

**PIERCE TRANSIT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Walker called the regular board meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

John Hines, City of Tacoma Councilmember
Ryan Mello, Pierce County Councilmember
John Palmer, City of Puyallup Councilmember (representing Puyallup and Edgewood)
Kim Roscoe, Mayor of Fife (*representing Fife/Milton/Pacific/Auburn/Gig Harbor
Ruston/Steilacoom*)
Kristina Walker, Vice Chair of the Board, City of Tacoma Councilmember
Jason Whalen, City of Lakewood Mayor

Commissioners excused:

Marty Campbell, Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember
Kent Keel, City of University Councilmember (*representing University Place and
Fircrest*)
Victoria Woodards, Mayor of the City of Tacoma

Staff present:

Mike Griffus, Chief Executive Officer
Chris Schuler, Chief Financial Officer
Grantley Martelly, Chief Operating Officer
Deanne Jacobson, Clerk of the Board
Brittany Carbullido, Assistant to the CEO/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Aaron Millstein, Counsel from K&L Gates

OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Vice Chair Walker welcomed board members, staff, and citizens to the meeting and provided attendees with instructions for meeting participation.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Honoring Vasili Kamliuk for Operator of the Month for August 2022; presentation by Transportation Assistant Manager Scott Gaines

Mr. Gaines honored Operator Vasili Kamliuk being selected Operator of the Month for August 2022. He detailed his contributions and strong work ethic that support earning this achievement. He noted that Mr. Kamliuk has been an operator since 2021, excels in customer service, has outstanding attendance, and provides safe, outstanding service.

Operator Kamliuk thanked Pierce Transit personnel and expressed that he is happy to join the Pierce Transit team and it is a great pleasure to be part of Pierce Transit.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Vice Chair Walker congratulated Mr. Kamliuk for this notable achievement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Walker provided participation instructions to the public and opened public comment. No public comments were provided and public comment was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Items listed below were distributed to Commissioners in advance for reading and study and are enacted with one motion. Item(s) may be moved to the Action Agenda at the request of a commissioner.)

Commissioners Roscoe and Hines **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, August 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022
Operating Fund #10
Self-Insurance Fund #40
Capital Fund #90
Payment Nos. 378957 through 379177
Wire Nos. 11243 through 11537
No Advance Travel Checks
Total \$16,795,736.59
2. Approval of Minutes: August 8, 2022, regular board meeting.
3. FS 2022-044, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into and Execute a Multi-Year Contract with Gene's Towing, Inc., (Contract No. 1480) for Vehicle Towing and Recovery Services, in the Amount of \$450,000.

ACTION AGENDA

1. **FS 2022-045, Approval of Resolution No. 2022-10 Adopting the 2022-2027 Transit Development Plan (TDP) as Presented in Exhibit A;** presentation by Amber Stanley, Community Development Supervisor

The Board received an overview of the purpose and key elements of the TDP. It was noted that no public comments were received on the Plan.

Vice Chair Walker advised that today's presentation is a follow up from the one given at the August 8, 2022, Board meeting.

Commissioners Roscoe and Hines **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2022-010, adopting the 2022-2027 Transit Development Plan as presented in Exhibit A.

Motion **carried**, 6-0.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Honoring Representative Mari Leavitt, Representative Dan Bronoske, and Senator T’wina Nobles, for Their Transit Support and Advocacy in Pierce County During the 2022 State Legislative Session and for Being True Champions of Transit for the Pierce County Region; presentation by Alex Mather, Government Relations Administrator

Representative Mari Leavitt, Representative Dan Bronoske and Senator T’wina Nobles were honored for their advocacy and support of transit in Pierce County during the 2022 State Legislative Session. A representative from Senator Nobles’ office along with Representatives Leavitt and Bronoske were presented with trophies in appreciation for their efforts and support.

Various commissioners thanked the representatives for their support and advocacy for transit.

Ms. Mather reported that Representative Fey and Senator Liias will be honored at the October 10 board meeting. They could not attend today’s meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

1. CEO’S Report

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following items:

- Reported on the successful rollout of the Free Youth Transit Pass Program.
- Updated the Board on the September 18 Service Change, noting that about two dozen Pierce Transit routes will see adjustments to their weekday schedules, and a handful more to their Saturday/Sunday schedules. There will be some several adjustments to Sound Transit routes as well.
- Announced that the next step in the new ORCA rollout is an expansion of the ORCA retail network. The expansion is expected to increase the number of retail locations from 120 to 250.
- Advised that Pierce Transit’s fourth “Runner” micro-transit services was launched and will serve the Spanaway, Parkland, and Midland areas with an emphasis of service to those who have special needs or mobility issues.
- Reported that the agency graduated a class of 13 transit operator trainees on September 6, and that a new class of 26 trainees started today.
- The FTA awarded Pierce Transit a \$3.7 million Low-No grant to purchase three electric buses, three charging stations, and employee electric bus training. He spoke about the competitive nature for this grant process.

- Reported that staff is working through an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) matter with the City of Tacoma.
- Addressed a rumor that the BRT project has slipped to 2028 and noted that the project is still on track for revenue service in 2027.

Vice Chair Walker thanked Pierce Transit staff for implementing the Free Youth Transit Pass program, noting it was a heavy lift.

CEO Griffus responded to questions relating to the Free Youth Transit Pass program and whether ORCA passes will be sold at the SEATAC airport.

2. Update on Major Service Change; presentation by Lindsey Sehmel, Principal Planner – Scheduling

Ms. Sehmel provided an overview of the service cuts by route that were initiated in 2021 and continue to exist due to the labor shortage. She noted that pursuant to Pierce Transit Code Section 1.60.010 any Major Service Change lasting longer than 12 months shall undergo a public process and equity analysis. She advised that the service adjustments take into consideration equity, regional access, and route performance.

Ms. Sehmel reported that although new operator hiring trends look promising, the agency does not believe that service will be restored in 2023. She noted that next steps will include a public hearing on the impacts/Title VI analysis of the service cuts scheduled for the October 10, 2022, board meeting, followed by formal adoption scheduled for the November 14, 2022, board meeting.

Commissioner Mello expressed that the Board does not want to see these service cuts and inquired whether the Route 1 needed to be included in these service adjustments. Ms. Sehmel noted that the Route 1 with the adjustments still has the best frequency, and it is a high need route. She responded to questions about the agency's service and confirmed that the agency's best frequency rate is 30 minutes.

CEO Griffus also stated that the agency does not expect the operator shortage to be restored by March 2023. Nine out of ten agencies are experiencing operator shortages. He noted that staff is working on developing retention bonuses and the starting wage has been increased for new operators, which the Board will need to approve. The agency hopes that the operator shortage will be improved by September 2023.

INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS

1. Chair's Report

Vice Chair Walker reported on the following items:

- The Board Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2022, from 1- 5 p.m.

2. Sound Transit Update

- Vice Chair Walker reported that Julie Timms, Sound Transit's new CEO, starts at the end of the month, and suggested that she be scheduled for a tour of the Pierce Transit campus.

3. Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update

Commissioner Mello announced that the four-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is out for public comment, noting that the TIP is a conglomeration of transit plans of all four counties. The Transportation Policy Board is expected to approve the TIP next month. He noted that at the last meeting the majority of time was spent on implementation of the TIP and that the elements of the Plan include, but are not limited to, safety, equity, and climate.

Commissioner Mello also reported that Vice Chair Walker is one two members representing Pierce County who are serving on a workgroup to discuss how FTA funds can be allocated in a more equitable way. The group is expected to conclude by Thanksgiving.

4. Commissioners' Comments

No comments were provided.

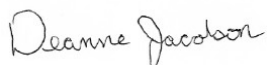
EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Mello and Hines **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 6-0.



Deanne Jacobson
Clerk of the Board



Vice Chair Walker
Board of Commissioners