

**INTERCITY TRANSIT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

**May 19, 2025 – Olympia Transit Center
5:30 PM**

Join on your computer: Click [here](#) to join the meeting. The meeting ID: Passcode: or call in (audio only) +1 929-229-5501, # United States, New York City Phone Conference ID:

CALL TO ORDER

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| I. | APPROVE AGENDA | 1 min. |
| II. | INTRODUCTIONS | 1 min. |
| | A. Intercity Transit Authority Representative (<i>Carolina Mejia</i>) | |
| | B. Welcome, New CAC Member Jim Hanley | |
| III. | MEETING ATTENDANCE | 3 min. |
| | A. May 21, 2025, ITA Meeting – (<i>Rachel Wilson</i>) | |
| | B. June 4, 2025, ITA Meeting – (<i>Garrett Fuelling</i>) | |
| | C. June 18, 2025, ITA Meeting – (<i>Suzanne Simons</i>) | |
| IV. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 19, 2025. | 1 min. |
| V. | NEW BUSINESS | |
| | A. TRPC Regional Transportation Plan (<i>Marc Daily</i>) | 20 min. |
| | B. Walk N Roll Program Update (<i>Kerri Wilson</i>) | 15 min. |
| | C. Bargaining 101 (<i>Heather Stafford</i>) | 20 min. |
| VI. | CONSUMER ISSUES – All | 15 min. |
| VII. | REPORTS | 15 min. |
| | A. May 7, 2025 – ITA Report (<i>Rachel Weber</i>) | |
| | B. Collaboration Sub-Committee Report (<i>Shawn Sandquist</i>) | |
| | C. General Manager’s Report (<i>Dena Withrow, Operations Director</i>) | |
| VIII. | NEXT MEETING – June 16, 2025. | 1 min. |
| IX. | ADJOURNMENT | 1 min. |

Attendance Report Attached.

Intercity Transit assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information, see our [Non-Discrimination Policy](#).

Committee materials are available at <https://www.intercitytransit.com/agency/community-advisory-committee>. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should call us at (360) 786-8585 three days prior to the meeting. For TDD users, please use the state’s toll-free relay service, 711 and ask the operator to dial (360) 786-8585.

Please consider using an alternate mode to attend this meeting: bike, walk, bus, carpool, or vanpool. For assistance, contact Customer Service 360-786-1881.

Minutes
INTERCITY TRANSIT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 21, 2025 – Hybrid Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bourgeois called the hybrid April 21, 2025, meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brandon Mixon, Clair Bourgeois, Dara Dotson, Doug Riddels, Hallie Sutter, Harrison Ashby, JoAnn Scott, Julian Preston, Margret Janis, Michael Gray, Rachel Weber, Rachel Wilson, Shawn Sandquist, Suzanne Simons, and Ty Flint.

Absent: David Payton, Garrett Fuelling, and JP Fox- Seidel.

Staff and Guests Present: Amanda Collins, Jesse Eckstrom, Emily Bergkamp, Nicole Jones, David Foster, and Kelly Von Holz-ITA.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S/A by BRANDON MIXON and SHAWN SANDQUIST

INTRODUCTIONS

Amanda Collins introduced Authority member, Kelly Von Holz, as the ITA representative attending the meeting.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

- A. May 7, 2025, ITA Meeting – Rachel Weber**
- B. May 21, 2025, ITA Meeting – Rachel Wilson**
- C. June 4, 2025, ITA Meeting – Garrett Fuelling (Need to Confirm)**

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

M/S/A by TY FLINT and JOANN SCOTT

NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative Funding Update– (David Foster)

David Foster of Grist Public Affairs LLC presented an overview of the Washington State legislative session, which began in January and is scheduled to end on April 27th.

Foster explained that the session is a budget-writing year, covering operating, transportation, and capital budgets for two years. A significant budget deficit, approximately \$16 billion over four years, is a key challenge. The legislature is facing difficulties in finalizing the budget due to disagreements on revenue measures and spending cuts. There is a separate transportation budget deficit of about \$6 billion over four years, driven by inflationary cost increases and rising mega-project costs.

Foster reported that Democrats have proposed new revenue measures, including wealth, payroll, and business taxes, but the governor has not shown strong support. Both the House and Senate have proposed gas tax increases and changes to vehicle taxes to address the transportation budget shortfall. Proposed cuts to transit grants, including the Rideshare Vanpool Grant program and the Commute Trip Reduction program, are being debated. Intercity Transit's grants are expected to be maintained, including \$5 million for the Pattison Maintenance Facility Remodel.

In addition to discussing the budget, Foster shared other noteworthy legislative actions related to transit. House Bill 1418, allowing transit boards to add citizen members, has passed. House Bill 1980, which would have allowed King County to charge private transportation organizations for using transit lanes, did not pass. Three new members have joined the legislature in the Intercity Transit service area: Senator Jessica Bateman, Representative Lisa Parshley, and Representative Matt Marshall. The legislature recently lost Senator Bill Rahmel, who was a strong supporter of transit.

Committee members asked about the Washington State Department of Transportation conducting preliminary surveying for the I-5 upgrade project and Foster shared that funding was secured at least through the design phase. Advisory committee members also inquired about the five hydrogen fuel cell buses that Intercity Transit was supposed to receive, which are associated with state grants and are still in process. Other questions were raised about the reasons for the budget deficit and the specific points of contention in the legislature. Foster will continue to monitor the legislative session and its impact on Intercity Transit.

B. Winter Bicycle Community Challenge Update– *(Duncan Green)*

Duncan Green, Bicycle Community Challenge (BCC) Coordinator, provided an update on the various bicycle-related events and challenges organized by Intercity Transit's Walk N' Roll program. Green began by highlighting the success of the Winter Bicycle Challenge, which took place in February, during which 270 participants logged nearly 19,000 miles over 17,187 days. Forty participants also won bike-related prizes in random drawings. Green emphasized that the challenge

promotes various benefits, including saving car trips, encouraging exercise, facilitating multimodal travel, and fostering social engagement. Green also reported on the success of the Earth Day Market Ride, which saw over 175 participants from eight starting points across Thurston County converge at Heritage Park before biking to the Olympia Farmers Market. Looking ahead, Green announced the 38th annual Bicycle Community Challenge, set to take place in May. Participants can log their rides on the website and join the Intercity Transit team, "Team Crank IT."

Green is also coordinating an event for National Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 15th, and will feature bike refresher stations at seven locations around Olympia. Additionally, a "Bring Your Own Bike Lunch" now known as the Bike Month Celebration Ride, will be held at Tumwater Historical Park during the lunch hour on May 15th.

Advisory committee members gave lots of praise to Green for his work promoting the benefits of cycling in Thurston County. Members also asked if bike donations were still being accepted and Green answered that Walk N' Roll is accepting bike donations. He further encouraged committee members to join the May Bicycle Challenge and explained that any type of bike trip counts towards the challenge. Emily Bergkamp also thanked Green for his outstanding work and shared that this will be his final year as our BCC Coordinator due to his upcoming retirement.

C. Capital Improvement Plan Draft Review – (*Jana Brown*)

Jana Brown, Chief Financial Officer, presented the draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2026-2030. The CIP is a crucial five-year framework that provides guidance and direction for the organization's capital investment needs, and it is updated annually. Brown emphasized that the plan is a collaborative effort, with significant contributions from various departments. The CIP serves several key purposes, including anticipating future needs, providing cash flow projections, positioning the organization for grant opportunities, evaluating competing demands for resources, and informing the public about planned infrastructure investments.

The capital budget for 2026 is projected to be just under \$70 million, with a total of \$138 million over the five-year period. Funding for these projects will come from a combination of capital reserves, totaling \$55.7 million over five years, and federal and state grants, which are expected to cover 50-60% of the costs each year. A public hearing on the draft plan will be held on Wednesday, May 21st, at 5:30 PM, and the final adoption of the plan is scheduled for the Authority Board meeting on June 4th. Capital projects are defined as expenditures of \$10,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year. The plan includes funding for several key projects, such as an audio-visual redesign of the Board Room at the ADOPS facility to improve functionality for hybrid meetings and training sessions, the implementation of an

Agency Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software system to streamline business operations, and the design of alternative fuel infrastructure, including hydrogen fueling and increased power supply for battery electric buses. Brown noted that large expenditures for the new administrative-operations and maintenance buildings are expected to be completed in 2026, which accounts for the decrease in spending in later years. The CIP will also be incorporated into the 2026 budget, which will be finalized in the fall. In addition to the CIP, a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is also created each year to specifically list projects intended for federal funding.

CONSUMER ISSUES

Shawn Sandquist kicked off consumer issues with a discussion about customer experiences, noting that he had a positive experience to share. Sandquist then relayed a compliment about a bus driver, Aaron Hughes, who drove the Dial-a-Lift route. He described Hughes as professional, respectful, and very helpful in answering questions about the history of Dial-a-Lift, service boundaries, and other behind-the-scenes information. When he was the only passenger on the bus to Yelm, Sandquist felt that Hughes went above and beyond in providing this information.

Emily Bergkamp stated that the compliment would be passed on to the driver, noting that Aaron is amazing.

Ty Flint commented on Intercity Transit's responsiveness to community needs. Flint recounted his experience taking the number 13 bus to a protest at the Capitol two weeks prior, where they encountered a long line and standing-room-only conditions, with buses running on a 30-minute schedule. Flint noted that for a subsequent demonstration and protest, Intercity Transit adjusted the schedule to 15-minute intervals and had buses stopping frequently at the Capitol. Flint praised this adjustment as a great effort that effectively met the transportation needs of many people.

Harrison Ashby asked if Emily will be providing an update on ATU contract negotiations in the General Manager's report.

Bergkamp answered yes

Margaret Janis expressed gratitude for the stipend received, attributing its approval to the ITA at the end of the previous year. Janis also shared insights from a meeting on the topic of bicycle racks on buses. Janis had spoken with bus users about their experiences. One gentleman who had been riding the bus for seven years and is disabled said he had never had to wait for the next bus because the bike racks were full. Other, younger riders reported being denied access two or three times in six months. Janis noted that

the issue seems to disproportionately affect younger riders. Janis also recounted an instance where a driver accommodated a young girl with a bike by asking other passengers to allow her to bring the bike on board since there were no wheelchairs present. Janis then shared a personal experience of riding the 43/41 bus to Evergreen, during which the driver was very kind and attentive, inquiring about her well-being when she didn't get off at her stop. Janis explained she was exploring the route as a committee member. The driver engaged in a conversation with her. Janis praised the driver's behavior, contrasting it with a potentially negative reaction.

Bergkamp explained that the last group of buses purchased were initially ordered with three-position bike racks, but the design caused a safety issue by obstructing the headlights. As a result, they reverted to two-position racks. Staff will continue to look for better three-position bike racks at vendor shows held by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

Nikki Jones also noted that fitting all bike types, especially those with wide tires on e-bikes, is challenging. Drivers will sometimes allow passengers to bring bikes on the bus on the last run of the night or in tough situations, especially those involving children.

Joann Scott added that bus drivers refer to such route explorations as "route and scouts" or "bus buddy" trips, which are done to familiarize oneself with a route, such as when planning a future trip.

Michael Gray suggested implementing more quality control checks for the website, citing his past experience of finding dead links and issues with capital improvement project links. Gray recommended a system where individuals outside the marketing group periodically test links and report their functionality. He pointed out specific issues such as inconsistent links for public meeting reviews and mobile accessibility problems.

JoAnn Scott asked if Intercity Transit buses go onto JBLM.

Bergkamp responded that because there are a lot of restrictions, Intercity Transit does not go onto JBLM and instead offers transfers to Pierce Transit, which provides transit services to JBLM.

Clair Bourgeois raised a concern about policies regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence on buses, particularly in relation to the well-being of fragile passengers. Bourgeois inquired whether there are measures in place to prevent ICE from conducting operations on buses, given the potential for causing distress among vulnerable riders.

Bergkamp responded that while there is no current policy in place, other transit agencies are developing such statements. *Bergkamp* acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue and stated that it is something that can be discussed with the authority.

Julian Preston inquired about the difference between Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART) and similar services in other counties. *Preston* explained that DART in Snohomish County was once run by a non-profit and noted King County's Access service, which is similar to Dial-A-Ride. *Preston* also mentioned that DART provides some transportation in Snohomish County, possibly for a certain age group, and mentioned fixed-route micro-transit in Kitsap County. *Preston* then shifted the discussion to the old tram tracks in downtown Olympia, suggesting a tourist tram idea. *Preston* acknowledged the challenges due to the limited track length, train interference, and potential need for city and state involvement for development of the area.

Dara Dotson experienced an unusually high number of Operators making contact with curbs recently, on both routes 64 and 62A/B.

Bergkamp attributed this to the presence of many new bus drivers, a point supported by the fact that there is currently a class of about 20 new drivers on the road. Intercity Transit hired over 100 new drivers in 2024.

Jones shared her experience learning how to position coaches and empathized with drivers who struggle, noting that sometimes drivers have bad days.

Sandquist asked about bus drivers and lane usage, specifically regarding routes 48, 47, and 41 at the roundabout, and whether they are required to use their flashers in that situation.

Jones clarified that this is called "splitting lanes", and drivers are trained on how to do this in specific roundabouts. Drivers are instructed to use their blinkers to indicate their exit point from the roundabout, signaling for at least three flashes before merging. The use of four-way flashers is discouraged as it can be confusing and obscure the turn signal. However, sometimes drivers, like everyone else, can make mistakes.

Bourgeois commented on the frequency and timing of routes coming into downtown Olympia and asked if there could be additional service added on the quarters of the hour (15 and 45), not just top and bottom of the hour.

Doug Riddels shared written comment: “I urge the ITA to be proactive on the issue of dealing with potential interactions with ICE, not only in terms of a general statement but in specific guidance so drivers and other staff know how to react.”

Amanda Collins updated the CAC on the availability of meeting recordings on Intercity Transit’s public-facing website and gave a brief tutorial showing members how to access the recordings.

Sandquist asked if the links were fixed for ITA recordings, which were expiring after 30 days; staff shared they would investigate and solve the issue.

REPORTS

- **March 19, 2025, ITA Report** – Ty Flint attended the meeting and provided an update to the committee:
 - A significant portion of the meeting involved drivers and community members providing public comment regarding ongoing ATU contract negotiations.
 - Rob LaFontaine-Planning Deputy Director provided an update on the postponement of Intercity Transit’s service redesign.
 - The ITA discussed labor issues in an executive session, but did not take further action that night.
- **April 2, 2025, ITA Report** – Margaret Janis attended the meeting and provided an update to the committee:
 - Public comment centered around ongoing ATU contract negotiations.
 - David Foster and Joanna Grist gave a legislative update to the ITA.
- **April 16, 2025, ITA Report** – Michael Gray attended the meeting and provided an update to the committee:
 - Public comment regarding support of a tentative agreement with the ATU and controversy of two recent employee terminations.
 - The ITA received the bicycle community challenge update with Duncan Green.
 - The ITA passed a new Drug and Alcohol to clarify program procedures following a federal audit.
 - The ITA voted to approve ordering 13 Dial-a-Lift vans and two non-revenue work trucks.
 - The ITA received an update from the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) and TRPC’s Transportation Policy Board, which had overlapping agendas. Of interest and available for public comment are plans for maintenance on the regional trail system, particularly the I-5 trail, and ten

- new mid-block crossings on Martin Way. TRPC is also considering updates to their language to comply with new federal guidelines.
- **Collaboration Sub-Committee Report** – Shawn Sandquist provided an update to the committee:
 - The first ad hoc meeting was March 28th with Dara Dotson, Michael Gray, Shawn Sandquist, Amanda Collins, and Nicole Jones in attendance.
 - Dara was assigned to create scripts for contacting other transit agencies.
 - Michael was assigned to create a questionnaire.
 - Shawn was assigned to create a presentation and provide sub-committee meeting summaries to the CAC.
 - The ad hoc members felt it was a productive meeting and will meet again on April 25th at 4:00 p.m.
 - **General Manager's Report** – Bergkamp provided the General Manager's report including:

International Roadeo

This year's 2025 American Public Transportation Association's International Bus Roadeo was held in Austin, TX, April 4-8. A Bus Roadeo 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 Roadeo Stage!

We also celebrate all our staff who volunteered at and coordinated the 2025 International Bus Roadeo, 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 you can 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. 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 Roadeo scene – a legacy we can all be proud of.

ATU Contract Mediation

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 was relieved that mediation went well and achieved the positive outcome we all hoped for. She also wanted to acknowledge there were objections raised by ATU about some of the decisions IT made during negotiations, which still remain. It's important for all employees to know that IT and both its Unions are governed by laws covering public sector employees in Washington state. One of the requirements of this governance is to provide what's known as "due process" for our employees. Due process refers to the fair and impartial procedures public agencies must follow when making significant decisions that affect their employees' rights and livelihoods. IT will continue to comply with these legal requirements and do everything required of us as a public agency, to work through the concerns raised by ATU.

Olympia Kiwanis Presentation

Bergkamp provided a general agency update and conceptual overview of our bus system redesign tentatively scheduled to launch in May of 2026. Emily 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 elements promised with the additional funding of Proposition 1.

WSTIP Safety Star Award

Intercity Transit was recently notified we received one of Washington State Transit Insurance Pool's (WSTIP) three Safety Star Awards. As our insurance company, WSTIP provides public transit agencies with the benefits of combined resources to self-insure, purchase supplemental insurance, managing claims and litigation, and receiving risk management consultations and training. WSTIP also helps their members provide safe, cost-effective public transit services. The Safety Star Award recognizes transit agencies who maintain impressive and stable safety records showcasing the best performing agency. We last received this award in 2017 and have been neck and neck with Community Transit each year since, to win it again. But 2025 was finally our year to regain the title.

The following agencies from the three WSTIP Member categories received the award:

- Large Winner (annual mileage greater than 5 million miles) – Intercity Transit
- Medium Winner (annual mileage between 1 and 5 million miles) – Clallam Transit
- Small Winner (annual mileage less than 1 million miles) – Grant Transit Authority

The Safety Star Award comes with a \$5,000 cash award from WSTIP to be used for some form of employee recognition.

Auditor's Office Wins Honorable Mention for Accessibility from U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

The Thurston County Auditor's Office's "Your Neighbors, Your Elections" video series has won a national Clearinghouse Award from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), recognized for excellence in voter education and communications. The Auditor's Office also received an honorable mention in the Accessibility category for "Expanding Access: Public Transit Partnerships for Accessible Elections."

Through the "Public Transit Partnerships for Accessible Elections" program, the Auditor's office worked with IT to extend bus service hours on Election Day, improved ADA access at the Voting Center, and used community vanpools for staff transport to reduce costs and congestion. Furthermore, the Auditor's office worked with IT to add ballot drop box and Voting Center locations into local transit maps, the initiative expanded access and demonstrated an innovative, cost-effective approach to improving elections for both voters and staff.

Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 23 is Administrative Professionals Day. Bergkamp wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the important role Amanda Collins, Pat Messmer and our Intern Nikki play in all their behind-the-scenes efforts that keep Executive, Public Records, ITA, CAC and agency events operations running efficiently, how they steadfastly ensure our teams stay organized and productive.

NEXT MEETING: May 19, 2025, at the Olympia Transit Center

- ADJOURNMENT at 7:37pm.

Prepared by Amanda Collins

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**INTERCITY TRANSIT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM NO. 5-A
MEETING DATE: May 19, 2025**

FOR: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Marc Daily, Executive Director, TRPC

SUBJECT: TRPC Briefing on Regional Transportation Plan Update

1) **The Issue:** Learn about the update of the Regional Transportation Plan and opportunities to provide input.

2) **Recommended Action:** This is an informational briefing and discussion.

3) **Policy Analysis:** Intercity Transit is a member of Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC). TRPC's long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a foundation of the coordinated planning process that IT engages in, and which ensures compliance with certain state and federal requirements.

4) **Background:** TRPC maintains an RTP for the Thurston County region. The RTP includes long-standing policies that guide transportation and land use decision-making across the region. It also includes projects that reflect near- and long-term system needs. IT is active in the regional planning process at the staff and policy maker levels.

The RTP is updated periodically to maintain a minimum 20-year planning horizon and account for emerging issues and changing conditions. The current RTP has a planning horizon of 2045. This update extends that horizon to 2050 and incorporates new insights since the last update. TRPC is expected to adopt this update in July 2025. The public comment period is underway.

Marc Daily, Executive Director of TRPC, will brief the CAC on the RTP.

5) **Alternatives:** N/A

6) **Budget Notes:** N/A

7) **Goal Reference:** **Goal #6** - *"Encourage use of our services, reduce barriers to access and increase ridership."* **Goal #7** - *"Build partnerships to identify and implement innovative solutions that address mobility needs, access and equity as a service provider and as an employer."*

8) **References:** N/A

**INTERCITY TRANSIT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 5-B
MEETING DATE: May 19, 2024**

FOR: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Kerri Wilson, Walk N Roll Program Supervisor, 360-705-5839

SUBJECT: Walk N Roll 2024 Annual Program Report

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- 1) **The Issue:** To share the 2024 accomplishments of Intercity Transit's Walk N Roll education program.
- 2) **Recommended Action:** For information and discussion.
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- 3) **Policy Analysis:** Outreach and education are part of Intercity Transit's overall objective to increase ridership, raise awareness of active transportation and its value, and encourage and support community sustainability.
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- 4) **Background:** The Walk N Roll Program Supervisor would like to share the 2024 program accomplishments. Intercity Transit's Walk N Roll program is part of the agency's Marketing & Communications division. Beyond this, the program has been very successful in creating partnerships and securing grant funding to continue outreach and educational efforts in the community. TAP funds have been awarded through the regional competitive process administered by the Thurston Regional Planning Council. These secured federal grants are for \$660,498 and \$1,623,232 and will be used for Operating costs. In addition, the Walk N Roll program has secured WA state funding administered through Cascade Bicycle Club for \$169,931 for this year. An additional application was submitted for the upcoming year (7/2025 - 6/2026) for \$439,139. This potential funding would include Operating and Capital costs.
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- 5) **Alternatives:** N/A.
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- 6) **Budget Notes:** Walk N Roll's work is funded with 4.5 permanent FTE positions and one temporary part-time assistant; all who are partially grant funded.
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- 7) **Goal Reference:** **Goal #4:** *"Provide responsive transportation options within financial and staffing limitations."* **Goal #5:** *"Integrate equity and sustainability into all agency decisions and operations to lower social and environmental impact to enhance our community and support the Thurston County Regional Climate Mitigation Plan."* **Goal**

#6: *“Encourage use of our services, reduce barriers to access and increase ridership.”* **Goal**
#7: *“Build partnerships to identify and implement innovative solutions that address mobility needs, access and equity as a service provider and as an employer.”*

8) **References:** N/A.

**INTERCITY TRANSIT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM NO. 5-C
MEETING DATE: May 19, 2025**

FOR: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Heather Stafford Smith, Director of Administrative Services
360-705-5861

SUBJECT: Labor Negotiations at Intercity Transit

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- 1) **The Issue:** Staff will provide an overview of the labor negotiations process at Intercity Transit with arbitration-eligible employee groups.
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- 2) **Recommended Action:** For information and discussion only.
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- 3) **Policy Analysis:** N/A.
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- 4) **Background:** Intercity Transit recently completed labor negotiations with our largest union, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 1765. Staff will discuss the process of negotiations with unions at IT where transit is considered an “essential service” of the state and therefore designated as “interest-arbitration eligible.”
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- 5) **Alternatives:** N/A.
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- 6) **Budget Notes:** N/A.
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- 7) **Goal Reference:** This item meets Goal 2: *“Providing outstanding customer service.”*
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- 8) **References:** None.

Intercity Transit Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of May 7, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the ITA:

- Declared fixed asset items on Exhibit A as surplus. *(Noelle Gordon)*
- Authorized the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 28423, to purchase replacement vehicles to support our Village Vans Program from Bud Clary Ford in the amount of \$214,200. *(Noelle Gordon)*
- Authorized the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 06719, to acquire driver barrier installation services from Complete Coach Works in the amount of \$113,570, which includes sales tax and a 10% contingency. *(Brenden Houx)*
- Conducted an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Other Items of Interest:

- Kerri Wilson provided an update on the Walk N Roll Program.
- Nick Demerice provided a Marketing & Communications update.

General Manager's Report:

The Thurston County Auditor's Office's *Your Neighbors, Your Elections* video series won a national Clearinghouse Award from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), recognized for excellence in voter education and communications. The Auditor's Office also received an honorable mention in the Accessibility category for "Expanding Access: Public Transit Partnerships for Accessible Elections."

Through the "Public Transit Partnerships for Accessible Elections" program, the Auditor's office worked with IT to extend bus service hours on Election Day, improved ADA access at the Voting Center, and used community vanpools for staff transport to reduce costs and congestion. Furthermore, the Auditor's office worked with IT to add ballot drop box and Voting Center locations into local transit maps, the initiative expanded access and demonstrated an innovative, cost-effective approach to improving elections for both voters and staff.

April 23 was Administrative Professionals Day and Bergkamp gave a big shoutout to our Administrative Professionals and those being mentored by them. This includes Clerk of the Board Pat Messmer, Public Records Officer Amanda Collins, both mentoring Executive Administrative Assistant Intern Nicole Jones, Operations Assistant Christina Loomis mentoring Operations Assistant Intern Matthew Kelzenberg, Maintenance Assistant Jason Aguero Jr., Development Assistant Fiona Sheehan, and Human Resources Assistant Taylor Slobojan. Their diligent behind-the-scenes efforts keep all

departments running smoothly. Thank you for consistently keeping us organized and creating a network of support for all staff to thrive!

Two out of our six NEW grant requests were funded in the state budget for 25-27 and 27-29. Considering it was a difficult budget year, we're happy with the outcome. The following new projects were funded:

- *Corridor Express: Introducing New Limited-Stop Service from West Olympia to East Lacey*
 - Provide 15-minute, limited-stop express service between west Olympia and east Lacey via the Harrison Avenue/Martin Way corridor, establishing the east-west spine of IT's high-performance urban system.
 - Funding Source: Regional Mobility Grant (2025- 2029)
- *Lacey Express: Introducing I-5 Service from Lacey Transit Center to Sounder Station via Hawks Prairie and JBLM*
 - Introduce new service between Lacey Transit Center and Sounder Station via Hawks Prairie Park & Ride and JBLM at Madigan Gate, for connections with Pierce Transit's Rt 206 for secure base access.
 - Funding Source: Regional Mobility Grant (2025- 2029)

The following projects were NOT funded, and Senior Management will meet to discuss other funding opportunities for them:

- *Battery Electric Coach Replacement Project*
 - IT hoped to acquire two battery electric buses with chargers to replace two diesel hybrid buses at the end of their useful life.
 - Funding Source: Green Transportation Grant
- *Crosby Loop at SPSCC Improvements*
 - Transit facility improvements at South Puget Sound Community College
 - Funding Source: Bus & Bus Facilities Grant
- *Introducing Route 14: Intercity Transit's Dash-like service*
 - 2025 - 2027 Transportation Budget Request (sponsors Senator Bateman and Representative Doglio)
 - This request (\$1.2M) would have provided funding for 50% of the operating costs for the Route 14 that connects the Capitol campus and downtown Olympia, including the Olympia Farmer's Market and the Olympia Transit Center.

We'll find out from WSDOT the status of the following project in June:

- *2025- 2027 Replacement Rideshare Vehicles*
 - Funding Source: Public Transit Ride Share
 - Replacement Rideshare (expect hybrid and/ or no/ low emission vehicles)

The Bicycle Community Challenge is upon us, and Bergkamp encouraged ITA members to join her in celebrating Bike Month (May) with some trips around town using pedal power! There is now added bike parking in the covered visitor parking area of the AdOps facility.

Prepared May 8, 2025

Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board

Bike Rodeo Events

- Walk N Roll supported **three** bike rodeo events. Youth visited stations where they practiced bicycle safety skills, had their helmets fitted and received a bicycle safety check.
- In partnership with Safe Kids Thurston County, Target Zero, and the Olympia Police Department, we held the third Great Olympia Bike Rodeo at Garfield Elementary School. **One hundred six** youth participated in the Great Olympia Bike Rodeo.



Pedal powered smoothies at the Great Olympia Bike Rodeo.

Pedal It Forward

Community members donated bikes and volunteers learned bike mechanic skills while refurbishing those bikes. The refurbished bikes were given back to the community through our education programs and partnerships.

- **1,527** volunteer hours spent refurbishing bikes.
- **125** bikes were refurbished by volunteers.
- **87** bikes were given to people in our community.



Volunteers repairing a bike in the Walk N Roll Bike Shop.

Walk N Roll to School

- We helped **eight** schools in the Olympia, Tumwater and North Thurston school districts organize Walk N Roll to School events, including celebrations for national Walk and Bike to School Days. These events encouraged students and their families to walk, bike and roll to school to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around the schools. Fifty-eight Walk N Roll to School events were held.
- We encouraged the Cities of Tumwater, Lacey and Olympia to declare October Walk to School Month.



150
Helmets were provided to our partners at Safe Kids Thurston County, who distributed them to students in North Thurston Public Schools.

Bike Mechanic Education and Outreach

- Offered an advanced bike mechanic class to six people who identify as women, transgender or nonbinary.
- Provided maintenance and repair to North Thurston Public School's bike fleet.
- Supported the Hope Bike Shop at Reeves Middle School with donated bikes, helmets and locks to share with recipients of Hope bikes. The Hope Bike Shop has expanded to offer shop time to all students at Reeves!
- Partnered with the Timberland Regional Library to offer bike repair kits at the Lacey and Olympia branches. The kits are available to anyone with a library card. The kits were borrowed **18** times.



Bicycle Community Challenge

For the 37th year, the Bicycle Community Challenge (BCC) encouraged Thurston County residents to ride their bikes for transportation, fitness and fun!

354
People rode in the Winter BCC.

180
People participated in the Earth Day Market Ride.

715
People rode in the BCC, covering 74,000 miles.

300
Riders participated in the 2024 Bike to Work Day

Safety Awareness

Traffic Safety Education

We distributed **1,000** yard signs with traffic safety messages. The signs were designed by students at Avanti High School and paid for by Target Zero.



Traffic signs encourage drivers to slow down making our roads safer for people walking and rolling.

Intercity Transit's Walk N Roll education program increases independence, improves safety and inspires a healthy lifestyle by making walking, biking, rolling, and riding public transit more accessible to people of all races, ages, incomes, and abilities.

Bike-Friendly Learning Zones



Mobile Traffic Garden at YMCA Summer Camp.

Traffic Gardens

- In partnership with Safe Kids Thurston County, and the North Thurston Public Schools, we helped install a permanent traffic garden at Seven Oaks Elementary School.
- In partnership with Safe Kids Thurston County, we took the Mobile Traffic Garden to **15** schools and youth organizations.



Traffic Garden at Seven Oaks Elementary School.

3,395

Youth learned bike safety skills in a Mobile Traffic Garden.

A traffic garden is a miniature street scape that simulates real world traffic features such as intersections, roundabouts and crosswalks. The garden provides an environment for children to learn and practice bicycle and pedestrian safety skills, free from motorized vehicles.

High School Bike Education



Students from Envision Career Academy on a bike ride.



Students from Avanti High School on an overnight bike camping trip.

Avanti Bikes!

- We continued our partnership with Avanti High School, teaching students bicycle safety and maintenance skills as part of their physical education curriculum. Avanti's Physical Education teacher and Walk N Roll staff co-taught the class in the spring and fall quarters.
- To wrap up a year of learning, **11** Avanti Bikes! students went on an overnight bike camping trip riding 46 miles. For many students, it was their first camping experience.
- In the fall we added a second program at Envision Career Academy. The class gave 12th grade students a year of required physical education credits, while teaching them the essential skills for riding a bike for transportation.
- To increase access to the high school programs, Walk N Roll gives students refurbished bicycles, a new helmet, lock and set of lights.

Biking, Learning and Summer Fun!

Summer Bike Camp

At Bike Camp, youth ages 8 through 10 learned bike handling and safety skills through fun games, group bicycle rides and hands-on activities. Each day, we took campers on a new urban adventure traveling by walking, biking and riding public transit. We held camps in Olympia and Lacey.

13

Campers learned bike handling and safety skills.



Summer Bike Camp at Mountain View Elementary School.



44

Youth learned essential bicycle skills.

Earn-A-Bike Classes

We partnered with schools and youth organizations to offer six after school and summer Earn-A-Bike classes. **Forty-four** youth learned essential bicycle safety and maintenance skills through a series of hands-on activities and group bicycle rides on city streets. All participants received a refurbished bicycle, new helmet and lock.



Full Cycle

We partnered with organizations that help people obtain permanent housing, gain employment, and earn a college degree to distribute **35** bikes.

Community Partners



Earn-A-Bike students with their new bikes.

THANK YOU!

Walk N Roll volunteers contributed over **1,607** hours supporting programs. Thank you for your generosity and dedication. We couldn't do it without you!

Transit Education

538

Students received transit education.

We provided transit education to youth through classroom presentations, bus visits to schools, and Rolling Classroom field trips. Participants learned how to ride the bus and about why transit is important to our community.

Learn-to-Ride Classes

104

Youth and adults learned how to ride a bike.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CAC Members		Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Brandon	Mixon	x	x	x	x								
Clair	Bourgeois	x	x	x	x								
David	Payton	absent	absent	absent	absent								
Doug	Riddels	absent	x	x	x								
Garrett	Fuelling	x	absent	absent	absent								
Harrison	Ashby	x	x	x	x								
JoAnn	Scott	x	x	x	x								
Hallie	Sutter	x	x	x	x								
Margret	Janis	x	x	x	x								
Michael	Gray	x	x	x	x								
Shawn	Sandquist	x	x	x	x								
Suzanne	Simons	x	x	x	x								
Ty	Flint	absent	x	x	x								
Rachel	Weber	x	x	x	x								
Rachel	Wilson	x	x	x	x								
Dara	Dotson	x	x	x	x								
YOUTH John-Paul	Fox Seidel	x	x	x	absent								
YOUTH Julian	Preston	x	x	x	x								

= Joint meeting does not count against required meeting attendance