

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

December 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Campbell called the special board meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

Marty Campbell, Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember
Daryl Eidinger, Mayor of the City of Edgewood (*representing Edgewood and Puyallup*)
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
Jason Whalen, City of Lakewood Mayor

Commissioners excused:

Victoria Woodards, Mayor of the City of Tacoma

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

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Campbell stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People.

Chair Campbell led attendees in the Flag Salute, followed by a moment of silence.

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 Alan Orejana for Operator of the Month for November 2022

Transportation Assistant Manager Scott Gaines honored Alan Orejana for being selected Operator of the Month for November 2022. He detailed his contributions and work ethic, noting that Mr. Orejana has been an operator since 2008, has an outstanding safety record, provides excellent (*Commissioner Roscoe arrived at 3:06 p.m.*) customer service, is a two-year Honor Roll recipient, and this is his second award for Operator of the Month.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Campbell congratulated Mr. Orejana for receiving the award and expressed appreciation for the work he does for the agency.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Welcoming Back Mayor Daryl Eiding from the City of Edgewood, Representing the Cities of Edgewood and Puyallup

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chair Campbell welcomed Commissioner Daryl Eiding to the Pierce Transit Board.

2. Filling a Vacancy on the Service Delivery and Capital Committee

Chair Campbell appointed Commissioner Eiding to serve on the Service Delivery and Capital Committee, filling a recent vacancy that was formerly held by Commissioner John Palmer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No written or oral public comments were received, and the public comment period 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 Mello **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, November 1 – 30, 2022
Operating Fund #10
Self-Insurance Fund #40
Capital Fund #90
Payment Nos. 379540 through 379705
Wire Nos. 12085 through 12314

No Advance Travel Checks
Total \$11,945,287.41

2. Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2022, special study session meeting, and regular board meeting
3. Ratification of Contracts Executed Under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
4. FS 2022-066, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute an amendment to Contract No. 1396 with GovernmentJobs.com (d.b.a. "NEOGOV") in the amount of \$835,178 for implementing the upgrade of the Highline Payroll System to the current NEOGOV HRIS module, for a new contract amount of \$1,556,957.16.

ACTION AGENDA

1. FS 2022-067, A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Pierce Transit Adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

Chief Financial Officer Chris Schuler reviewed the history of the budget process for the proposed 2023 Budget and noted there has been no changes to the budget document since the last review. He concluded his comments noting that the budget is balanced, supports strategic initiatives, and meets Board-adopted reserve requirements.

Approve Resolution No. 2022-014, adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 as presented in Exhibit A, with attendant wage adjustments and approval of 987 positions.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

2. FS 2022-068, Adopting Interim Performance Standards for Fixed Route Service as presented until the Major Update to Pierce Transit's Destination Long Range Plan is Adopted

Principal Planner of Scheduling Lindsey Schmel opened the presentation advising that the proposal to adopt the Interim Performance Standards for the categories of Passengers Per Service Hour, Passengers Per Revenue Mile, and Farebox Recovery for fixed route service was reviewed at the September 15, 2022, Board retreat meeting.

Ms. Schmel advised that the interim standards are being introduced so that the standards are better aligned with the (*Commissioner Keel arrived at 3:14 p.m.*) customer behavioral changes that have occurred since the pandemic, i.e., more of the workforce is working from home or participating in hybrid work schedules. It was noted that under the current performance measure standards, many of the routes would rate unsatisfactory, thus, making it more difficult to make decisions to recover service. The interim performance standards will assist in the development of the ridership recovery plan.

The Board reviewed the timeline for development of the ridership recovery plan, which will utilize the interim performance standards. The Board was advised that the new performance standards will be updated in the Long-Range Plan (Destination 2050) in 2024, and the current performance measures will be used as a baseline.

Upon inquiry, Ms. Sehmel confirmed that the interim standards would not prevent restoring service to pre-pandemic levels or greater at any point that service can be restored sooner.

CEO Griffus expressed his support for setting new standards and also commented that the agency has not met its farebox recovery goal in the last ten years and that factors such as Youth Ride Free has changed the calculations. He also noted that the interim standards will assist with decisions surrounding On-Demand Service.

Commissioners Walker and Mello **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2022-015, adopting Interim Performance Standards for Fixed Route Service as presented until the Major Update to Pierce Transit's Destination Long Range Plan is adopted.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

STAFF UPDATES

1. CEO'S Report

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following items:

- With the March service change, Pierce Transit is planning to restore some of the weekend service lost to COVID reductions.
- Provided an update on the replacement of vanpool vehicles that the Board approved at their October 10 board meeting, reporting that Chrysler has cancelled their order with us and their government contracts. There are no Electric Vehicles/hybrid vehicles available at this time.
- Congratulated Mayor Woodards for being elected President of the National League of Cities (NLC) and Commissioner Keel for being elected to the Board of Directors of the NLC.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS

1. Chair's Report

Chair Campbell reported on the following items:

- The Service Delivery and Capital Committee meeting of December 15, 2022, has been cancelled.

- In January, the Board will elect a primary and alternate member to serve on the PSRC Transportation Policy Board.

2. Sound Transit Update

Commissioner Keel reported that the Tacoma Link Line will not open in Q1 of 2023 and discussed the factors that are contributing to the delay. Sound Transit is working on a path forward for the line to open in Q2 of 2023.

Commissioner Roscoe also commented on the delay, and complimented Sound Transit staff for clearly identifying the issues causing the delay.

Commissioner Keel announced that today's meeting will be his last meeting on the Pierce Transit Board, noting that the City of Fircrest intends to take their seat on the Board. He expressed that he enjoyed serving on the Pierce Transit Board.

Chair Campbell and Vice Chair Walker thanked Commissioner Keel for his service on the Pierce Transit Board and for his contributions of bringing thoughtful questions during board meetings.

Chair Campbell asked that Commissioner Keel return to a future board meeting to be honored for his service.

Commissioner Mello expressed his pleasure of serving with Commissioner Keel on the Pierce Transit Board.

3. Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update

Commissioner Mello reported that at the last meeting a focus discussion occurred on the Regional Transportation Plan as well as discussion about preliminary climate analysis, how the plan does or does not help the region meet the climate goals. They also began discussing what the Board expects of the safety program, what is the Regional Council's role in safety, how can the agency make the system safer, and received an update on the equity program.

He reported that the FTA funding workgroup that he and Vice Chair Walker serve on will be meeting on December 20th and are expected to make a recommendation to the PSRC Transportation Policy Board, who will make a recommendation to the PSRC Executive Board.

It was also reported that Linda Gehrke, FTA Regional Administrator for the Region 10 Seattle Office, is expected to retire after 38 years of service at the beginning of the year. No replacement has been identified yet.

4. Commissioners' Comments

Chair Campbell wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and expressed his thanks and appreciation to Pierce Transit employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Keel and Walker **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.



Deanne Jacobson
Clerk of the Board



Marty Campbell, Chair
Board of Commissioners