



Pierce Transit
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Virtual Meeting via Teams/phone
Minutes – April 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

CTAG Members Present: Don Green, Blake Geyen, Linda Moran, Antoinette Craig, Jamie Witter, Paul Buchanan, Paul Crandall, Marlene Druker, Deirdre Maxwell, Brandi DeCoteau, and Ben Yoder.

Absent: Emily Freeman.

Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present: Kristina Walker (Pierce Transit Commissioner), Nathan BeVelle (Community Development Administrator), Tammy Apthorp (Community Development Coordinator), Ryan Wheaton (Executive Director Planning and Community Development), Alicia Bradshaw (Planner, Senior), Lindsey Sehmel (Principal Planner), Brent Campbell (Information Technology Supervisor), and Liem Hong (Systems Analyst, Senior).

Guests: Nancy Slotnick.

COMMISSIONER MEET AND GREET

Commissioner Walker introduced herself to CTAG and shared some her thoughts, as a single member of the Pierce Transit Board. Commissioner Walker and shared some highlights on the transit package she thinks are exciting bringing millions of dollars for Pierce Transit. One item being the potential zero-fare for ages 18 and under (if board approved) and the potential to put an ORCA card in every kid's hand. Commissioner Walker is encouraged by the opportunities for CTAG to provide input on agency initiatives. Commissioner Walker encouraged CTAG to share public comments. Commissioner Walker provided information on how her service on Pierce Transit's Board and Sounder Transit's Board overlap. She also provided an update on a trail connection project in the county and the importance of transit connection. Commissioner Walker stated as we transition to in-person meetings the board is committed to offer a hybrid format as we understand there are bus challenges getting to Lakewood. There was also time for a Q&A session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Paratransit Software Replacement (Brent Campbell and Liem Hong)

One of the projects IT is working on is to replace the Paratransit software system. The existing system that we have is well over 15-16 years old and out of support by the manufacturer. They're still supporting it but have moved on to a different product and set of codes. We're missing out on a lot of functionality with our current system. The new website individuals can book their own rides and pay for things without having to call in and working with Linda Moran on these processes. If you have any input, please submit through Nathan and he'll arrange a meeting with us. We're doing what's called a RFI (Request for information) and working towards and RFP sometime in the fall where this will hopefully be a very good update and give additional services making things plain easier for everyone using the systems. There will be a training program as part of the roll out conversion of data and everything. Linda will take the lead on this project on behalf of CTAG. There was also a Q&A session.

*Ryan Wheaton (Executive Director of Planning & Community Development
Planning & Community Development)*

Ryan's last time with CTAG we discussed a potential ballot measure, the same one we've looked at the last three years and found during our initial research it is not the best timing according to our survey company. We asked them to stop their work as initial the results showed some subpar performance in our current timeframe. People are showing concerns coming out of a pandemic such as what they're going to do for work, as well as economic discussions showing an upswing in concern about crime. Public transit specifically is not registering with folks right now as a top concern. Discussions are postponed another year. Statistically during a presidential election year, a transit initiative tends to have a higher probability of passing. You might expect for us to be back in 2024 with a substantial push. Ryan will supply a report to Nathan to share with the group on crime compared what King has been experiencing. There was also a Q&A session.

Alicia Bradshaw (Senior Planner)

Alicia provided an update on the transit support grant that would make Pierce Transit eligible for an estimated \$8 million in biannual funding from the state. The conditions of eligibility would adopt a zero-fare policy allowing passengers 18 and younger to ride free of charge on all modes of transportation provided by our agency. To be eligible for funding this year we must submit documentation of the policy by October 1, 2022. For comparison, our current youth ages 5 and under ride free and youth ages 6-18 pay \$1.00 cash fare. In 2019 was estimated between \$1 to \$1.5 million dollars in youth fare collection. The board was very excited to have the planning department get moving on some of these policy changes. There have been some staffing changes in planning and there's a timeline on the youth fair policy. The process to start the ORCA Lift at Pierce Transit is going to begin once the youth zero-fare policy is adopted. Lyndsey will be back in June to present comments heard back from the board of commissioners before we publish a notice for public hearing. Planning love to see CTAG support and provide comments during these meetings. There was a Q&A session.

MEMBER DELIBERATION

Don started a discussion on knowing the value of transit.

PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bus stop balancing was implemented removing 10% of our bus stops, most of which had little to no ridership, or has another stop in proximity. Vanpool fare structure revised and simplified and we're seeing an influx of inquiries due to gas prices on the rise. Next month Duane will be joining to discuss our RUNNER services that will serve the Midland, Parkland/Spanaway area. The Community Development

team has a summer intern position open as well as the agency having a variety of other position openings. We're about two weeks away from the ORCA Next Gen system launch, we'll have a fare free weekend May 14th and 15th region wide so if you want to go to Seattle or stroll downtown Tacoma, use public transportation. And finally, if you're able to volunteer for events July through October, that schedule will be released soon, and you can contact Rachel. If you have a public transit worker that you want to recognize, remember you can nominate someone through CTAG's HERO Award. Let me know how I can help facilitate that recognition.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by
Nathan BeVelle

Approved by
Don Green