



Pierce Transit  
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)  
Minutes – November 17, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE**

CTAG Members Present:

Don Green, Blake Geyen, Ben Yoder, Brandi DeCoteau, Amin Tony Hester, Maddie Merton Marlene Drucker

Absent:

Linda Moran, Jamie Witter, Deirdre Maxwell, Paul Buchanan, Ivan Tudela

Guests: None

**Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present:**

Mike Griffus, CEO; Penny Grellier, Communications Administrator, and Alexandra Mather, Government Relations Administrator

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from October 17. 1011 were not approved. Amin Tony Hester's name was transposed

**CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS/Comments**

*None*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None (No in person guests. No unknown members of public in meeting list)

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**CEO Update, Mike Griffus**

Topics covered: Covid update, staffing, ridership, finances and projects.

**Covid update**

Rescinded the Covid Agency Emergency order on November 14, 2022.

Requirements: Continue monitoring and reporting cases; quarantine.

Still providing masks on buses. Admin building has been closed since March 2020. It is set to re-open by Jan.

**Staffing/Recruiting**

520 Operators are budgeted, 431 positions are filled (short 89 Operators).

Recently hired 40 new Operators. Planning for eight Operators classes per year.

March 2023 – Restoring lost weekend service. Sept 2023 – Planning to add back 10% more service

Held 50 recruiting events this year. (Workforce Central, JBLM and others).

There are 27 unfilled positions in Maintenance.

**Public Safety:** Contracting with Lakewood PD, Puyallup PD, Federal Way PD and a private Security provider.

**Ridership:**

Ridership is up. 62% of pre-pandemic. Vanpool ridership is 54% of pre-pandemic  
Runner ridership: 500+ riders (2022)

**Finances:**

Up \$4M sales tax revenue. Meeting Reserves requirements

**Projects:**

**Stream – Bus Rapid Transit.** \$241 M project. At 60% design. Supply chain challenges.  
Utility work planned in late 2024. Construction late 2024 and service to begin late 2027.

**Fleet electrification**

Executive order: 20% electrification by 2030. Adding charging stations in the Commerce tunnel. Plus, four additional transit centers will have charging stations.  
Looking at hydrogen fuel cell buses.

**Legislative Update, Alex Mather**

**Pierce Transit 2023 State Legislative Agenda**

**Public Safety**

- In partnership with the Association of Washington Cities, support continued state funding to help communities establish alternative response programs like co-responder programs, diversion programs, and others that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations that involve individuals suffering from behavioral health issues.

**Infrastructure - Maintenance + Operations Base Improvement Project (MOBI)**

- PT's base is 34 years old and in need of modernization and retrofitting to accommodate the agency's top priority of safety and the transition to a zero-emission Bus Rapid Transit network and fleet.

**Fleet Transition**

- Pierce Transit supports any opportunities to further the agency's vision of transitioning its fleet to Zero-Emission propulsion systems.

**Economic Development**

- Allow Public Transportation Benefit Areas the authority to sell green hydrogen to the public, to lay the groundwork should transit agencies adopt hydrogen propulsion as a fuel type.

**Community Partner Priorities**

- PT supports grant programs and funding tools to facilitate housing projects that support all income levels and policies that incentivize high-capacity transit and transit-oriented development.

**Pierce County**

- Work in Partnership with Pierce County in securing funds to bolster first and last mile infrastructure connections to the *Stream* Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid Transit corridor

**Washington State Transit Association | Transportation Choices Coalition | Joint Municipal Action Committee**

- PT supports our municipal and public transportation partners in their legislative goals.

### **Telling the Pierce Transit Story, Penny Grellier**

1. Who are we talking to?
2. Internal communications – print, digital, Buzz - print and digital
3. External communications – printed signs, tours, videos, City Line TV show, Podcast
4. Interactive Story telling – social media, games, coloring sheets

Solicit Continual feedback. Value dialogue. Engage youth and advocacy groups  
Rachel is refreshing the school curriculum.

### **Hero Award discussions**

Engages in public transit, supports our mission statement, event occurs on PT property,

Example: An operator goes above and beyond his/her job requirement.

The Hero is recognized at The Board meeting and receives a pin.

How do we advertise the program?

Involve PT Marketing Assistant Manager.

Ideas:

Advertise with posters at transit centers. Advertise to the deaf and blind communities, on buses and shuttle vehicles, ticket vending machines and social media.

QR codes at bus exit

### **MEMBER DELIBERATION**

Passage Mobile ticketing app issues – communication gap (Toy)

Washroom closed at the Kimball Park and Ride during Halloween Bike Ride event – Oct 30.2022 (Marlene)

Requesting a bus to stop at St Anthony's Hospital in Gig Harbor (Marlene)

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

Ride Pierce Transit for free on Friday, November 25, 2022

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Submitted by  
Lani Fowlkes

Approved by  
Don Green