelm Councilmember Molly Carmody and City of Olympia Councilmember Clark Gilman.

Staff Present: Ann Freeman-Manzanares; Jason Aguero; Emily Bergkamp; Jessica Gould; Steve Krueger; Ally McPherson; Pat Messmer; Jeff Peterson; Eric Phillips; Heather Stafford-Smith; Nicky Upson; Daniel Van Horn; Jonathon Yee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was M/S/A by Citizen Representatives Melnick and Pierce to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was available through email to pmessmer@intercitytransit.com and the commenting period closed at 12:00 p.m. on November 18, 2020.

No public comment was received.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum of Understanding with the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1765 (ATU). The Director of Administrative Services, Heather Stafford-Smith, presented for approval a Memorandum of Understanding between Intercity Transit and the ATU. The ATU currently represents 278 Intercity Transit employees in the Operations Department in the classification of Coach Operator, Van Operator, Customer Service Representative, and Dial-A-Lift Dispatch Specialist. The current labor agreement expires December 31, 2020. Parties met on November 5, 2020 and reached a mutual agreement to a one-year contract extension, along with a 3% general wage increase, which covers January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

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It was M/S/A by Councilmember Sullivan and Commissioner Menser to authorize the General Manager, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding for a one-year contract extension with the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1765.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Thurston Regional Planning Council:** Cox reported TRPC met on November 6.
- Michael Cade from the Economic Development Council briefed the Council on a variety of economic indicators. He shared an interactive Geography of Jobs graph that runs from 1999 to September 2020. Cox said steady employment with state and local jobs is helping to keep the local economy afloat.
 - Veronica Jarvis briefed the Council on TRPC's efforts underway with regards to the Modern Work Environment (Telework & Flexible Schedules), Commute Trip Reduction, and the Transportation Demand Management, including data relating to changing the telework and travel trends with COVID-19. TRPC's goal is to reduce the level of traffic and getting the public to ride transit.
 - Katrina Van Every briefed the Council on a possible South County Legislative Package containing about \$23 million in transportation projects for six south county communities.
 - Karen Parkhurst provided an update on the draft 2021 legislative priorities. She provided guidance to the Council on what to include in the package being prepared for meetings with legislators.
- B. Transportation Policy Board:** Melnick reported the TPB met on November 18.
- Marc Daily reported there has been an ongoing flood impact study of the Nisqually/I-5 corridor and the report will be available in December.
 - There was an update to past minutes for the Port of Olympia. The Board took action on Commissioner EJ Zita's request to amend the Transportation Policy Board meeting minutes for January through May 2018, striking her name as the Port of Olympia representative.
 - Karen Parkhurst briefed the Board on the 2021 Legislative Session and reviewed the Regional Council's prioritized project list.
 - South County Call for Projects - Paul Brewster led the Board in a review of applicants' Rural Community Support Program grant proposals to consider a grant funding recommendation for the Council.
 - Commute Trip Reduction / Transportation Demand Management / Capitol Campus Update - Karen Parkhurst and Veronica Jarvis briefed the Board and discussed strategies and successes that improve efficiency on the transportation system and provide more choices in how people get from here to there. Melnick asked if TRPC had thoughts about private organizations, such as State Farm, switching to employees working permanently from home because they could work just as effectively from home and save the cost of paying rent.

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Twelve applications were received for the Surplus Van Grant Program. Cindy Waterhouse, Vanpool Manager, will bring recommendations to the Authority at the December 2, 2020 ITA meeting. As in years past, staff will invite the selected recipients to the January 2021 ITA meeting to share information about their organization and how they intend to use the vans.
- Like the county, the state, and beyond, Intercity Transit is seeing a surge of people needing to quarantine because of potential exposure. We have an array of potential service plans depending on how this situation evolves, and what available staffing looks like which includes keeping the service as is, potentially decreasing or increasing service, so it's a bit of a wait and see game.
- The agency is sharing this message:
 - With COVID cases on the rise, please do not travel on Intercity Transit if you are sick or experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
 - Anyone being tested or who was in contact with someone who has tested positive should not travel.
 - It's important for anyone in this situation to quarantine as directed by their doctor or public health officials.
 - For more information about keeping yourself, others and our drivers healthy while riding the bus, please visit our website at www.intercitytransit.com.
- While in the midst of the pandemic, IT has been able to bring on new staff. HR staff is currently working with potential Operator candidates, however, testing facility capacity is an issue because the capacity of those facilities is limited.
- There has been a positive response regarding the reopening of the Olympia Transit Center, and we are very pleased to be in a position to reopen the island.
- Intercity Transit is hoping to have the capacity both in Maintenance and Operations to be able to operate a lighted (Parade) bus to bring some light to the darkness in December, even though there are no parades scheduled this year. In years past, in addition to the various parades, the lighted bus has gone to the Children's Hands on Museum, the Tumwater Tree Lighting, and the Lighted Boat Parade. This year the lighted bus is not stopping anywhere for fear of drawing a crowd. Intercity Transit is going to focus on joyful sightings of the lighted bus and hope it brings a smile to the community.

AUTHORITY ISSUES

Melnick said he viewed the public forum Water Study Forum 7 presented by the League of Women Voters entitled, "Where's the Water II: Realities of Water Quality

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and Water Quantity.” He found it very interesting regarding the complexities of the water available in Thurston County. The information is available here:

http://www.lwvthurston.org/water_study_forum_1

Menser said he took his first bus ride on the 41 since the start of the pandemic, and there was only one other person on the bus – all had on a mask, the bus was clean and he felt safe. However, he does believe there may be a challenge in getting the public comfortable about riding transit again. Menser also said as the County worked on their budget, they were able to earmark \$300,000 for implementation of the Climate Mitigation Plan. That number was based on T-CAP. They tried to go through the plan and figure out how many of the strategies would require jurisdictional action and resources, and they came up with \$1.2 million. Thurston County has been participating at a 25% level. Majority of the Board earmarked that money along with \$37,000 towards clean energy strategies, in particular, creating a clean energy program.

Sullivan said the City of Tumwater will light their holiday tree every evening during the holidays, however, will not be holding the traditional tree lighting event.

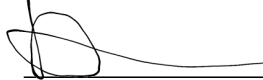
Sharwark thanked Freeman-Manzanares and staff for all of their hard work in putting together the one-year contract extension with the ATU.

Cox said the northbound lanes of Marvin Road from 31st to the Hawks Prairie roundabout will remain closed through November 20 due to roadwork. On November 23 construction on a retaining wall and walking path begins on Ruddell Road. She said to expect delays at both sites.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Authority, Chair Warner adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY



Ryan Warner, Chair

ATTEST



**Pat Messmer
Clerk to the Authority**

Date Approved: December 2, 2020

Prepared by Pat Messmer, Clerk of the Board/
Executive Assistant, Intercity Transit