

Intercity Transit Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of April 16, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the ITA:

- Adopted Resolution 01-2025, amending Intercity Transit's Drug and Alcohol Policy PO-HR-3511. *(Amy Meierhoff)*
- Authorized the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 28423, to purchase two (2) Ford work trucks from Bud Clary Ford in the amount of \$132,207 including sales tax. *(Noelle Gordon)*
- Authorized the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 06719, to purchase thirteen (13) Turtle Top Tierra Transit replacement buses, from Northwest Bus Sales Inc. in the amount of \$3,796,000. *(Brenden Houx)*
- Scheduled a public hearing for May 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on the draft Intercity Transit 2026-2029 TIP. *(Jessica Gould)*
- Scheduled a public hearing for the Draft Capital Improvement Plan 2026-2030 for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Final adoption is proposed for June 4, 2025. *(Jana Brown)*

Other Items of Interest:

- Michael Midstokke introduced the **new Operator class 25-01**.

General Manager's Report:

This year's 2025 American Public Transportation Association's International Bus Rodeo was held in Austin, Texas April 4-8. A Bus Rodeo is a celebration of the expertise, training, and dedication of frontline transit workers. Participants navigated obstacle courses, performed simulated driving scenarios, and showcased their ability to conduct thorough vehicle inspections, diagnose mechanical issues, and complete maintenance tasks efficiently and safely. Awards are given in each practice area, and there is an overall grand prize for the transit system with the highest combined score for the bus operator and bus maintenance team.

In his first international showing, Operator Clinton Jimenez finished 28th out of a total of 75 Operators, which was no easy feat considering the tough competition. Our Maintenance Team with Richelle Loken, Jonathan Reynolds, and Sean Malay took 5th place overall out of 44 maintenance teams in the Maintenance Competition, matching their finish from last year. With their efforts combined, Clinton, Richelle, Jonathan, and Sean firmly placed Intercity Transit 9th out of the 38 agencies that had both an Operator and Maintenance Team competing. While the Grand Champion title eluded us this year, this group of fierce warriors gave it their all to represent our agency against some of the best Maintenance Teams and Operators in North America. Please give these folks some love when you see them for putting themselves out there to compete on the International Bus Rodeo Stage!

We also celebrate all our staff who volunteered at and coordinated the 2025 International Bus Rodeo, including Service Interruptions Supervisor, David Dudek, Operations Supervisor, Bill Miller, and his wife Shanaka. Special recognition should be given to the coaches of our amazing team. Operations Supervisor and former two-time 1st Place winner in the Operator competition, Rob Wood was Clinton's coach. The Maintenance Team has a fantastic coaching duo with Advanced Technology and Training Coordinator Bryce Reinhardt, and Maintenance Supervisor Joe Bell. This year conditions on the course were not for the faint of heart. On practice day, there was a lightning delay filled with wind and the threat of thunderstorms. While on competition day, temps never crested above 50, with winds that Dorothy and Toto would have feared. But this didn't deter our competitors, coaches, volunteers or coordinators.

For complete Rodeo results visit APTA's website, where you'll notice Washington State has some bragging rights. Community Transit Operator Matt Chomjak took the top Operator honor, with Kitsap Transit's maintenance team placing first in two modules as well. But you'll remember that Rocky didn't become great without Apollo Creed. These folks have been driven for years to higher accomplishments for a large part due to the excellence of Intercity Transit's team and leadership on the Washington State Rodeo scene – a legacy we can all be proud of.

The Intercity Transit and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1765 contract negotiation teams attended mediation this week at the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC). With the mediator's help, both parties took a step back and arrived at a tentatively agreed contract the ATU can take to their members in the coming weeks for a vote.

Bergkamp provided a general agency update and conceptual overview of our bus system redesign tentatively scheduled to launch in May of 2026 to the Olympia Kiwanis. She took Olympia Kiwanis members for a walk down memory lane of IT's 2016 public engagement campaign known as the Road Trip which identified our community's desire to have more service in the form of a transformational transit system, then Proposition 1 being approved in late 2018 to fund the elements of the transformation, the decision process of going zero-fare January 2020, the barriers COVID created preventing completion of the transformation, how we've fought our way back to pre-pandemic service and ridership levels, and are now back on track to resume a redesign to usher in the remaining element promised with the additional funding of Proposition 1.

*Prepared April 17, 2025
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*