

Authority Meeting Highlights
a brief recap of the March 2, 2022, Authority Meeting

The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act guidelines in the Governor's Proclamation [20.28.14](#).

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Welcomed new Board members, Councilmember Brian Hess from the City of Yelm and Paul Tischer, Labor Representative.
- Authorized the General Manager to execute an amendment of our legal services contract with Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich extending the term of the agreement through March 31, 2023.
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a one-year contract, with four one-year renewal options, with MFA to provide Marketing and Communication Services in the amount of \$300,000.

Other Items of Interest:

- Eric Phillips presented updates on the Smart Corridor and Transit Signal Prioritization Project and the Martin Way Park-and-Ride Direct Access Project.
- Emily Bergkamp introduced **Izi Lemay, Village Vans Supervisor** and Cindy Waterhouse introduced **Zach Heinemeyer, Vanpool Coordinator**.

General Manager's Report:

Freeman-Manzanares said staff is preparing for another Operator class to begin on March 21, however, IT is not seeing a gain in Operators as staff leave employment or retire. IT is still working through those issues and looking forward to continuing the campaign to hire additional employees. Because of this, service for the March service change will remain consistent with the current offering.

Two conceptual applications were submitted for the Washington State Regional Mobility Grant Program for projects that will be awarded in the 2023-2025 biennium. Both of these concepts are supported by IT's Strategic Plan. One application would help IT continue on the journey to zero emission, focusing on pilot vehicles and infrastructure. The second application is continuing construction to support rear door entry at bus stops, rehabilitating the Washington and Olympia corner at the Olympia Transit Center and venturing into the installation of electronic wayfinding at multiple locations, such as the transit centers and the Martin Way Park-and-Ride, to further support physical enhancements at those locations and to better support our passengers. These applications are due later this Spring, and we will likely hear about how the Washington State DOT ranks those projects in December of 2022. It goes to the State Legislature in 2023.

IT continues to follow all things COVID. The federal mask mandate remains in place through March 18, and we haven't heard officially if the Transportation Security Administration plans to

end or extend the mask mandate. Transit is on the Governor's "continue to mask" list. We believe the intent is to continue that requirement until expiration of the federal mandate. IT continues to watch this unfold and will communicate with our passengers and staff accordingly.

Tonight, Eric Phillips introduced two very important projects IT is pursuing and there are so many more in support of the Strategic Plan. Staff will continue to update on the progress, and seek Authority approval where appropriate

Freeman-Manzanares provided a brief update of the Transportation Package at the State Legislature. There have been a number of amendments, and the Senate and House leadership are committed to moving the proposal forward attempting to get agreement by March 10. IT will stay tuned and keep everyone updated. IT has a little over \$5M in that budget for completion of the Pattison Street Project and the Maintenance Facility.

Prepared March 3, 2022

Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board