

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of January 15, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Authorized the General Manager to execute an amendment with Intueor Consulting Inc. (Intueor) to provide the guidance, recommendations, technical expertise and supporting documentation needed to procure a viable Transit Operations System in a not to exceed amount of \$71,500, inclusive of a 10% contingency, bringing the total amount authorized not to exceed \$626,227.50.

Other Items of Interest:

- Welcomed new ITA Board Members, Councilmember Kelly Von Holtz from the City of Tumwater and Wendy Goodwin, Community Representative.
- Dena Withrow introduced Jane Denicola, Customer Service Manager.
- Kevin Karkoski introduced John Garner, DAL Dispatch Specialist.
- Daniel Ocampo introduced Jerald Bledsoe, Cybersecurity Analyst.
- Rob LaFontaine provided a route-level review and discussion of the anticipated restructuring of fixed routes in September 2025.

General Manager's Report:

To prepare for the renovation of our ageing Maintenance Facility, Maintenance and Inventory staff made the move to a temporary shop which will be their home for the duration of the renovation. This was a huge lift by everyone involved and was completed from January 3-6, with the temporary shop now fully operational, minus some details still being dialed in. In a recent email to staff, Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Director Jonathon Yee thanked the following folks who played major roles in the move:

- Entire Inventory Team
 - Brian Sutherby, Lead Inventory Specialist as lead planner
- Entire Maintenance Team
 - Mike Reinhardt, Vehicle Maintenance Technician coordinating details of off-sight storage, helping make decisions about what should stay vs. what could be stored.
- Unpacking and setting up new equipment
 - Bob Coffman, Vehicle Maintenance Technician
 - Steve Owsley, Vehicle Maintenance Technician
 - Eric Trefsgar, Vehicle Maintenance Technician
- The entire Facilities and IS Teams for their assistance getting the shop ready to go.

The January 5, 2025, service change added 15,000 annual hours, a 5 percent increase, to our current volume of service, including:

New stops for The One route were added at Harrison Avenue at Perry St. in the westbound direction, and at Harrison Avenue at Plymouth in the eastbound direction.

Bergkamp rode the new Route 14 for the first time this week. It offers weekday service between the Olympia Farmer's Market, State Capitol Campus, and Olympia Transit Center. Similar to pre-COVID Dash service, Route 14 improves access to the Washington State Capitol from downtown office buildings, businesses, other transit routes, and nearby parking.

Increased frequency from every 45 minutes to every 30 minutes; added weekend service at 30-minute frequency on Route 42.

Minor schedule adjustments at the Bowman at Rogers stop for buses heading toward the Olympia Transit Center on Route 45.

Increased frequency from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes every day on Route 47.

Staff recently met with Dale Learn from Gordon Thomas Honeywell, who we contract with for Federal Advocacy. Learn provided a general federal update and started planning for the APTA Legislative Conference which will take place May 18-20, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Normally, two ITA members attend along with a small number of staff for in-person visits with our federal legislators. ITA members interested in attending should contact Clerk of the Board, Pat Messmer.

This week, our state advocates David Foster and Joanna Grist facilitated meetings with 22nd Legislative District Representative Jessica Bateman. We discussed Intercity Transit's projects prioritized by WSDOT for funding consideration in the 2025-2027 biennium including:

- Battery Electric Coach Replacement Project
- Corridor Express Introducing New Limited-Stop Service from West Olympia to East Lacey
- Lacey Express Introducing I-5 Service from Lacey Transit Center to Sounder Station via Hawks Prairie and JBLM,
- Crosby Loop at SPSCC Improvements

We also discussed possible funding of Intercity Transit's new Route 14, which is taking the place of previous DASH service, by serving the Capitol Campus region and downtown Olympia with service to the Farmer's Market. IT is respectfully requesting 50% of estimated operating costs over the coming biennium (\$1,225,000).

Friday, January 10, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 587 hosted a procession and memorial service at Lumen Field Event Center paying tribute to Shawn Yim. Shawn, who had been a Coach Operator at King County Metro for nearly a decade, was killed in the line of duty on December 18, 2024. Several news articles published in the wake of his death shared that Shawn, who called the Pacific Northwest home, was a 1984 graduate of Foster High School in Tukwila, WA. Shawn is remembered by his community and friends for his smile, laughter, and genuine kindness. Most importantly, family members recall Shawn as a caring person who loved and protected his family.

ATU Local 1765, the union representing Intercity Transit's Coach & Van Operators, Customer Service Representatives, and DAL Dispatch Specialists, partnered with agency leadership to ensure that over 30 employees and 3 buses driven by Operators Justice Hensiek-Aman, Lori Chambers, and Jameson Miller, could participate in the procession and service, to honor Shawn with the dignity and respect he deserves.

Special thanks to ATU Local 1765 President and Intercity Transit Authority Board Labor Representative Mark Neuville, Operations Director Dena Withrow, Operations Scheduling Coordinators Lyle Gilbertson, Jason Wolfe, Randy Laffey, and Intern Sean Mateski, Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Director Jonathon Yee, Fleet Manager David Chaffee, Service Disruption Supervisor David Dudek and Planning Scheduler Paul Kierzek, and countless other ATU members and staff behind the scenes, for ensuring all pertinent details were thoughtfully taken care of. Their collaboration allowed Intercity Transit to join the transit community in solidarity to mourn the loss of a beloved Operator.

The Walk N Roll team held a volunteer celebration on Saturday at the Walk N Roll Bike Shop with great attendance. I had a chance to be there and share the entire agency's thanks for the program's amazing volunteers and its staff. Whether as a bike shop volunteer, bicycle education class assistant, or at special events, program volunteers are part of what makes our community such an amazing place, one that values active transportation, making a difference in people's lives and the health of our community. The celebration honored the great work volunteers supported in 2024 and also highlighted plans for 2025. Volunteers had the opportunity to meet each other and Walk N Roll staff, including one of our new WNR Program Representatives, Hana.

*Prepared January 16, 2025
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*