

**Pierce Transit
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Minutes – December 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

CTAG Members Present:

Brandi DeCoteau, Ivan Tudela, Ben Yoder, Marlene Druker, Linda Moran, Don Green, Amin Tony Hester, Blake Geyen

Absent: Deirdre Maxwell, Maddie Merton, Paul Buchanan and Jamie Witter

Guests: None

Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present:

Marah Harris, Lanai Tua

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from November 17, 2022

CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS/Comments

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Marah Harris

Apprenticeship Program

Established in 1979. Relunched in 2012.

Nearly 50 trainees have graduated through the program since 2014.

In 2020, PT launched a new element to the program - Purchasing and building tool kits for new apprentices. The cost of the toolbox kits was approx. \$13k each and we have total of three(3). The cost to PT for the program is the time and resources to dedicate to the training and development of the apprentice.

The major benefit for this initiative was that we were able to open opportunities for folks who might otherwise find a different career path due to the extreme costs involved with getting into this career

field due to hefty costs. This allows them to span out that cost over several years as they build their toolbox. In 2020, there were 3 new apprentices.

It is a paid position with benefits. Apprentices qualify for the tool reimbursement program. PT provides uniform and training.

The program is 8000 hours/approximately 4 years. PT is a member of the International Transit Learning Center. WSDOT honored PTs Apprenticeship committee. In August 2022 the Apprenticeship Committee received Washington State DOT annual Wall of Fame award. PT continues to hire and is working on expanding the program to a Bodyshop Apprentice and a radio communications technician apprentice.

Pierce Transit partners with JBLM, Bates, CPTC, Work Source, Diversity Jobs, Women in Trades, Pierce County Resource Center, and various job fairs throughout the county. We aim to take advantage of any recruitment opportunities that we can find, and we certainly love referrals if someone has recommendations on places to explore.

Lanai Tua

CTAG minutes-ORCA Lift/Fare Amendment

Staff reviewed adopting ORCA LIFT and Fare Parity to SHUTTLE and Adult Fare increase. Staff presented to the Executive Team asking for guidance on recommendations for Fare Amendment proposals.

Fare Amendment Recommendation

1. Adopt ORCA LIFT program
2. Fare Policy Amendments
3. Retain the policy of allowing Human Service Agency (HSA) 501(C)(3) organizations to purchase paper fare tickets/passes at a discounted rate

ORCA LIFT:

ORCA LIFT allows riders to pay a reduced bus fare because their household income is less than or equal to 200% the Federal Poverty Level guidelines (**Table B**). It is only applicable for Adult Fares. Youth 18 and under are currently free, and Seniors have a reduced fare that aligns with the ORCA LIFT fare program.

Based on the eligibility requirements, about 37% of the PTBA population are eligible to enroll in the ORCA LIFT program (**Table A demonstrates Federal Poverty Level at 100% and 200%**).

Table A

Eligibility in Pierce Transit PTBA					
Census Year	Total PTBA Population	100% Federal Pobery Level	%	200% Federal Poverty Level	%
ACS 2020	584,318	65,092	11%	153,145	26%

Planning for 2023

Work Plan/ Speakers /Presentation topics

Service Planning updates

CEO every 3 mos.

Safety team -

Public Safety -

Finance -

Stakeholder groups – in all counties

(Snohomish, Thurston, King, Pierce, etc.) - Want to learn about acronyms

Integration of all agencies in the region

Safety post pandemic – compare to prior years

Make Transit “cool”

Marketing

How do we increase ridership? serve everybody? Make the option of transit very appealing? do we expand options?

How to make service better – Planning

Educate people on riding?

Planning for the region, roads, parking, land use

“Transit should not be the last resort. It should be your best choice”

How does congressional \$ improve transit (get details)

“What is Congress planning / thinking?”

Legislative updates

HR updates – Operator shortage

Runner updates

Accessibility

What improvements are being made

Are people being trained

Socio economic accessibility

Proper curb cuts

Strategy

Facilities

Points of View

CTAG Charter review

Necessary updates: Cut “slate” language. Edit: 12-member board not 9.



MEMBER DELIBERATION

- We will add "OLD BUSINESS" to agenda (Don)
- Lani to research - St Anthony – Bus service – Gig Harbor (Marlene)
- Get info out through the new clientele intake packages
Ivan Emergency Management – has resources -info
Lani to connect Ivan and Lanai (Ivan)
- Consider holding 2 CTAG meetings per month (Don)
- Token Transit app; Choice Same day Ride - Med Star Choice (Tony)

PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Take a look at our webpage, PierceTransit.org/FreeYouthPass, For more information on how to get your card and access these free transit rides for youth.
- **Ride Runner to Connect with Family and Holiday Cheer** . For more information on Runner services, including hours and fares, visit PierceTransit.org/Runner.
- **More Retailers Selling and Loading ORCA Cards**. For details and retailer locations, visit info.myORCA.com/retail.
- **Join the Pierce Transit Team**. If you know someone looking for a **rewarding, family-wage job** with excellent benefits and training, please encourage them to visit PierceTransit.org/careers to apply.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by
Lani Fowlkes

Approved by
Don Green