

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of February 5, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Welcomed new ITA Board Member, Councilmember Robert Vanderpool from the City of Olympia.
- Bid farewell to outgoing Board member, City of Olympia Councilmember, Clark Gilman.
- Authorized a public hearing on the 'September 2025 Major Service Change Summary and Draft Equity Analysis' for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
- Elected City of Lacey Councilmember, Carolyn Cox as Chair of the Intercity Transit Authority.
- Elected Community Representative, Sue Pierce as Vice Chair of the Intercity Transit Authority.
- Completed committee assignments as follows:

--Thurston Regional Planning Council: <i>Alternate</i>	Councilmember Robert Vanderpool <i>Councilmember Kelly Von Holtz</i>
--Transportation Policy Board: <i>Alternate</i>	Community Representative Justin Belk <i>Commissioner Carolina Mejia</i>
--Pension (401K) Committee:	Community Representative Sue Pierce

Other Items of Interest:

- David Chaffee introduced **Justin Beaber, Vehicle Cleaner** and **Greg Kessel, Service Worker**.
- Kerri Wilson introduced **Sarah Feyers** and **Hana Rothner, WNR Program Reps**.

General Manager's Report:

Service Impact Supervisor David Dudek, Operations Supervisor Bill Miller, and Advanced Technology and Training Coordinator Bryce Reinhardt are hard at work planning the South Sound Regional Rodeo which Intercity Transit will host July 12 & 13 at the Old Tumwater Brewery in Deschutes Valley. Save the date to come and cheer on our Operators and Maintenance teams or consider volunteering.

Last week it was announced that all federal agencies were required to temporarily freeze the disbursement of federal financial assistance effective January 28 at 5 p.m. ET. This pause also required federal agencies to review all financial assistance programs to ensure they were consistent with policies established by a series of Executive Orders. However, before taking effect, a U.S. District Judge blocked its implementation. The following day, the new administration cancelled the freeze altogether.

This freeze would have impacted all payments or reimbursements from the Federal Transportation Administration, which Intercity Transit relies on to fund many projects. The total amount of federal funding that would have been in jeopardy for our agency was just over \$11 million. While there is still uncertainty in the days to come about how current executive orders will impact federal transit funding, it also serves as a stark reminder that whether it's a state initiative seeking to repeal a

source of our funding or an executive order directive suspending it, we can't take state or federal funding for granted.

Last week, our state advocates David Foster and Joanna Grist facilitated meetings with 22nd Legislative District Representative Beth Doglio. 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. Intercity Transit is respectfully requesting 50% of estimated operating costs over the coming biennium (\$1,225,000).

Deputy Director of Human Resources Alana Neal coordinated a Conversation Cafe for staff to attend commemorating Transit Equity Day on February 4. The event was co-presented by Dr. Nekya Young, Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Manager at the Washington Department of Transportation in the Public Transportation Division and Steven Meyeroff, FTA Compliance Administrator for WSDOT's Public Transportation Division. Transit Equity Day is observed annually on February 4 to commemorate the life and legacy of Rosa Parks on her birthday. Transit Equity Day also supports the efforts of many people working to support public transit in their communities. The actions and legacy of Rosa Parks are intrinsically tied to the concept of transit equity. Conversation Cafés are conversations among diverse people about their feelings, thoughts and actions. The simple structure of Conversation Cafés – and their spirit of respect, curiosity and warm welcome – help participants shift from superficial discussions to meaningful conversations about complex topics facing our communities. Conversation Cafés promote spontaneity and inclusivity that can lead to new insights and greater understanding. The Transit Equity Day Conversation Cafe discussion was centered on exploring Discrimination in Public Transit: From the Montgomery Bus Boycott to the Present Day.

The APTA Legislative Conference takes place May 18-20, 2025, in Washington, D.C. ITA members interested in attending should contact Clerk of the Board Pat Messmer as we normally have two ITA members attend with a small number of staff for in-person visits with our federal legislators.

*Prepared February 6, 2025
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*