

**Pierce Transit  
Community Transportation Advisory Group  
Pierce Transit Training Center  
Rainier Conference Room  
Minutes – April 23, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair, Penny Grellier.

**ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE**

CTAG members present: Paul Bala, Chris Beale, Penny Grellier, Hongda Sao and Steven Schenk  
CTAG members absent: Chris Karnes, Bridgett Johnson, Sandy Paul, Tyree Smith and Richard Zalucha  
Pierce Transit employees present: Max Henkle; Planner Analyst, Jay Peterson; Transit Development Manager, James Sullivan, Administrative Specialist; and Ryan Wheaton, Business Partnerships Administrator

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Paul Bala motioned to correct a mistake in the February minutes regarding his presence at the meeting. Paul Bala was absent during the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
Chris Beale moved to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes. Paul Bala seconded. Motioned carried.

**CTAG MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES**

Penny Grellier and Hongda Sao reported on the CTAG new member orientation conducted by Ryan Wheaton on Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chris Beale reported on a planning conference he attended in Seattle. The session was titled: "Minding the Land Use/Transportation Gap." A key point of the session was working with jurisdictions on transit development.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Betsy Elgar, local business woman and caregiver read a statement regarding Pierce Transit service. Her statement included topics on fares, salaries of employees and safety of passengers and drivers.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Transit Development Update– Jay Peterson: Jay Peterson spoke about the potential adoption of a set of service guidelines, which the Board would ultimately approve. This proposed service guideline would help prioritize where extra services hours would go. Pierce Transit would establish a taskforce of community members who would help develop the guidelines. Jay informed that King County Metro has a similar set of service guidelines in place.



Jay also mentioned the possibility of the Board of Commissioners adopting a policy on fares, including doing a comprehensive fare review once every two years. A goal in this fare review would be aiming at a fare box recovery goal of 20% and increasing SHUTTLE fares to \$2.00. SHUTTLE fares have not increased in the past 10 years. Every transit agency in the Puget Sound region has their paratransit service rate equal to that of their general base cash fare. Currently our SHUTTLE generates 3% of boarding's, but cost 24% of our operating budget. Money will not be made from the fare increase; but by people being more discretionary about how they book their trips.

CTAG Board Members Paul Bala and Chris Beale shared their thoughts on the proposed set of service guidelines.

2. Long Range Plan Update – Max Henkle: Max informed Pierce Transit is working with the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to construct a long range vision of what we think our service area will look like in the year 2040. The goal is to use population, employment, roadway, customer input and regional transit network data to determine where development is most likely to occur.

Max presented two scenarios which included a model showing our current growth of 0.2% service hours a year, which equates to 465,000 service hours annually and a model showing a growth of 3% growth in service, which equates to 927,000 service hours annually. Density helped determine how to project service and how many people would potentially use the service.

Max anticipates the 2040 long range vision will be somewhere in between the .2% and 3% growth range. These models will be presented to the PSRC first and then to the public.

Paul Bala asked if other transit agencies are doing something similar. Max informed the PSRC has a 2% growth range scenario they want all transit agencies to create a model for.

Max distributed a Destination 2040 timeline to CTAG Board members.

2. Business Development Office Update – Ryan Wheaton: Ryan informed trolley service will start on June 5th through September 7th in Gig Harbor. The fare will be \$.50 per boarding or \$1.00 for an all-day pass.

Ryan also spoke on a proposal to improve service in Northeast Tacoma. He distributed a map with the current and potential services Pierce Transit offers in Northeast Tacoma. Currently Northeast Tacoma has about 1,800 service hours a year, which is down from 10,000 a couple years ago. Demographics play a huge part in why service is limited in this part of Tacoma.

Pierce Transit is working with the Community Investment Team in Northeast Tacoma with a possible two part solution. One potential solution would be to partner with King County Metro and have them extend their service to QFC. This would increase trips per day from 6 to 20 and reduce the cost from \$250,000 to \$167,000. Another option would be for Pierce Transit to implement an express service from QFC straight to 10th and Commerce. This would decrease the current commute time from Northeast Tacoma to Downtown Tacoma from an hour and five minutes to about 35 minutes.

If one of these options goes into effect, SHUTTLE would be impacted. To combat this issue, Pierce Transit would work with King County Metro's Paratransit service Access. Pierce Transit would propose



for Access to handle all SHUTTLE trips going north, and Pierce Transit would handle all SHUTTLE trips going south. Ryan asked for all questions related to these items be sent directly to him. He will discuss them in depth

4. CTAG Operating Procedures – Ryan Wheaton: Ryan Wheaton spoke with the Clerk of the Board about Vice Chair of CTAG. Members should address an attendance policy. Make official the meeting date for CTAG.

#### **PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ryan Wheaton reported on the following news articles and announcements:

- New CEO Sue Dryer
- Monthly Ridership
- Adoption of new Strategic Plan

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. by Penny Grellier.

Submitted by:



Ryan Wheaton, Business Partnership Administrator

Approved by:



Penny Grellier, CTAG Chair

