

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

October 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Campbell called the regular board meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioners excused:

John Palmer, Deputy Mayor for City of Puyallup (representing Puyallup and Edgewood)
Jason Whalen, City of Lakewood Mayor

Staff present:

Mike Griffus, Chief Executive Officer
Chris Schuler, Chief Financial Officer
Deanne Jacobson, Clerk of the Board
Brittany Carbullido, Assistant to the CEO/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Aaron Millstein, Counsel

OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Honoring Alin Vintila for Operator of the Month for September 2022

Transportation Assistant Manager Docc Howard honored Alin Vintila for being selected Operator of the Month for September 2022, He detailed his contributions and work ethic by expressing that Mr. Vintila carries himself with high integrity and honor, provides stellar customer service to passengers, and commits various acts of kindness when people aren't watching. He shared a story about Mr. Vintila helping an unattended seven-year-old child at a transit center.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Campbell congratulated Mr. Vintila and commended him for his honorable service.

Mr. Vintila expressed his appreciation and thanks for receiving the award.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Honoring Representative Jake Fey and Senator Marko Lias for Being True Champions of Transit for the Pierce County Region

Government Relations Administrator Alexandra Mather honored Representative Jake Fey and Senator Marko Lias for being strong transit advocates in Pierce County. She reported that through their efforts, Pierce Transit will receive approximately \$7.7 million a year in funding for approximately 16 years for the Free Fares for Youth Program. Ms. Mather expressed that Pierce Transit is honored to have their support and presented both individuals with a trophy. (*Commissioner Keel arrived at 4:11 p.m.*) (*Commissioner Woodards arrived at 4:34 p.m.*)

Representative Fey expressed his appreciation for receiving the award and remarked that this funding package was historical and transformative. He credited Senator Lias for coming up with the idea of providing free transit rides to youth in hopes that it achieves attracting more riders and developing a generation that will grow up utilizing transit.

Senator Lias expressed appreciation for receiving the award and remarked that he is impressed with Pierce Transit for always coming to the table for transit matters. He thanked Representative Fey for his advocacy and concern for mobility matters in Pierce County.

Adoption of Resolution No. 2022-011, Commemorating Representative Jake Fey, Representative Mari Leavitt, Representative Dan Bronoske, Senator T’wina Nobles, and Senator Marko Lias 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

Chair Campbell announced that transit champions Representative Mari Leavitt, Representative Dan Bronoske, and Senator T’wina Nobles were honored at the September 12, 2022. He thanked Representative Fey and Senator Lias for their work on this significant funding package.

The floor was opened to the commissioners, who expressed their thanks and appreciation for their transit advocacy and support and for securing significant funding for transit.

Commissioners Roscoe and Walker **moved** and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2022-011, commemorating Representative Jake Fey, Representative Mari Leavitt, Representative Dan Bronoske, Senator T’wina Nobles, and Senator Marko Lias 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.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

2. Review of Draft 2023 Federal and State Legislative Priorities

Government Relations Administrator Alexandra Mather reviewed the proposed State priorities proposed for 2023 and highlighted the agency's areas of focus as follows:

- Public Safety and Behavioral Health
- Changing the laws so that Public Transportation Benefit Areas (PTBA's) can operate as a "limited authority Washington law enforcement agency" if they choose to do so
- Grant funds to support the Maintenance and Base Operations and Improvements (MOBI) project
- Funds to support transitioning to zero emissions including investments in fueling infrastructure, battery storage, bus fleet, and support and vanpool vehicles
- Allow PTBA's to sell hydrogen
- Community partnerships that support housing projects for all income levels and transit-oriented development

The focus areas of the proposed 2023 Federal priorities included the following:

- Funding for the MOBI project
- Funding to support transitioning to Zero Emissions fleet, including the extension of the Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit and improving the grid system to carry out Zero Emissions goals
- Funding to support public safety
- Policies that support expanding microtransit and other innovative mobility solutions
- Legislative changes that would support transit service to federal lands and personnel, such as Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Several commissioners noted their support for various priorities and offered their support to leverage partnerships where needed to maximize funding.

Commissioner Keel encouraged staff to pursue funding and to partner with the Association of Washington Cities and the National League of Cities, where possible, to maximize funding.

Ms. Mather reported that the 2023 legislative priorities are scheduled for adoption at the November 14, 2022, board meeting and advised the commissioners that she is open to receive suggestions and input.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Campbell provided participation instructions to the public and opened public comment.

- Josh [last name inaudible. Comment provided during the public hearing] – lives along Highway 7 and the BRT 1 Corridor, inquired if the BRT Plans on the agency’s website are current and recommended that the agency refer to the BRT Pacific Avenue/SR-7 project using consistent terminology.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Major Service Change from the Service Reductions Implemented in 2021 to Routes 1, 11, and 16

Principal Planner Lindsey Sehmel presented on the item and reported that the service cuts were implemented in 2021 due to the labor shortage and the COVID-19 pandemic will extend past 12 months and meet the definition per Pierce Transit’s code of a Major Service Change. She advised that the agency was unable to recover enough operators to restore service to these routes.

Next steps will include an equity analysis of the service reduction at the November 14, 2022, board meeting.

Chair Campbell provided instructions for how to provide comment during the public hearing and opened the public hearing at 4:55 p.m.

No comments relating to the Major Service Change were provided.

Chair Campbell closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hines reported that the Proctor Area Plan has begun. Comments reveal that the neighborhood would like to see more transit service.

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 Keel and Walker **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, September 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022
Operating Fund #10
Self-Insurance Fund #40
Capital Fund #90
Payment Nos. 379178 through 379349
Wire Nos. 11538 through 11809
No Advance Travel Checks
Total \$8,372,782.33

2. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2022, regular board meeting; September 15, 2022, special retreat meeting
3. Third Quarter Contract Executed Over \$100,000 and Sole Source Report
4. FS 2022-046, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute a multi-year contract with MXTreality, Contract No. 1489, in the amount of \$319,105.20 to provide maintenance and support to the virtual reality training program
5. FS 2022-047, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute a six-month contract extension with Conduent Transportation Solutions, Inc., (Contract No. 1140) in the amount of \$201,152 to provide continued Hardware and Software Support to Pierce Transit's current legacy CAD/AVL system until the new CAD/AVL system is fully implemented, for a new contract amount of \$1,074,632

ACTION AGENDA

[Executive Director of Administration Amy Cleveland provided one presentation for items 1-3 on the agenda.]

- 1. FS 2022-048, Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between Agreement Between Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 758 and Pierce Transit to Allow a One Time Distribution of Retention Bonus Payments to Eligible ATU Employees**

Ms. Cleveland presented on items 1-3 of the agenda and reminded the commissioners that the retention bonuses were discussed at the board retreat as a strategy to address the ongoing labor shortage. She reviewed the proposed retention bonus structures for the ATU and IAM unions, and for the non-Represented employees, noting that the bonuses are a one-time bonus She advised the cost is covered in the 2022 budget. She also reported that the agency has increased its hiring wage for new employees, provided hazard pay to certain groups, and implemented recruitment incentives.

Commissioners Walker and Mello **moved** and seconded to approve the MOAs between the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 758 and Pierce Transit to allow a one-time distribution of retention bonus payments to eligible ATU employees pursuant to the terms of the MOAs presented in Exhibits A and B.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

- 2. FS 2022-049, Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between International Association of Machinists (IAM) and Pierce Transit to Allow a One-Time Distribution of Retention Bonus Payments to Eligible IAM Employees**

Commissioners Walker and Mello **moved** and seconded to approve the MOA between the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and Pierce Transit to allow a one-time distribution of retention bonus payments to eligible IAM employees pursuant to the terms of the MOA presented in Exhibit A.

Motion carried, 7.0.

3. FS 2022-050, Authority to Distribute Retention Bonus Payments to Non-Represented Employees

Commissioners Keel and Walker moved and seconded to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to distribute a one-time retention bonus to eligible Non-Represented Employees as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

4. FS 2022-051, Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Increase the Contract Authority Amount for Absher Construction Company, Contract No.1087, for the Planned and Budgeted Fuel and Wash Building Internet Connectivity Infrastructure to Connect to Existing Pierce Transit Systems

Sr. Construction Project Manager Brian Matthews presented on the item and gave an overview of the project. He noted that initially staff thought they could provide this work in-house, but due to the complexity of the project and current staffing levels, staff is requesting that the agency's contractor perform the critical infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Matthews responded to various questions about the scope of the project and projected costs.

Commissioners Roscoe and Keel expressed that they are not comfortable with the scope of work for this project in relationship to the cost and are not comfortable with how MOBI items come before the Board for additional funding.

CEO Griffus and CFO Schuler provided comments that ensured the proposed project is within scope. CFO Schuler advised staff will return near the end of Q1 2023 to include more detail about the MOBI project costs.

The Board deferred making a decision on this item and requested that staff to return at the next board meeting with additional information about the project scope. Upon inquiry, Mr. Matthews reported that delaying approval of this project would most likely delay equipment delivery, noting that equipment lead time is extremely long for the type of equipment needed.

CEO Griffus noted that he is comfortable delaying this item until the next board meeting and he is happy to meet with those who would like more information.

5. FS 2022-052, Authority to Purchase up to Twenty-four (24) Replacement Vanpool Vehicles Utilizing Washington State DES Contract No. 05916 and/or Contract No. 13022

Warranty Coordinator Brenda Lacey presented on the item, noting that the new vehicles will replace the vehicles that passed their useful life.

Commissioners Woodards and Keel **moved** and seconded to authorize the purchase of up to twenty-four (24) replacement vanpool vans utilizing the Washington State DES Contract No. 05916 and/or Contract No. 13022 in an amount not to exceed \$1,453,062.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

6. FS 2022-053, Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Increase the Contract Authority Amount with the City of Tacoma, Contract No. 1102, for Plan Review of the Bus Rapid Transit Pacific Avenue/State Route 7 Corridor Project

Sr. Construction Project Manager Sean Robertson presented on the item, noting that this amendment is budgeted and will cover costs for initial utility engineering provided by Tacoma Power and Water to relocate hundreds of power poles and water services for proposed roadway widening. The amendment amount is expected to cover the 60 percent design plan review until the City Services Agreement is in place.

Additional project review costs are expected to be incurred as the project progresses and these costs will be addressed in a separate City Services Agreement that will be ready in summer 2023.

Commissioners Walker and Keel **moved** and seconded to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the contract authority amount by \$500,000 with the City of Tacoma, Contract No. 1102, for Plan Review of the Bus Rapid Transit Pacific Avenue/State Route 7 Corridor Project for a new authorized contract amount of \$800,000.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

1. 2022 Q3 BRT Update

[The full report is attached to minutes.]

CEO Griffus reported that there is a lot of partner coordination going on with this project. He recommended that the agency be flexible with the start point of the project, recommending that the project be started from the north end if need be. The project is on track with construction scheduled to begin in 2024.

2. CEO'S Report

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following items:

- Spanaway Transit Center Groundbreaking event was a success.
- Ridership is up from 2021.
- Reported on a positive meeting he and CFO Schuler had with the Federal Transportation Administration about the TIFIA loan, confirming that the loan funds will be able to help with the MOBI project.

INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS

1. Chair's Report

Chair Campbell reported on the following items:

- The next Service Delivery and Capital Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.
- There is a study session meeting scheduled for November 14, 2022, beginning at 3:00 p.m. to review the 2023 proposed budget and to receive an overview of the agency's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE) program.
- Expressed his condolences to Commissioner Roscoe and City of Fife staff for the tragic passing of Deputy City Manager Russ Blount.
- Expressed condolences for the recent passing of citizen Frank Blair and commended him for his transit advocacy. He requested that Pierce Transit reach out to his family and advised that Pierce Transit will continue to be a strong mobility provider to members of Mr. Blair's family.
- Directed staff to add an Indigenous People's Land Acknowledgement to the board agenda as a standing item of business beginning with next board meeting.

2. Sound Transit Update

Commissioner Keel reported that Sound Transit's new CEO Julie Timm has taken the reigns as of September 27. She attended her first board meeting, and she appears to be inclusive and dedicated to improving the experience of the rider and with operations and the agency focuses on transitioning from a capital agency to an operational agency. He reported the Sound Transit Board is excited to have her.

Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update

Commissioner Mello reported that the work to come before the PSRC Transportation Policy Board at their next meeting will entail adoption of the four-year regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) along with a legislative agenda briefing.

He discussed the work that the FTA Funding Working Group members have been engaged with in trying to develop a new FTA funding formula that is more equitable, noting that Pierce Transit only receives approximately 5.2 percent of the funding. He reiterated that grant monies can only be spent on capital projects, but every dollar that Pierce Transit does not have to spend on capital can be spent on operations for additional service. He expressed that lower opportunity communities need access to these funding dollars.

3. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Roscoe commended Commissioner Mello for his efforts in trying to develop a more equitable formula for the distribution of FTA funds, noting that it is hard work, and he is doing tough work on behalf of Pierce Transit.

She thanked Chair Campbell and staff for acknowledging the death of Russ Blount. She expressed that it was hard for her to not advance FS 2022-051 today but believes that it needed to be done.

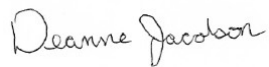
EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Walker and Keel **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.



Deanne Jacobson
Clerk of the Board



Marty Campbell, Chair
Board of Commissioners

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Mike Griffus, CEO

DATE: September 27, 2022

SUBJECT: 3rd Quarter BRT Update

Project Status

The BRT project is moving forward at a steady pace. The project team and partners are working to complete the traffic impact analysis and we are edging closer to partner sign off the build model results. Optimization modeling is occurring concurrently.

FTA Update

The Pierce Transit team updated FTA leadership in August on the new project cost of \$241.4M and of our intention to request additional CIG funding to bridge the approx. \$43M gap that currently exists. We are holding a monthly meeting with FTA representatives to brief them on our overall progress and are planning to ask for a re-rating of the project in 2023.

I continue to meet regularly with FTA staff members Jeremy Borrego, Linda Gehrke, and Susan Fletcher to discuss the project. Their feedback has been positive.

Cost Projections

Controlling the overall cost of the project is of utmost importance to our team. There are several areas of concern as we move forward. One of the most pressing is unforeseen conditions the project may encounter when entering construction. These could include underground obstacles that are not apparent, such as unused tanks or utilities, hazardous materials, and/or soil or water conditions.

Another area that we are watching closely is mitigation costs. Base modeling has shown that the corridor becomes incredibly congested by 2030 and beyond. The build model results demonstrate that the project does have some impact at intersections in the form of general purpose traffic delays in 2030 and 2045. The delays range from twelve seconds at S. 50th St. to approximately two and a half minutes at 96th St. in 2045. The intersection at 112th and Pacific has been identified as a major pinch point that contributes to slow downs further up the corridor. We are working closely with partners to identify what mitigation measures will be required from the agency given the existing issues on SR-7.

The project has a total contingency budget of 27% to help address these factors.



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We received good news from WSDOT that may assist with controlling project costs. WSDOT has a paving and safety project south of 121st on SR 7 and those projects are subject to the agency's new Complete Streets requirement. While WSDOT has not done any community engagement yet to determine the scope of the complete streets elements, intersection and non-motorized improvements are expected in order to make the corridor more comfortable and safer for all users. The project will likely bring a sizable investment to the corridor above and beyond the cost to resurface this segment of SR 7. On a related note, a roundtable meeting regarding corridor safety will be held at the Sprinker Recreation Center on October 7 and elected officials are also planning a tour off the corridor.

Transit Travel Time Savings

When the project kicked off in 2019, the transit travel time savings from BRT was estimated to be between 20-22 minutes. Data from recent modeling exercises show that the time savings is closer to 17-19 minutes. The change in estimated transit time savings can be attributed to several factors. One key reason is that the amount of exclusive and semi exclusive transit lanes has been reduced from 4 miles to 2.6 miles and 1.6 miles to .7 miles, respectively. These reductions are due to the changes below:

- To minimize business impacts and control project costs, an exclusive transit median lane was removed from 52nd through 56th street. As you may recall, a roundabout was sought by the city at this location, which would have added additional cost and delays to the project. It's likely a roundabout would have also resulted in at least two business closures. Because of the congestion at this intersection, the removal of this dedicated median lane had the greatest impact on transit travel time savings.
- Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes were removed from 138th to 146th. Because the roundabouts at these locations already keep traffic flowing, the transit time savings from BAT lanes would have been minimal.
- An exclusive transit median lane was removed from 56th through 96th St. Several intersections, including 72nd, are in areas where the right of way width narrows down to 80' from the more typical 100'. In addition, since Pacific Ave and 72nd is considered a business district, code requires full 12' wide sidewalks and a planter strip. This would have resulted in needing to acquire and remove a large portion of the Fred Meyer parking lot. Overall, the team decided that the minimal transit travel time savings from the original design did not outweigh the costs the project would have incurred from property acquisitions in this section of the corridor.

Beyond the removal of exclusive and semi exclusive transit lanes, it's worth noting that the data used to create the transit travel time savings estimate in 2019 was preliminary. We have gained a greater understanding of the challenges to transit and their effects on travel time as our modeling exercises have progressed.

Property Acquisition Projections 2019 vs. 2022

In 2019, when the project was at 1% design, we estimated that 142 partial property acquisitions would be needed. Now, at nearly 60% design, the number has increased to 208. Lane widths, offsets, sidewalk and planter widths are all now confirmed, but they are slightly wider than what was assumed in 2019. The cumulative addition of these widths requires more partial acquisitions to

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bring the corridor up to standard. The team has not identified any full property acquisitions that are needed at this time. Projections may be adjusted as we move toward finalizing the complete design.

Project Outreach Plan

On September 19, Pierce Transit Planning and Communications staff met with the project team to begin development of an updated outreach plan. A key component of the updated plan will be to refresh the agency's BRT website. In addition, staff will develop communication tools such as mailers and social media advertisements, as well as implement a direct outreach campaign to property owners along the corridor. Another plan will be created for when the project enters the construction phase, which will present unique challenges. I look forward to providing you with additional details on this as our team solidifies their strategy.