

**Authority Meeting Highlights**  
***a brief recap of the August 2, 2023, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting***

**Wednesday night, the Authority:**

- Adopted Resolution 02-2023 to amend Policy EX-0005 Requesting Public Records for the purpose of ensuring a comprehensive policy is available to support the public's full access to Intercity Transit records. *(Amanda Collins)*
- Scheduled a special meeting for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, to conduct a joint hybrid meeting of the Authority and Community Advisory Committee. *(Emily Bergkamp)*

**Other Items of Interest:**

- *Jason Agüero introduced Daniel Ocampo, Cybersecurity Program Manager.*
- Heather Stafford Smith provided an update on the General Manager hiring process.
- Rob LaFontaine provided an overview of the adjustments made to fixed-route bus service during the COVID pandemic as well as a summary of anticipated restoration through the next five years.

**Interim General Manager's Report:**

The Senior Management Team celebrated an early Transit Appreciation Day with the swing shift and graveyard Maintenance Crew on Tuesday, August 1. Friday, August 4 is Transit Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for all other Intercity Transit staff, volunteers, Community Advisory Committee and Authority Board members. Due to current construction, and parking constraints, we won't be able to invite family members and retirees to join us at TAD as we have in the past. But this is a step in the right direction to returning to events that celebrate everything staff and volunteers do, every day, to bring high quality public transportation to our community. Special thanks to Executive Assistant Amanda Collins for her TAD planning efforts, with support from Executive Assistant Pat Messmer and the Wellness Committee!

Bergkamp along with Jonathon Yee will facilitate a follow up conversation for ITA members to process together the information they learned during the Zero Emissions Workshop with the Center for Transportation and the Environment in July. They are helping to put together a Zero Emissions transition plan for Intercity Transit.

The Operator Class of 23-03 graduated Friday, July 28. Donald Sholey, Stephen Giedosh, Justice Hensiek-Aman, Matthew Ballantyne, Amanda Johnson, and Melissa Swanberg are out on the road as new Operators.

Operator class 23-04 is scheduled to start on August 14, and we hope to have between 16-18 new Operators.

Community Advisory Committee member, Ty Flint, interviewed Bergkamp on Mixx 96 last week to discuss September schedule adjustments, IT's efforts to hire drivers, the upcoming public hearing for the Transit Development Plan, and a look ahead to continuing with the work in the long-range plan.

The Thurston County Auditor's office received a grant to create a paved walkway from the bus stop served by Route 42 near their Ballot Processing Center (29<sup>th</sup> & Ferguson). Thurston County Project

Management staff will meet with IT's Planning and Facilities staff to ensure the transition from the bus stop to the walkway is as functional as possible.

At the August 16 ITA meeting, Bergkamp will bring an item forward that Chair Gilman requested regarding changing language referring to the ITA Citizen Representatives to Community Representatives. As we start moving to a hybrid meeting format with the joint CAC meeting in September, it's also a good time to revisit language related to remote attendance at meetings. Clerk of the Board, Pat Messmer researched this topic, and we will work with Legal Counsel, Jeff Myers on a legal review to ensure changes made follow Open Public Meetings Act requirements.

Bergkamp shared that July 26 marked the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. The [ADA](#) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. [More than 26% of adult Americans have disabilities, 45% of Americans have at least one chronic disease, and 22% of U.S. adults live with a mental illness.](#) And despite anti-discrimination laws, people in all these groups experience inequities in accessing employment, education, income, housing, and health care. Public Transportation plays a vital role in helping to remove barriers for people with disabilities to access these areas of life most of us take for granted. It is important to memorialize this landmark event and our role in the ongoing work to promote equitable opportunities for people with disabilities.

The ADA requires transit agencies to maintain accessible facilities and vehicles. This includes a full range of accessibility features, including elevators, wheelchair lifts and ramps on buses, priority seating, accessibility-related signage, reader board and stop announcement technology, a complementary paratransit service for individuals whose disability prevents them from using our fixed routes, and many other features and equipment. Additionally, Intercity Transit has always valued not only exceeding ADA requirements and ensuring our services are accessible, but that people with disabilities feel welcome onboard. All Operators receive Passenger Assistance, Safety and Sensitivity Training, which is an industry standard to train Operators to transport passengers in the most safe, sensitive, and careful manner possible.

Senator Tammy Duckworth an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, stated "The ADA is the living testament to our Nation's commitment that we will always stand up for our neighbors' right to live fulfilling lives." Thank you to our Authority, Community Advisory Committee and especially our staff for the jobs they do every day that shows our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities in our community.

Prepared August 3, 2023  
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board