



**Pierce Transit  
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)  
Minutes –March 23, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE**

CTAG Members Present: Ivan Tudela, Don Green, Blake Geyen, Linda Moran and Brandi DeCoteau, Ben Yoder, Marlene Druker, Jamie Witter

Absent: Deirdre Maxwell, Maddie Merton, Amin Tony Hester

Pierce Transit Employees Present: Tammy Aphthorp, G'Joi McMillian, Tammy Heldt, Christian (IT), Mike Griffus, Alexandra Mather, Monica Adams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from January 26, 2023

Linda Moran moved. Ben Yoder seconded.

Minutes from February 23, 2023

Linda Moran moved. Brandi DeCoteau seconded.

**CTAG MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS/Comments**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Alexandra Mather, Government Relations Administrator**

- 31 days left in current mid-legislative session; Bill allowing public transportation benefit areas-law enforcement program did not move out of committee, revise bill request, working with Sen. Randall to gain clarity.
- In tandem, behavioral health leverage, 14 million in funds for co-responder initiative.
- Bill allowing PT Benefit areas to have green hydrogen, moved, stalled at the house.
- Expecting funding for Port of Tacoma Runner, Phase 2, BRT roundabouts, Trip Reduction, Puyallup Runner, Park & Ride, BRT corridors, ZEB planning, BRT system expansion.
- 1 million to study limited authority areas –having police respond to mental health matters
- [amather@piercetransit.org](mailto:amather@piercetransit.org)

**Mike Griffus, CEO**

- **Thank you**
- Service & Staffing Updates: 2023 budget to return PT service to 95%, pre-pandemic numbers. March 18<sup>th</sup>, weekend service was restored. Aiming for 95% by end of year. Jan 2022- March 2023 -177 operators gained,150 operators/trainees lost, net gain of 22 operators, comprehensive recruiting campaign ongoing, hiring Veterans -20% of PT employees currently are veterans.
- Funding – 85% of revenue comes from sales tax, the remainder comes from fares and grants, picking up about 6 million from excess FYTP funds, tab tax goes to Sound Transit, gain about 300 jobs from ST, 60 million from ST for BRT line, light rail delayed coming south. Biggest sales tax gained in March June, September, and December, influenced by consumer trends. Mid-range recessions expected late summer – layoffs unlikely, delay of projects
- Major Projects – 70 active projects including maintenance/base improvement (MOBI), currently not backed by federal grants, working for a TIFFI line of credit, up to 140 million to complete this \$300 million project to support ZEB fleet; BRT line has achieved 60% design, 317 residences along SR 7 would require partial purchase of their

property; WSDOT complete streets project timelines overlapping; aiming for ZEB 100% electric over 20 years; 3 electric chargers going to Commerce Street

- ORCA Lift adopted by PT agency
- 16 operators currently in training, retention program in fact
- Open house April 27<sup>th</sup>
- **Marlene Druker:** Is the trolley coming to Gig Harbor with the increase of operators? **Mike:** I am not taking no for an answer when it comes to getting more service to Gig Harbor. I am well-aware, met with the Mayor and City Manager in GH, on my list in to get more service. **Marlene:** Trolley was winning with the people who didn't grow up with Transit.
- **Don:** Vanpools? Are we at 95% on that? **Mike:** No, we've got about 320 fleet, 198 deployed. Simplified fare structure, lowered rider minimums. We've got 12 internal vanpools, won awards for commute solutions. **Don:** We're taking a hit for the tax, it is not our deal. It is important we get the message out that the light rail is not coming soon, tax is continuing. **Mike:** I am a transit rider myself; I generally take ST bus'. If the light rail got here, there would be a lot of stops up North. Our new Transit app will show you exactly where you are. **Don:** What are the interest rates on the TIFFI loan? **Mike:** I don't know as it is always changing, when the interest rate was 4.5%, the loan was about 2.7, it is subsidized below the market rate. PT got its first credit rating: AA.

#### **Monica Adams, Senior Project Manager**

- Bus Shelter Refurbishment – current shelters are almost 20 years old, frequently vandalized and trashed, 500 shelters, over half need glass replacement.
- 2022 data shows redundant efforts to combat vandalism
- Brainstorming with different designs – metal panels instead of glass
- Refurbishment into purchase plan – 1 million budget, black is best color for structure of shelters as it is long lasting and not trendy, very costly to run electricity to shelters, solar powered panels, federal clauses into RFP to increase grant funding chances
- Options to recycle shelters, aim to replace 1/5 of shelters each year, continue replacing glass for now
- Recommended shelters similar to InterCity transit; smaller glass panels, umbrella roof
- **Marlene:** bigger cities put ads on bus shelters to gain funding and make them more interesting. **Monica:** We do have an ad program, roughly 30 structures, each jurisdiction has rules, residential areas won't allow, electric has to be ran to those, some shelters are not practical. New RFP will include solar technology, illuminated ads. Kathy Walton in collaboration, art on shelters work for a little while then get vandalized. We've worked with South Hill, Ocean Ridge, within several months, all panels were broken out. Becomes costly, money thrown out the door. Other materials, anti-graffiti film, hockey glass, polycarbonate, flex sand is very easily scratched, some is flammable, film is a second layer on glass tends to burn, graffiti sticks to film.
- **Don:** I am obsessed with these things. In a perfect world, each stop has a shelter, with light and heat. I'd like to get as close to that as we can. How do we get non riders into riders and improve experience for current riders? Safety is a #1 concern, some don't want to stand by pole, uncomfortable benches for LONGER service times, running bus' more frequently or make the shelters more comfortable. Rain shelter is key for WA. **Monica:** Right of way, adjacent property owners as obstacles to more of those bus stop shelters. **Don:** With a 9% sales tax, we want to have a visual representation of the quality work PT does.
- **Linda:** I am a shuttle rider. I am usually looking for a place to be picked up. I have been riding shuttle for 10 years. Having a location makes it easier for the driver to know where they can pick us up. **Monica:** Noted.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Blake:** Were we supposed to vote for Chair and Vice Chair last month?

#### **MEMBER DELIBERATION**

None

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

##### **Welcome Tammy Heldt to Pierce Transit!**

Need to appoint Reporter to speak at April 10 Board Meeting – Linda Moran accepted.

In February, we lost a member due to medical reasons. Initiating recruitment for a new CTAG member and an alternate. Board meeting will be June 12<sup>th</sup> for this appointment of CTAG members. Projected interview weeks will be first or second week of May.

Two other members approaching 1 year term in January. May be looking to recruit 4 new CTAG Members, recruiting around August.

**Motion to appoint new Chair, Vice Chair at April Meeting.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by  
G'Joi McMillian

Approved by  
Don Green