

Intercity Transit Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary

A brief recap of November 19, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the ITA:

- Re-appointed the following individuals to serve second consecutive three-year terms beginning January 1, 2026: *Clair Bourgeois*; appointed the following individuals to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2026: *DC Wheat, Ellen Matheny, Jacqueline Garrison, Kindra Galan, Marty Slighte, Matthew Collins, and Rabia Sheik*; appointed *Andrew Hague and Finch Lucus* to one-year youth positions beginning January 1, 2026; and selected the following individuals to be on a list of approved alternate candidates: *Jamie Thompson, Jorda Lefever, Monica Kaplan, and Shellee Billings. (Emily Bergkamp)*

Other Items of Interest:

- Alejandro Soto introduced **Jennifer Reynolds and Shawn Willis, Inventory Specialists.**
- Rob LaFontaine and Nick Demerice led a discussion of planned changes to bus service anticipated to take effect May 3, 2026.

General Manager's Report

- **Update on Vanpool Fare Waiver for impacted Federal workers** - IT credited close to \$2,500 in vanpool fares for federal workers who were not being paid their salary and/or not receiving their usual subsidy during the federal shutdown. The shutdown ended November 13, and we will likely be back to status quo when groups pay their December fares; but we can work with groups who are still experiencing a lag in receiving their subsidies for that month if needed. Bergkamp shared several notes of thanks from impacted federal workers who vanpool:
 - "THANK YOU. This is a very generous offer.... Thank you! I will remember this support and support Intercity Transit in return."
 - "I appreciate the support and thank you very much!"
 - "Thank you for the update and resolute support!"
 - "This is such a great help to me, and I sincerely appreciate it. Many thanks!"
 - "I am struggling to make ends meet and this really helps me out!!!!"
 - "I'm glad you reached out about this! I want you to know we all appreciate this support."
- **Staff and Engineering professionals present East Martin Way Gateway Station Roundabout Project at local HOA meetings** - Peter Stackpole, Development Director, will attend the Ridgeview 2 HOA meeting Sunday, November 23 at Fire Station 31 in Lacey. Adjacent HOA members from Ridgeview I, Nisqually Bluff, and Steilacoom Ridge have also been invited.

Residents in these neighborhoods raised concerns about westbound access to Martin Way and about overall safety if a roundabout is constructed at the Martin Way / Meridian intersection. Our traffic analysis shows access to Martin Way will, in fact, be easier with a roundabout in place. The safety benefits are also well-supported—both by our analysis and by national data demonstrating that roundabouts outperform traditional at-grade intersections in reducing severe crashes.

At the meeting, Peter will review the traffic analysis, share crash data from similar treatments in Thurston County, and debut the story map created as part of our outreach efforts: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/32d99b06e2e7479f927691642006d957>

We are also coordinating our outreach with Thurston County's Community Outreach Team, who recently endorsed the effort and requested the County logo be included in outreach materials going forward.

- **Bergkamp shared WSTA Q4 Board Meeting Highlights:**
 - Federal updates from WSTA's federal advocate and The Bus Coalition.
 - Reviewed state legislative outlook and WSTA 2026 priorities.
 - Took a tour of Mason Transit's multi-use transit center in downtown Shelton.
 - Received updates from WSDOT on Statewide Planning efforts, grants and community partnerships.
 - Took action on WSTA business items pertaining to the budget.
- **World Cup Planning** - Matches in 3 regions start June 11, 2026, and go through July 19, 2026. We are creating a budget on how we plan to spend WSDOT funding available to us as a Fan Zone so we can submit our plan prior to the timeline of 12/1. Possible plans include a combination of increased Express service June/July timeframe for regional games in Seattle and Vancouver, BC, and some elements of service for the local fan zone events planned at The Port of Olympia. WSDOT suggested we think of the expenditure plan as a budgetary document rather than a detailed account of every penny. We still have plenty of time to dial in what the service will look like.

Thurston County Chamber is the lead – Jennie Foglia-Jones is a consultant who is the POC. We've met once, and she confirmed last week she will send specific info regarding the public events planned at The Port so we can plan how best to support that. Details like where parking will be located for attendees if they plan to drive, etc. since our temporary service would likely serve the parking and event location.

Jennie recently hosted a family and friends' opportunity on November 9 for a beta test of the "SEA & WIN" app. Each Fan Zone city will feature its own tour on the app. This recent opportunity was to playtest the Olympia portion of the Olympia/Lacey tour. Participants took an hour-long walk through downtown to test the location markers, play a few games, take a few quizzes about their favorite Olympia businesses and locations, and shared feedback. We will very likely promote transit as a way folks can engage with various app activities. Jennie mentioned it's similar to how Pokémon Go works.

- **The Holiday Banquet is on Friday, December 5 – ITA and CAC are invited.**
- **Recent Federal Proposals** - On November 14, Politico published an article that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) advanced two proposals to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that significantly jeopardize public transit investment. First, DOT proposes to eliminate the Mass Transit Account (MTA) of the Highway Trust Fund and dedicate the current MTA tax revenues (2.86 cents per gallon of gasoline) to highway programs. This proposal would eliminate public transit's contract authority, which provides guaranteed funding for transit formula and other programs. Second, DOT proposes to prohibit States from using their Federal-aid highway funds for public transit investments. Under current law, States transfer more than \$1.5 billion per year from highway programs to transit investment. At this point, these DOT proposals are internal documents and not the Trump Administration's official position. Bergkamp will attend a meeting hosted by APTA to discuss DOT's proposals and APTA's response in more detail.

Federal advocate Dale Learn mentioned that leaders, including those in the House, Senate, and APTA, have panned the idea. We will certainly have to sign letters and talk about it, but he feels there's a good chance this will not come to pass.

Prepared November 20, 2025, Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board