

Intercity Transit Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of September 3, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the ITA:

- Authorized the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Relations to renew the contract for Federal Advocacy Services for a period of one year in the amount of \$96,000. *(Noelle Gordon)*
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a one-year contract extension with Foster Government Relations to provide State Legislative Advocacy Services in the amount of \$48,000. *(Noelle Gordon)*
- Received an update from **Lynne Cunningham about the Vanpool Program.**

Other Items of Interest:

- Nick Demerice introduced **Heather Dyson, Marketing & Communication Rep.**

General Manager's Report

Staff is in the process of recruiting new members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Applications are due October 3. An on-line application is available on the CAC page of Intercity Transit's webpage, and printed applications are available on request for applicants who prefer that method. Candidates selected by the ITA will be interviewed Friday, November 7, and appointments will be made at the December 3 ITA meeting.

On August 17 Intercity Transit participated in the State Roadeo competition. For the driving portion, Dial-A-Lift Operator Dan Savage took first place in the Body-On-Chassis (BOC) category, Operator Clinton Jimenez took 5th place in the 40-foot category, and Operator John Clauson, who was a last-minute substitute for another competitor, took 7th place in the 35-foot category. Our Maintenance team of Richelle Loken, Sean Malay and Jonathan Reynolds took 2nd place overall in the Maintenance Division. ITA member Sue Pierce attended the Roadeo along with many staff to cheer them on, and she also attended the public transportation conference following the Roadeo. We also honored Excellence in Transit (Wall of Fame) staff Glenn Dreyer, Dean Taylor, and the Human Resources Team, for going above and beyond in their work this past year.

Bergkamp recently received an email from a Thurston County Court Operation Officer sharing the success story of an individual named "Anna" for the sake of her privacy. Anna is a very recent graduate of Thurston County's Mental Health Court Program, which offers a two-year therapeutic approach to individuals living with mental illness involved in our local criminal legal system. This program helps build lasting health and recovery for participants, with the goal of criminal cases being dismissed, closed, or charges amended, avoiding further involvement with the legal system. The Officer wrote that while in the program, Anna "spent endless hours making her mental health and personal growth a priority, pledging to continue this path of success for her future." At graduation, Anna shared how the program not only connected her with resources to receive treatment for chemical dependency, mental health counseling, access to medical care and proper nutrition, but also

allowed her to obtain her high school diploma through SPSCC's GED/High School Plus program. This achievement was a dream of hers and marked a significant milestone in her progress. In Anna's own words, "I have made huge changes in my life since starting this program, and a major one being my attitude towards myself and believing in myself." Anna specifically attributed Intercity Transit's free public transportation in Thurston County as playing a large role in her success. Riding the bus was how she got to her appointments and other places she needed to be.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) cites that nearly 2 in 5 people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness (37% in state and federal prisons and 44% held in local jails). Many people with mental illness who are incarcerated are held for committing non-violent, minor offenses related to the symptoms of untreated mental illness or for offenses like shoplifting and petty theft. NAMI also states that investment in methods like mental health courts and other intervention strategies, can help reduce the criminalization of people with mental illness.

Public transit plays an essential role in giving people like Anna the mobility necessary to be successful on their path to recovery. Intercity Transit's zero-fare demonstration project goes one step further by simplifying access for more riders to get from point A to point B, supporting the concept that mobility is a basic human right. Nelson Mandela said, "A person is a person through other persons; you can't be a human in isolation; you are human only in relationships." On a bad day, coming up with \$2.50 can make or break someone with mental illness struggling to reconnect with the relationships in life most of us take for granted. Your work as board members and staff's work as transit professionals supports Anna and others like her on their journey to recovery every day, helping them to reconnect with our community and contribute to its well-being. As the Thurston County Court Operation Officer wrote in their email, "From all our court users and Thurston County District Court, thank you for providing a necessary and lifesaving service to our community."

Prepared September 4, 2025
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board