



Pierce Transit
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Virtual Meeting via Zoom/phone
Minutes – March 24, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

CTAG Members Present: Don Green, Blake Geyen, Linda Moran, Antoinette Craig, Jamie Witter, Paul Buchanan, and Paul Crandall.

Absent: Emily Freeman, Marlene Druker, and Deirdre Maxwell.

Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present: Kent Keel (Pierce Transit Commissioner), Nathan BeVelle (Community Development Administrator), Rachel Holzhaeuser (Community Development Specialist), Duane Wakan (Senior Planner), Heidi Soule (Project Management Office Manager), Sean Robertson (Project Manager, Senior), and Tina Vaslet (Planner).

Guests: None.

COMMISSIONER MEET AND GREET

Commissioner Keel introduced himself to CTAG and shared some his thoughts, as a single member of the Pierce Transit Board and indicated he was not speaking on behalf of the full Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Keel would like to see CTAG continue, and find more ways, to help the agency share information and what do to help the public. Some examples discussed were sharing new service updates, sharing information on larger projects like the Stream BRT project, as well as bringin feedback from the community and working with agency staff to better understand the thoughts and concerns of the public around the services the agency provides. There was also time for Q&A with CTAG.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from February 2022 were reviewed and approved. Linda Moran moved and Antionette Craig seconded.

CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Stream 1 BRT Update (Sean Robertson, Project Manager, Senior)

Sean provided an update surrounding the Stream 1 BRT project. The updates included: project design, funding an project costs, and timeline changes. Sean shared the changes to lane overview including the 2nd median lane section to bypass high traffic areas along the route. Key changes include eliminated transit speed and reliability (traffic circle) at 56th, moving to curbside stations between 64th-84th, adding a traffic circle at 96th, and station refinements.

Sean also provided an update on the traffic impact analysis. Station features were covered along with the station right sizing exercise that was completed. There is a high risk of budget escalation due to delays and inflation. Construction has been delayed until October 2024 which is pushing the service start date to mid to late 2027. Sean also held a Q&A session with the group.

Bus Stop Balancing Update (Heidi Soule, Project Management Office Manager)

The Bus Stop Balancing project was implemented with the Spring Service Change on 20 March. Heidi shared that prior to the balancing there were 2113 stops, excluding transit centers and park and rides. 406 stops were considered for removal due to various reasons such as ridership levels, traffic concerns, and safety. 415 survey responses were received on 260 individual stops including where the public agreed or disagreed with the indicated stops removal. 214 stops, or about 10% of the stops, were recommended for removal and the Board of Commissioners approved their removal. 98% of total boardings occurs at the retained stops, based on 2019 ridership data.

So far 119 of the stops are closed with most of the amenities already pulled. Crews are working route by route to remove the stops. This should be completed by the end of the month. Previous CTAG member Cody Bakken was thanked for his work on this project with Pierce Transit staff. Heidi and Tina held a Q&A session with the group.

Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Transition Plan (Duane Wakan, Senior Planner)

Duane provided an update on the Phase 1A portion of the transition plan which included a look at the goals, timeline, and plan to educate the executive level leadership at Pierce Transit and the Board of Commissioners. We currently have nine (9) ZEBs and currently have the capacity for three (3) more. The agency has a goal of 20% of fleet conversion to ZEBs by 2030. During Phase 1, one main step is identifying all the options to best diversify the fleet while making the transition and make that recommendation. Major facility and low/no emission grant cycles being 31 May 2022.

The hope is wrap up Phase 1 timely and get all grant applications in by the deadlines. Along with a racial equity study and impact to climate study. On the Agency website there is a sustainability report with carbon emissions figures and carbon savings identified. Pierce Transit current has two (2) zero emission routes. Phase 2 will see experts brought in to help the agency dive deeper into the transition plan. Duane is hopeful that an RFQ will be released in the next two months. Duane held a Q&A with the group.

Rachel Holzhaeuser (Community Development Specialist)

Rachel share there are 40 events between April and October already identified, most have been approved and registered for. These events do not include NextGEN ORCA outreach. Pierce Transit is sponsoring Puyallup and Tacoma Farmer's Markets again this year along with sponsoring Sustainability Expo in Tacoma 16 April.

The Community Development Team set a goal to have at least one event to reach these communities: Dupont, Gig Harbor, University Place, Fife, Steilacoom. There is also a goal to have CTAG participation goal – 75%. This means having 75% of CTAG members join us for at least one outreach event this season. Rachel also provided an update on the Student Art Contest, which several CTAG members are

signed up to assist with. The theme for this year's Art Contest is "Design You Dream Bus". Rachel held a Q&A session with the group.

MEMBER DELIBERATION

Don started a discussion on continuing with virtual meetings or if a return to in-person meetings is recommended by the agency having the option for hybrid meeting options in perpetuity. It was also suggested to potentially meet in person only a few times a year if needed. Several of the members expressed interest in the remaining virtual options for several reasons; one of which was due to loss of transportation options due to service and routes cuts during the pandemic. This will be share with agency leadership.

PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Spring Service Change and Bus Stop Balancing program was implemented on Sunday 20 March. Pierce Transit would like to hear your transit story, information can be found the website. Pierce Transit has a podcast, hosted by former CTAG Liaison Penny Grellier. An update on vanpool service provided include the upcoming fare changes and part-time rider fares. An update on the Spanaway Runner service was provided. CTAG was informed of the open positions and encouraged to share that information with the public. ORCA NexGen in scheduled to launch Saturday 14 May. An update on the Shelter replacement pilot was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Submitted by
Nathan BeVelle

Approved by
Don Green