

**Pierce Transit
Community Transportation Advisory Group
Pierce Transit Training Center
Rainier Conference Room
Minutes – October 22, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Due to CTAG Chair, Penny Grellier's resignation and Vice Chair, Chris Karnes' absence, member, Steven Schenk called the meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

CTAG Members Present: Paul Bala, Chris Karnes, Sandy Paul, Hongda Sao, Bridgett Johnson, Steven Schenk and Richard Zalucha

CTAG Members Absent: Chris Beale and Tyree Smith

Pierce Transit Employees Present: Penny Grellier; Business Partnership Administrator, Rebecca Japhet; Public Relations Officer, Jay Peterson; Transit Development Manager, Janine Robinson; Senior Capital Planner and Darin Stavish; Principal Planner.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Introduction of CTAG members and Pierce Transit employees occurred.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Richard Zalucha motioned to approve the September 24, 2015 minutes. Paul Bala seconded. Motion carried.

CTAG MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CTAG members had no activities to report on.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Elgar, local business woman and caregiver read a statement regarding Pierce Transit service. Topics of discussion in her comment included the potential for raising fares for seniors, disabled and SHUTTLE riders and on time performance of bus routes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Long Range Plan Follow-Up Discussion – Darin Stavish: Darin Stavish distributed the "Destination 2040 Pierce Transit Long Range Plan" document to members detailing statistics of current bus service, timeline and milestones and the possible growth states of bus service. Darin informed that Pierce Transit will be having a stakeholder meeting for our planning partners within the municipalities and other transit agencies in November. The Destination 2040 brochure will be used for both community and stakeholder outreach. Darin shared there will be three open houses in February one in each of the following locations; Downtown Tacoma, Puyallup and Pierce Transit.

Richard Zalucha asked how often Pierce Transit will meet with their stakeholders. Darin mentioned the requirement to meet with stakeholders and planning partners is only once. There could possibly be ongoing meetings, but the one meeting scheduled in November should suffice. During this stakeholder meeting, the draft of the future service scenarios will be presented to them.

Sandy Paul asked what the possible bus fare and taxes would be if scenario 4 was adopted. Darin shared he doesn't think we need to get to that level fare wise. Any scenarios for growth would potentially assume the full 9/10 of a percent. Sandy also asked how Pierce Transit plans on attracting members of the public to the open houses. Rebecca Japhet informed Pierce Transit will use social media and media groups to inform community members about the open houses.

Bridgett Johnson asked if the "more early morning, night and weekend service" included Sound Transit routes. Darin informed all future scenario models affect only Pierce Transit.

Richard Zalucha asked why the need for additional investments are so high between scenarios 3 and 4, when the service hours are only increasing by 80,000 hours. The ratio between investment and service hours seems very different when compared to scenarios 2 and 3. Darin will get back to the group with that answer, possibly at the December CTAG meeting.

2. Proposed Fare Changes – Jay Peterson: Jay Peterson distributed a document titled, "Potential Fare Change Scenarios" as well as a rider alert to members detailing the current fare structures of Pierce Transit as well as the proposed fare increases. Areas impacted by the proposed fare increases include seniors, youth, disabled and paratransit (SHUTTLE). Though these potential fixed route fare increases extend to 2020, he's not asking to Board of Commissioners to adopt this exact model. Jay informed he is asking the Board of Commissioners to adopt a list of fare policies in addition to raising fares.

Jay showed a comparison of fixed route SHUTTLE fares between Pierce Transit and other regional transit agencies which are showcased on page 5 of the handout. Page six gives the different scenarios related to raising senior, disabled and SHUTTLE fares. Jay shared that Pierce Transit SHUTTLE service is the most expensive service we offer at over \$50.00 a trip. It accounts for 3% of the total boarding numbers, but consumes 24% of the operating budget.

Chris Karnes asked if there is a need for a fare box recovery goal related strictly to SHUTTLE. Jay informed the fare box recovery on SHUTTLE is currently 2%. Currently they are focused on fare policy. If the Board of Commissioners votes to discuss fares every two years then discussion on SHUTTLE fare box recovery can occur.

Richard Zalucha asked if there are cost differences between raising fares incrementally versus every other year. Jay informed the costs aren't really that different. They both entail changing onboard fare advertisements and updating fare information in the bus books.

Paul Bala asked why the fare structures of senior and disabled are lower than SHUTTLE. Jay informed per the FTA law, transit providers for fixed route services cannot charge senior or disabled patrons more than half of what the adult fare is. For paratransit services, FTA law allows transit providers to charge up to double the adult fare price.

Janine Robinson gave an overview of Title VI fare equity analysis and how it relates to the adult, youth and senior pricing of ORCA, cash, e-purse and all-day passes. Janine informed per FTA law transit agencies are required to initiate a Title VI any time a permanent fare change occurs.

The proposed fare change schedule is listed on page 9 of the potential fare scenario document including: public hearing/title VI analysis on November 9, 2015, Board of Commissioners' action on December 14, 2015 and fare change on March 1, 2016 (if the Board of Commissioners approves the proposal).

Chris Beale suggested adding a section in the document detailing when the last fare increases occurred.

Chris Karnes requested CTAG board members collect their thoughts regarding the potential fare change proposal. At the November CTAG meeting a proposal or statement will be issued by the members to the Board of Commissioners.

3. Nominate and Approve New CTAG Chair – CTAG Board: Steven Shenk nominated Chris Karnes as the CTAG Chair. Members unanimously voted to approve. Chris Karnes was elected as the new CTAG Chair.

Nomination and approval of the CTAG vice-chair will take place at the November meeting.

4. Work Plan for 2015-2016 – Penny Grellier: Penny Grellier informed members of a timeline of topics for future CTAG meetings through 2016. Members discussed topics they would like to hear presentations on for future meetings.

Hongda Sao suggested a more interactive approach to meetings versus sitting back and listening to presentations.

PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Penny Grellier reported on the following news articles and announcements:

- Monthly Ridership
- Board Meeting Overview (no members or staff present attended so no report was given)
- November CTAG meeting will be held on the 19th due to the Thanksgiving holiday falling on the fourth Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. by Penny Grellier.

Submitted by:



Penny Grellier; Business Partnership Administrator

Approved by:



Chris Karnes; CTAG Chair

