

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

December 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Campbell called the regular board meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Mike Griffus, Chief Executive Officer
Deanne Jacobson, Clerk of the Board
Brittany Carbullido, Assistant to the CEO/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Aaron Millstein, General Counsel from K&L Gates

OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Clerk Jacobson announced that no written comments were received for public comment today.

There were no public comments provided or received 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 Walker and Palmer **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, November 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021
Operating Fund #10
Self-Insurance Fund #40
Capital Fund #90
Payment Nos. 377217 through 377369
Wire Nos. 8956 through 9176
No Advance Travel Checks
Total \$6,979,854.00
2. Approval of Minutes: November 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting; November 19, 2021 Special Board Meeting.
3. FS 2021-066, Approved Resolution No. 2021-017, adopting the 2022 Federal and State Legislative Priorities in substantially the same form as presented in Exhibits A and B.
4. FS 2021-067, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Vehicle Use Agreement as presented in Exhibit A (Contract No. 1282) to allow West Pierce Fire and Rescue to utilize a 15-passenger van to transport fire academy recruits, trainers, and firefighters to various training sites from December 15, 2021 through July 1, 2022.
5. FS 2021-068, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract No. 1341 with PC Specialists, Inc., dba Technology Integration Group (TIG) to purchase 147 CradlePoint Routers with a six-year NetCloud Mobile Performance Essentials Plan for a total not to exceed amount of \$285,258.21.
6. FS 2021-069, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to accept the Special Needs Consolidated Grant awarded by WSDOT to expand microtransit services to additional zones, such as in the Spanaway-Midland-Parkland area.

ACTION AGENDA

1. **FS 2021-070, Adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 with attendant wage adjustments and approval of 981 positions as presented in Exhibit A.**

Executive Director of Finance Brett Freshwaters presented on the item and noted the Board received a full presentation on the proposed budget at previous meetings and there have not been any changes to the proposed budget. He gave a high-level overview of the ending fund balances and announced that the budget is sustainable over the next six years and includes a 3 percent Cost of Living Assistance for non-represented employees.

Commissioner Keel affirmed that the Board has reviewed the proposed budget a few times and staff has answered the Board's questions relating to the budget.

Commissioners Keel and Palmer **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2021-018, adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 with attendant wage adjustments and approval of 981 positions as presented in Exhibit A.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

2. **FS 2021-075, Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 758, for the period covering January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 in Substantially the Same Form as Presented in Exhibit A.**

Executive Director of Administration Amy Cleveland presented on the item and noted that the parties have been bargaining since January 2021 that the agreement was ratified by the ATU membership on December 9, 2021.

ATU President Isaac Tate addressed the Board and expressed that these union negotiations have been the most difficult in his 27-year career and he attributes it to Covid, reduced revenue, and high inflation costs. He thanked members of the union leadership and CEO Griffus and Ms. Cleveland for their leadership and efforts to in reaching an agreement.

CEO Griffus and Ms. Cleveland thanked the union for their partnership and thanked President Tate for his (*Commissioner Woodards joined the meeting at 4:16 p.m.*) service.

CEO Griffus thanked the bargaining teams on both sides and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Cleveland and President Tate for their work in reaching an agreement.

Commissioners Whalen and Walker **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2021-020, authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 758, for the period covering January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 in substantially the same form as presented in Exhibit A.

Motion **carried**, 9-0.

3. **FS 2021-071, Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute Interlocal Agreement No. 1298 with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department to provide Law Enforcement Services pursuant to the terms and conditions described in Exhibit A from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, for a not to exceed amount of \$3,742,911.**

CEO Griffus presented on the item and indicated that this item is before the Board today because the Pierce County Sheriff's Department issued a cancellation notice to the current law enforcement contract earlier this year. He noted that the proposed agreement will serve as an interim solution until a new policing model is put in place. CEO Griffus advised that a study session will be held in February 2022 to review a new policing model, which will include an ambassador program.

Commissioner Keel inquired about how Pierce Transit can ensure that Pierce County can provide law enforcement services given the staffing shortage.

CEO Griffus reported that he is confident that Pierce County will be able to provide the service level outlined in the contract and Pierce Transit will also utilize services from other law enforcement agencies.

Commissioners Keel and Whalen **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2021-019, authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute Interlocal Agreement No. 1298 with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department to provide Law Enforcement Services pursuant to the terms and conditions described in Exhibit A from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, for a not to exceed amount of \$3,742,911.

Motion **carried**, 9-0.

4. **FS 2021-072, Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Increase the Contract Spending Authority Amount with Top2Bottom Janitorial Services (Contract No. 1145) in the Amount of \$408,084 to Provide Bus Sanitation Services at Pierce Transit's Lakewood Bus Lot due to COVID 19 Through December 31, 2022, for a total not to exceed contract amount of \$877,351.**

Executive Director of Maintenance Adam Davis presented on the item and reported that due to the continual upswing in Covid cases, staff recommends continuing with the cleaning services through December 2022.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Davis reviewed the contract history with the vendor.

Commissioners Roscoe and Palmer **moved** and seconded to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the contract spending authority amount with Top2Bottom Janitorial Services (Contract No. 1145) in the amount of \$408,084 to provide bus sanitation services at Pierce Transit's Lakewood Bus Lot due to COVID 19 through December 31, 2022, for a total not to exceed contract amount of \$877,351.

Motion **carried**, 9-0.

5. **FS 2021-073, Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the authorized total contract not to exceed amount by \$100,000 with WSDOT, Contract No. JC 1446, for Project Review of the Bus Rapid Transit Pacific Avenue/State Route 7 Corridor Project for a new Authorized Total Contract not to Exceed Amount of \$300,000.**

Senior Construction Project Manager Sean Robertson presented on the item and noted that the additional monies requested are due to challenges relating to the Traffic Impact Analysis work and unforeseen permitting efforts to align WDDOT and City of Tacoma standards, which have been discussed with the board at previous meetings.

Mr. Robertson reported that next year Pierce Transit will need a new contract with WSDOT for construction services in late 2022 and the contract is estimated to cost around \$1 million.

Commissioners Keel and Roscoe **moved** and seconded to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the authorized total contract not to exceed amount by \$100,000 with WSDOT, Contract No. JC 1446, for Project Review of the Bus Rapid Transit Pacific Avenue/State Route 7 Corridor Project for a new authorized total contract not to exceed amount of \$300,000.

Motion **carried**, 9-0.

6. FS 2021-074, Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the contract authority not to exceed amount by \$100,000 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 Total Contract not to exceed Amount of \$300,000

Senior Construction Project Manager Sean Robertson presented on the item and requested a new authorized amount for City of Tacoma to complete its work on the BRT project. He reminded the commissioners that they were briefed on the project challenges with regards to the Traffic Impact Analysis at the September 30, 2021, Study Session as well as other project challenges. This expenditure is a direct result of the challenges discussed and relate to unforeseen permitting efforts to align WSDOT and City of Tacoma standards.

Mr. Robertson reported that additional project review costs are expected to be incurred as the project progresses and these costs will be addressed in separate agreements in the summer/fall of 2022 and are expected to cost roughly \$8 million.

Commissioner Whalen inquired what role will the City of Tacoma have in assisting with improvements such as streetscapes.

Mr. Robertson noted that the City of Tacoma has showed interest in helping with improvements on 56th, but there is no firm commitment on this matter as of yet.

CEO Griffus reported that the City of Tacoma is trying to find grants for the project and is trying to help.

Commissioner Keel expressed that he is not comfortable with how the project is going with the City of Tacoma and that the two agencies have not worked well together on the project and have not penciled which partner will pay for what. He expressed his appreciation to CEO Griffus for his efforts to keep this project moving forward.

Commissioner Woodards expressed that the City of Tacoma staff is aware of the priority of this project and noted that she feels that both agencies are working to overcome the challenges that were present at the beginning of the project.

Commissioners Keel and Whalen **moved** and seconded to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to increase the contract authority not to exceed amount by \$100,000 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 total contract not to exceed amount of \$300,000.

Motion carried, 9-0.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Honoring Commissioner Woodards for Serving as Chair of the Pierce Transit Board from July 2019 to June 2021

On behalf of the Board, Chair Campbell expressed thanks and appreciation to Commissioner Woodards for service as chair of the board from July 2019 through June 2021, emphasizing that her leadership helped navigate the agency through the challenges of Covid, virtual meetings, CEO search and recruitment process, and was instrumental in keeping the meetings on track.

Commissioner Woodards was presented with a personalized gavel for her service.

The floor was open to the commissioners for comment and Commissioner Woodards received many commendations from her peers relating to the leadership, grace, compassion, and enthusiasm qualities that she brings to the table.

Commissioner Woodards noted that she is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Pierce Transit Board and she has appreciated serving alongside Chair Campbell. She expressed that she has always been a transit advocate but now she knows even more about transit and looks forward to four more years on the Board. She thanked past board members for their service.

2. Recognizing Commissioner Beale for his Service on the Pierce Transit Board

Commissioner Beale was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Pierce Transit backpack for his service on the Pierce Transit Board from February 2021 to present and recognized for his contributions of serving on the Executive Finance Committee and participating in thoughtful discussion about matters relating to mobility needs for the citizens of Pierce County.

The floor was open to the commissioners for comment and Commissioner Beale received commendations from his peers relating to his knowledge about transit and passion for transit advocacy.

Commissioner Beale expressed that he was touched by the comments today and stated that he feels that the right people are on this board. He talked about the importance that development be created around transit and expressed his appreciation to the board members and staff.

STAFF UPDATES

1. CEO'S Report

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following items:

- Pierce Transit was the recipient of the AWC Well City Award, which saves the agency between \$200,000-\$300,000 in insurance premiums. He thanked staff for participating in wellness events and activities.
- Pierce Transit's vaccination rate has increased 51 percent since the vaccine incentive was implemented. Pierce Transit continues to monitor information relating to the Vaccination Mandate and will be extending the \$200 incentive through the end of the year. The Federal Government has extended mask wearing requirements on buses and bus facilities through March 18, 2022.
- Pierce Transit is in the process of recruiting for a new Executive Director of Finance. There appears to be eight good candidates out of a pool of 35 candidates.
- The new Chief Operating Officer Rafeh Haidar will start January 3, 2022 and the Board will meet him next month.
- Shared a good news story about a joint venture partnership that was formed to develop a Transit Oriented Development project near the Tacoma Dome Station. The property was formerly owned by Pierce Transit and sold with the intent to offer the property for transit-oriented development or mixed-use development.

The planned development is for a five-story, 115-unit apartment complex built over one-story retail space with plans for a farmer's market.

Groundbreaking details will be shared with the commissioners.

CEO Griffus closed his report by wishing all happy holidays and a happy new year.

2. Bus Rapid Transit Update

CEO Griffus reported that he takes the comments made this evening by Commissioner Keel to heart and noted the BRT it is a difficult project. He reported that mistakes have been made by Pierce Transit and our partners, but he thinks the project is on the right track. He reported that he has attended over 50 meetings on the BRT since becoming CEO. The project has had delays and the new service date is looking like mid-2026. He reported approximately a \$17 million increase in project costs. He noted contributions from the City of Tacoma is important to the project and the City of Tacoma seems to be willing to help with this.

INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS

1. Chair's Report

- The December 16, 2021, Service Delivery and Support Committee Meeting has been cancelled.
- We expect a new representative from the City of Tacoma to begin sitting for meetings in February. The City of Tacoma will be making their appointments to external committees and boards in January.

- At the January 10, 2022, board meeting, the board will conduct the yearly election for the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Representative, which is currently held by Chair Campbell.
- Committee appointments will need to be revisited again after the new representative from the City of Tacoma joins the Board. With Commissioner Beale leaving, there will be a vacancy on the Executive Finance Committee.
- A special study session meeting has been scheduled for February 10, 2022 to review/discuss a new policing model.

2. Sound Transit Update

Commissioner Keel reported that the Sound Transit budget is to be adopted by the end of the year. Leadership appointments are being discussed and recommendations are being made. He announced that there is a recommendation for him to remain the chair.

Sound Transit is focusing on finishing realignment work. There is a lot of work to do to make up the cost gap due to Covid and rising costs.

3. Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update

Commissioner Mello reported on PSRC's work on a Coordinated Mobility Plan, which focuses on specialized transportation services that agencies provide. The plan addresses how to improve services to folks who need special transportation.

Commissioner Mello reported that the Regional Transportation Plan is expected to be rolled out for public comment January through February 2022 and noted there is a lot of detail around equity, climate, and new sources of revenue. He encouraged members to comment and noted the plan will be ready for adoption in May 2022.

4. Commissioners' Comments

Chair Campbell thanked everybody for their hard work this year. He noted that he thinks that the Board can anticipate staying virtual through March 2022. He thanked employees and front-line workers for their work during the pandemic, stating it hasn't been easy for anybody.

Chair Campbell wished everyone happy holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Campbell noted that since the board approved the ATU Collective Bargaining Agreement today, a closed session meeting is no longer needed.

Commissioners Keel and Walker **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 9-0.



Deanne Jacobson
Clerk of the Board



Marty Campbell, Chair
Board of Commissioners