

**Intercity Transit Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary**  
***A brief recap of March 4, 2026, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting***

**Wednesday night, the ITA:**

- Welcomed new ITA Board Member, Councilmember Eileen Swarthout from the City of Tumwater.
- Bid farewell to outgoing Board member, City of Tumwater Councilmember, Kelly Von Holtz.
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich to renew our legal services contract through March 31, 2027, and add a new Junior Associate. *(Jeff Peterson)*
- Declared 2006 Ford F250 Vehicle #1252 as surplus. *(Noelle Gordon)*

**Other Items of Interest:**

- Received an update from David Foster from Foster Government Relations and Joanna Grist from Grist Public Affairs, LLC about activities affecting public transportation in the Washington State Legislature.

**General Manager's Report**

- Wednesday, March 18 is National Transit Employee Appreciation Day. This annual celebration takes place across the transit industry to recognize and honor its workforce, specifically frontline employees, trades technicians, and essential workers who continuously strive to deliver vital transportation options that serve as a lifeline for our community.

Our Coach and Dial-A-Lift (DAL) Operators, Operations Supervisors, DAL Supervisors and Dispatch Specialists, Maintenance, Facilities and Inventory teams, Customer Service Representatives, Transit Ambassadors, Travel Trainers, Village Vans, Walk N' Roll, and Vanpool program staff go above and beyond to keep us moving. Our agency event planners have some fun ways to honor these Transit Heroes on March 18 and the surrounding days.

- Bergkamp met with Elissa Gertler, new Executive Director of the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), for a coffee meet and greet, discussing areas of collaboration and common interests regarding transit's role in regional planning.
- IT is currently recruiting for a Chief of Staff (COS), which was crafted to replace the budgeted FTE position of Director of Strategic Programs, previously held by retiree Eric Phillips. This role offers a unique opportunity to advance the Agency's mission and vision by promoting a unified framework for colleagues at all levels to understand their role in shaping the present and future success of Intercity Transit. The COS will play a pivotal role in supporting the development and sustainability of our robust, inclusive transit system that meets the evolving needs of our community.

Anyone interested should visit our website. Applicants need to include a letter of interest and a resume. Letters of interest should explain how candidates meet the skills and qualifications for this position. **Completed applications must be submitted in NEOGOV by 5 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.**

- **Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus** – the Musical is coming to the Olympia Family Theater! The driver in the show will look just like an Intercity Transit Operator, wearing one of our Operator uniforms. There will also be fun photo opportunities with the mini go-cart bus in their lobby space. We would love to fill the seats with IT employees, Board and CAC members and families to show our support for this amazing community organization! Ticket prices range from \$20-25, however, they offer a “pay what you can” showing on March 12. To purchase tickets and learn more about the show, please visit <https://olyft.org/pigeon-drive-the-bus/>.
- Development Director Peter Stackpole and Grants Program Manager Jessica Gould will provide an update on **IT's Martin Way/Duterrow Rd. Roundabout** project at TRPC's March 6 meeting and TPB's March 11 meeting.
- Bergkamp and Clerk to the Board Pat Messmer worked with Chief Marketing & External Relations Officer Nick Demerice to create a plan for informing the public about the ITA's meeting frequency change. After the March 18 ITA meeting, there will be a press release to share with The Olympian and The JOLT announcing the change, information on our website and social media outlets, Rider News in March and April, information shared through GovDelivery, and signage posted at public building entrances in case members of the public show up the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in April or subsequent months.
- The following information and outreach tabling events are planned this month to share information about the May 3 Redesign:
  - March 12 from 9:30 to 11:30 am at OTC
  - March 18 from 9 to 11 am at LTC
  - March 20 from 9 to 11:30 am at Olympia Senior Center
  - March 21 from 11 am to 1 pm at Capital Mall

There will be more opportunities in April, and the real crunch time the week before and the week of May 4. Anyone interested in helping can email Lyndzie Parker at [lparker@intercitytransit.com](mailto:lparker@intercitytransit.com).

- Development Project Coordinator Thera Black prepared two WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant (RMG) “pre-applications.” This is the eligibility round of RMG with final detailed proposals due in June. The project concepts are:
  - Smart Corridors Cloud-Based TSP Implementation – heavy lifting on the proposal by Development Director Peter Stackpole
  - Lacey Transit Center Expansion to support future improvements to the May 3 Redesign
- WSDOT informed IT the amount of funding we will receive for our e-bike lending library was increased, allowing for an increase in number of e-bikes from 10 to 20 (along with all supporting accessories, tools, equipment, etc.) and adds hours and benefits to the new position for the staff selected to run the program. Washington is the only state with a statewide e-bike lending library program. Intercity Transit was one of six other approved projects:

- King County – for employees + ownership routes
  - City of Lacey – for employees + ownership routes
  - Intercity Transit – for employees (Olympia/Lacey/Tumwater – Thurston County)
  - SNOTRAC – for community (multi-site Snohomish County)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle – for community (multi-site, Tacoma/Pierce)
  - Bike Clark County – for community (Vancouver, Clark County + ownership routes)
- Bergkamp shared a heroic story about the morning of February 26, when Operator Mona Lintz witnessed a young child, approximately 4-5 years old, walking alone on 22nd Avenue, about a quarter mile from Lacey Elementary School. A man flagged down the bus, informing Mona that the child was alone and unresponsive to his attempts to help. Mona's quick thinking and swift actions were nothing short of heroic. She secured the bus and attempted to coax the child, who continued walking in the roadway as oncoming traffic came around the parked bus. Mona ran after the child, catching up with them around the corner. She carried the child back to the bus and safely secured them just before law enforcement arrived. Mona called Dispatch after this event as she prioritized the child's safety first. Mona's actions were truly amazing!

*Prepared March 5, 2026, Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*