

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

Wednesday night, the ITA:

- Held a public hearing to take public testimony on planned changes to bus service anticipated to take effect Sunday, May 3, 2026 (*Rob LaFontaine*).
- Held a public hearing to take public testimony on the 2026 Draft Budget (*Jana Brown*).
- Set a public hearing for the 2026-2031 Draft Strategic Plan on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. with adoption proposed for the December 17, 2025, ITA meeting (*Emily Bergkamp*).
- Approved Resolution 05-2025 authorizing the General Manager to temporarily waive vanpool fares for eligible federal employees during any period of a federal government shutdown (*Lynne Cunningham*).
- Reappointed Community Representative Sue Pierce for a third 3-year term through December 31, 2028 (*Emily Bergkamp*).

Other Items of Interest:

- Kerri Wilson introduced **SJ Francis, WNR Program Representative**.
- David Chaffee introduced **Vincente Dearmore, Technician**.

General Manager's Report

- Bergkamp attended a ribbon cutting/open house of the new Thurston County Ballot processing center.
- A multi-disciplinary team met to review the Foul Weather Plan for updates before severe winter weather arrives.
- Bus Buddies chose their newest/oldest Bus Buddy Coordinator moving forward. Janina (Jan) Robbins, who was the first Intercity Catholic Community Services Bus Buddy Coordinator when the program started in 2013, accepted the position as Bus Buddy Coordinator. She has extensive experience using the IT system and knows how to coordinate the Bus Buddy program with ease. Dial 1-844-851-9380 for referrals and/or to request a Bus Buddy.
- Bergkamp shared the following quote from an observer of a recent Dial-A-Lift Driver interaction:
"Leaving an appointment this morning, I found some joy that would have been so easy to pass by. Noticed an Olympia Intercity Transit bus driver assisting a gentleman arriving for his appointment – smiles, laughter, joking around. You would have thought they were old friends until I heard 'Nice to meet you, sir.' 'I appreciate you, mister.' Day made, for all three of us. It's not hard to make a difference in this world if you shine your inner joy outward. I took a few seconds to thank the bus driver for being great at his job and for bringing me some joy today too. Notice joy, extend yourself and really 'see' people – it matters. Make this week great, friends – we all matter!"

Prepared November 6, 2025
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board