

**Authority Meeting Highlights**  
***a brief recap of the March 16, 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:**

- Scheduled a public hearing for April 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on the draft Intercity Transit 2023-2026 TIP.
- Received an update on the 2022 Winter Bicycle Challenge and progress on the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycle Commuter Challenge. The Authority advised staff to continue the "All Rides Count" philosophy and adjust the name to "Bicycle Community Challenge."

**Other Items of Interest:**

- Cindy Waterhouse provided an update on the Vanpool Five-Year Demonstration Project and recognized Kyle McPherson for receiving the ACT 40 under 40 award
- Jonathon Yee introduced **Jeremy Eaton and Jackson Madison, Service Workers**, and Kevin Karkoski introduced **Grant Stevens, DAL Dispatch Specialist**.

**General Manager's Report:**

The State Legislative session ended on Friday, March 11. Many thanks to all who delivered such a beneficial package for transit. The Governor is anticipated to sign off on the Transportation Package on March 25. IT will begin to work in partnership with WSDOT as they put the pieces in place to administer the programs authorized in the package. We are anticipating more dollars to assist with special needs transportation and dollars to support free fare statewide for those 18 and under.

IT has policy direction from the Authority regarding zero-fare, but we anticipate there will be additional work to be done in order to access those dollars. New dollars were not designated for DASH service, but we are listed for \$5M for the Pattison Maintenance Facility rehabilitation project. In addition, there are dollars for a bus and bus facility program, and a green transportation program.

There are so many projects going on, and at the same time we are working our way through, trying to staff up to complete the required work. The employment market is a tricky thing right now and IT is struggling to keep up. The Pattison Street project and the Computer Automated Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (or CAD/AVL) projects are moving forward, and they are keeping our hands full.

We will plan another tour of the Pattison Street North Parcel construction project likely late in the second quarter and once we clear several more targeted tasks with the CAD/AVL project, we look forward to presenting the outcome and improvements associated with that project.

All ten Gillig buses have been delivered.

It's "Grant" season, and staff is strategizing in relation to the Strategic Plan work and what might be the most successful path now with the funding available.

The Transportation Security Administration extended the federal mask mandate for transit until April 18. We look forward to hearing what the CDC has to say over the next month and how the masking policy unfolds. Our staff have incredible skills working with community members, and while masking has been a controversial issue, we are focused on keeping everyone safe while complying with federal requirements.

Friday, March 18 is International Transit Driver Appreciation Day. IT is recognizing Operators as well as Maintenance and Facilities staff with "thank you" banners and chocolate treats. They all deserve our appreciation on this day and every day.

Prepared March 17, 2022  
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board