

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

**March 13, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Walker called the regular board meeting to order at 4:24 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present:

Olgy Diaz, City of Tacoma Councilmember  
Daryl Eidinger, Mayor of the City of Edgewood (*representing Edgewood and Puyallup*)  
John Hines, City of Tacoma Councilmember  
Ryan Mello, Pierce County Councilmember  
Shannon Reynolds, City of Fircrest Councilmember (*representing University Place and Fircrest*)  
Kim Roscoe, Mayor of Fife (*representing Fife/Milton/Pacific/Auburn/Gig Harbor Ruston/Steilacoom*)  
Kristina Walker, Vice Chair of the Board, Deputy Mayor of City of Tacoma  
Jason Whalen, City of Lakewood Mayor

Commissioners excused:

Marty Campbell, Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember  
John Hoheusle, President of ATU 758, Represents IAM and ATU

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**

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

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

**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 Edward Njama for Operator of the Month for February 2023**

## **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

### **1. Welcoming New Pierce Transit Chief of Public Safety Ed Roberts**

Transportation Manager of Service Support Laurie Langlois introduced Chief Roberts and detailed his background and experience.

Chief Roberts addressed the Board and expressed that he is looking forward to serving transit.

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

Commissioner Diaz accepted the appointment to serve on the Service Delivery and Capital Committee.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Walker provided participation instructions to the public and opened public comment.

Parker Hill spoke on a variety of topics. He commented that there isn't much service for Route 63 and it would be hard for people to support a ballot measure when they don't see any service. He also commented about the constant open drug use that occurs at the restrooms at Tacoma Dome Station and reported that the restrooms are often occupied with nefarious use. He noted he would like to see improvements to transfer times. He asked general questions about the expansion of service should a ballot measure be approved by the voters and whether charging stations would be installed along the Pacific Avenue/ SR-7 Bus Rapid Transit route. [*Staff provided information to Mr. Hill after the meeting.*]

## **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 Reynolds **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, February 1 – 28, 2023  
Operating Fund #10  
Self-Insurance Fund #40  
Capital Fund #90

Payment Nos. 380131 through 380282  
Wire Nos. 12865 through 13071  
No Advance Travel Checks  
Total \$11,083,945.33

2. Approval of Minutes: February 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting
3. FS 2023-010, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute a sole source, three-year maintenance and support agreement with Giro, Inc., (Contract No. 1657) for maintenance and support of Pierce Transit's automated scheduling and dispatch system (Hastus) in an amount not to exceed \$797,192.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

1. **FS 2023-011, Authorize Amendments to Pierce Transit Personnel Manual Section 7.7.1 - Transit Passes and Vanpool Benefits to Allow for Regional Access ORCA Card Benefits for Eligible Family Members and Retirees and Authorizing Minor Amendments Clarifying the Existing Vanpool Benefits for Employees as Presented in Exhibit A**

Human Resources Manager Tara Schaak presented on the item. She advised that the expansion of the ORCA benefit supports the Agency's initiatives to be an Employer of Choice. She advised that if this benefit is approved, eligible family members may elect to receive a Regional ORCA card, instead of local Pierce Transit service only.

She responded to policy questions relating to the benefit expansion and explained the definition of what constitutes a "family member" upon request.

Commissioners Roscoe and Eiding **moved** and seconded to authorize amendments to Pierce Transit Personnel Manual Section 7.7.1 - Transit Passes and Vanpool Benefits to allow for regional access ORCA Card benefits for eligible family members and retirees and authorizing minor amendments clarifying the existing vanpool benefits for employees as presented in Exhibit A.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

2. **FS 2023-012, Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into and Execute a Contract Amendment With Lytx, Inc., (Contract PT-18-18) Piggybacking on GSA Contract GS-35F-0623S, to Renew the Subscription Service for the Lytx DriveCam System in the Amount of \$616,955**

Chief Safety Officer Reggie Reese presented on the item. He gave an overview of the Lytx DriveCam Safety Program, which helps predict unsafe driving behaviors before incidents occur. Since implementing the program in 2018, Pierce Transit's preventable accident rate has decreased by over 70 percent.

Mr. Reese confirmed that the Lytx program has become part of the Agency's safety program and it is an important tool to decrease accidents and incidents before they occur.

Commissioner Whalen expressed that he was happy to see the reduction in the preventable accident rate and noted his support for the program.

Commissioners Whalen and Roscoe **moved** and seconded to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute a contract amendment with Lytx, Inc., (Contract PT-18-18) piggybacking on GSA Contract GS-35F-0623S, to renew the subscription service for the Lytx DriveCam System in the amount of \$616,955.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

## **STAFF UPDATES**

- 1. CEO'S Report** – Due to CEO Griffus attending the APTA Legislative Conference in Washington DC, there was no CEO report provided.
- 2. 2022 Route Productivity Update**

Principal Planner of Scheduling Lindsey Sehmel provided a PowerPoint presentation in which she reviewed the history that led to the adoption of the interim route productivity standards. She discussed and compared ridership statistics of routes under the new standards vs. the former standards. The new metrics will be used to plan the allocation of recovery service in the upcoming future.

- 3. March 2023 Service Increase**

Principal Planner of Scheduling Lindsey Sehmel reported that Pierce Transit is increasing its service the first time in two years, with the increase providing more weekend service. She reviewed the routes that are scheduled to receive an increase in frequency and span of service.

Ms. Sehmel advised that some routes have returned to pre-Covid levels and ridership. This change represents an addition of 149 trips, amounting to more than 6,700 annual hours of added service. She also acknowledged that some reductions to routes still exist due to operator shortages.

Vice Chair Walker requested that the service increase campaign information be shared with the Board so it can be shared with their constituents.

## **INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS**

- 1. Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Walker reported on the following:

- The next Executive Finance Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, March 16 at 3:00 p.m.

- The Board has been unable to settle on a retreat date in April or May. We are now looking at September. She encouraged the commissioners to complete the new calendar poll when it is sent out.

## **2. Sound Transit Update**

Vice Chair Walker reported that the Hilltop Link Extension will open this summer, date is still to be determined. Construction is about 98 percent complete. The required training hours/miles are underway and must be met before service can be opened to the public.

Tacoma Dome Link Extension – open houses are ongoing. The project delayed to 2035. Additional study work needed in Federal Way and Fife, and work around the Environmental Impact Statement is in process.

Pierce County representatives are encouraging Sound Transit to provide additional service to fill the gap and would like to see improved Sounder frequency while Pierce County waits for light rail to come to Pierce County.

West Seattle/ Ballard Extension – focusing on how Pierce County riders will connect with this service. The System Expansion Committee voted to determine the station locations, with the Sound Transit Board expected to consider the stations at the March 23, 2023, meeting.

The Sound Transit Board heard from the Technical Advisory Board on how to move projects faster and less expensive. Good work has happened and there should be positive outcomes for the region.

## **3. Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update**

Commissioner Mello announced that the FTA Funding Formula Workgroup brought a recommendation forward to the PSRC Transportation Policy Board. Under the new formula, Pierce Transit would receive an additional \$8 - \$10 million per year. The recommendation still needs to be approved by PSRC Executive Board. He thanked staff for their help and support on this matter.

## **4. Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Whalen noted that he appreciates the public comment today about open drug use in the community. He announced that the City of Lakewood will be introducing a new ordinance that will address open drug use in public.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

**ADJOURMENT**

Commissioners Reynolds and Walker **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

*Deanne Jacobson*

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Deanne Jacobson  
Clerk of the Board

*Kristina Walker*

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Kristina Walker, Vice Chair  
Board of Commissioners