

Authority Meeting Highlights *a brief recap of the April 7, 2021 Authority Meeting*

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with [SCR 8402](#) extending certain gubernatorial orders issued in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Action Items:

- Authorized the General Manager to extend the Walk N Roll lease with Chea Ung & Mi Hwa Yu effective November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022 and increasing the total combined contract value to \$130,800. *(Jeff Peterson)*

Other Items of Interest

- Rob LaFontaine, Planning Manager, introduced the Planning staff and provided a presentation and dialog about the primary functions performed by the Intercity Transit Planning Division, including transit policies and trade-offs.

General Manager's Report:

Freeman-Manzanares announced that Rob LaFontaine, Planning Manager took on the role of Chair for TRPC's Technical Advisory Committee and will serve in that role for one year.

Intercity Transit continues to navigate all things COVID, internally and externally, as well as a variety of detours. Freeman-Manzanares gave IT staff a "shout-out" for their professionalism and resiliency. While the situation continues to be taxing, they respond amazing well under the circumstances.

The March 21, 2021, service change went well. Along with the expanded service, some of the Advanced Reservation rides were eliminated, and we started to see increases in ridership. Staff will continue to monitor this.

We continue to transport individuals to vaccination sites. Other counties and transit systems are working to define how to provide equal access and free transportation so individuals who wish to receive the vaccine can do so. By approving a 5-year zero-fare demonstration project, IT is already in position to offer that access.

The January sales tax information came in at the end of March. It was an increase of 7.4% over 2020 – received \$5,505,167 in sales tax.

IT's Zero-Fare has sparked a lot of interest:

- Recently, Councilmember Gilman and Freeman-Manzanares participated in a radio interview called, "Cool Solutions." Cool Solutions is a nationally syndicated radio show/podcast telling stories about climate action from the bottom up. Targeting communities throughout the nation and how they raise money by doing things like zero-fare and looking at different climate solutions. Their website is <https://www.cool-solutions.org/>
- IT is participating in a study with the Transportation Research Cooperative Program to help develop a framework for evaluating fare-free transit; and
- IT was asked to participate in a doctoral thesis.

Operator candidates are being interviewed over the next two weeks. It is an open recruitment and anyone who wants to join our team and would be a great fit are encouraged to apply at www.intercitytransit.com.

Staff is gearing up for the May Bicycle Commuter Challenge. Cycling has taken on a new importance during the pandemic. To adapt to the evolving circumstances COVID presents, Thurston County residents are encouraged to get outside and bike for any reason – not just commuting to work. Duncan Green will present to the ITA on April 21, 2021, to provide an update.

The Pattison Street construction project is progressing well and is on schedule and within budget. Staff is looking forward to welcoming the ITA and Congresswoman Strickland onsite Monday, April 12, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. for the “topping off” ceremony.

Four of the thirteen new coaches are onsite undergoing new vehicle inspections. The date they go into service is uncertain as we install the new Computer Automated Dispatch/Automated Vehicle Location system. These vehicles will be the “pilot” vehicles.

The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Bus demonstration held March 25, 2021 onsite went well. Regional Correspondent, Tom Banse, who reports for NPR, was onsite and interviewed Intercity Transit. IT is featured in the following news articles from U. S. News and NW News Network:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/washington/articles/2021-04-02/pacific-northwest-officials-consider-hydrogen-fuel>

<https://www.nwnewsnetwork.org/post/interest-hydrogen-fuel-growing-pacific-northwest-and-tax-dollars-following>

In terms of the State Legislative Session, thus far, IT has half of what was requested for DASH funding in both the Senate and the House, transportation budget, all three of the Regional Mobility Grant projects are in both budgets, that includes \$5M for Pattison Street project. As LaFontaine, mentioned, IT completed the 2020 reporting to the National Transit Database which is a heavy lift and everyone did a fantastic job.

Intercity Transit completed the Federal Transit Administration Triennial Review which was a two-year process. The Triennial Review is a management tool for examining IT’s performance and adherence to FTA requirements and policies. It examines 21 areas that includes procurement, drug and alcohol, safety, maintenance, Americans with Disabilities, Equal Employment, etc. It is a tremendous effort and Intercity Transit emerged triumphant. The reviewers were very impressed – typically, the highest praise is to say we were not deficient. However, the reviewers said IT’s review was “perfect.”

Freeman-Manzanares gave a special “shout-out” to Grants Coordinator, Jessica Gould, for coordinating the Triennial Review process. And a “shout-out” to the team: Eric Phillips, Jonathon Yee, Heather Stafford-Smith, Emily Bergkamp, Suzanne Coit, Rob LaFontaine, Steve Krueger, Kevin Karkoski, Tammy Ferris, Katie Cunningham, Sara Bradley, Claudia Green, Nancy Trail and Pat Messmer.

Prepared April 8, 2021
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board