

**PIERCE TRANSIT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES**

**January 11, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Woodards called the Board meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present:

Don Anderson, City of Lakewood Mayor  
Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive  
Marty Campbell, Vice Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember  
Kent Keel, City of University Councilmember (*representing University Place and Fircrest*)  
John Palmer, Deputy Mayor for City of Puyallup (*representing Puyallup and Edgewood*)  
Kim Roscoe, Mayor of Fife (*representing Fife/Milton/ Pacific/Auburn/Gig Harbor/  
Ruston/Steilacoom*)  
Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember  
Victoria Woodards, Chair of the Board, Mayor of the City of Tacoma

Commissioners excused:

Conor McCarthy, City of Tacoma Councilmember

Staff present:

Sue Dreier, Chief Executive Officer  
Deanne Jacobson, Clerk of the Board  
Aaron Millstein, General Counsel from K&L Gates  
Brittany Carbullido, Assistant to the CEO/Deputy Clerk of the Board

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION**

**1. Vanpool Operations and Program**

Executive Director of Planning and Community Development Ryan Wheaton and Community Development Manager Kim McGilvery provided an overview of the agency's current vanpool operations and proposed the idea to contract out certain portions/functions of the agency's vanpool program, i.e. vanpool leasing, maintenance, and insurance. It was reported that the agency is still in the exploratory stages of evaluating whether this change in operations would be cost effective. [*Commissioner Dammeier arrived.*] The agency believes it is a good time to explore a new model since vanpool ridership has significantly decreased due to COVID and because more companies are moving to work from home options for their employees. To help determine whether the change in operations would be beneficial, staff would like to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) during the first quarter of 2021 for this service.

Staff responded to various questions relating to customer enhancements that could be realized under the new program.

Commissioner Anderson requested to review two financial metrics: The cost of selling vans and the lifecycle costs of maintain the vehicles and would like these costs compared to the new proposal.

Chair Woodards noted that she understands that the RFP will help realize costs. She asked that this item come back to the full Board after the RFP process is finalized and before any final decisions are made by staff to implement a new model.

Mr. Wheaton noted that staff anticipates that it will report back to the Board on this item in March.

### **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

*[Items 1 and 2 under Special Business were transacted by the Board shortly after the meeting was called to order due to technical issues. Commissioner Dammeier was not present for these two items.]*

#### **1. Chair's Appointments to Executive Finance Committee and Service Delivery and Capital Committee (Alternate Position)**

Chair Woodards appointed Don Anderson to serve as an alternate on the Service Delivery and Capital Committee. She thanked Commissioner Anderson for serving on additional committee.

#### **2. FS 2021-001, Election of Primary and Alternate Member to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board for Calendar Year 2021**

Chair Woodards provided PSRC meeting information prior to opening nominations to this committee. She noted that pursuant to PSRC's rules, Commissioners Rosco, McCarthy and Walker should not be appointed to this Board as they already represent another entity on the PSRC Transportation Policy Board.

Commissioners Woodards nominated Commissioner Don Anderson to serve as the primary member of the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Board for calendar year 2021. No other nominations were made.

Commissioners Keel and Campbell **moved** and seconded to close nominations.

Motion **carried**, 7-0, with Chair Woodards declaring Commissioner Anderson the primary representative.

Chair Woodards nominated Commissioner John Palmer to serve as the alternate member on the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board for calendar year 2021. No other nominations were made.

Commissioners Woodards and Roscoe **moved** and seconded to close nominations.

Motion carried, 7-0, with Chair Woodards declaring Commissioner Palmer the alternate representative.

Campbell and Keel moved and seconded to serve as an alternate member

**3. FS 2021-002, Appointing and Reappointing Members to the Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)**

Community Development Administrator Penny Grellier presented on the item. She noted that CTAG applicant Paul Buchanan withdrew his application earlier today due to health concerns.

Ms. Grellier also provided a background history of the CTAG and its purpose and overview of the member selection process of new member selection and reappointment process. She noted the candidates bring a diverse experience to the committee.

Commissioners Campbell and Walker moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2021-002, appointing Linda Moran, Barbara Rhoades, and Deirdre Maxwell each to the CTAG committee with terms beginning January 28, 2021, and ending January 27, 2024, and reappointing retroactively Don Green and Blake Geyen, current CTAG members, each to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2021 and ending January 2, 2024.

Motion carried, 8-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Woodards provided directions for participating in public comment and the following individuals spoke:

- Julian Wheeler, Chair of Pierce County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, encouraged people to think of ideas for accessible projects and advised that their next regular committee meeting will be held January 12, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m. He also talked about a threat he recently received for serving as a Washington State elector.
- Isaac Tate, President of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 758, provided comments about the proposal discussed earlier in the meeting relating to contracting out certain portions/functions of the vanpool program and the potential for that leading to job losses for ATU represented auto technicians in Pierce Transit's maintenance department. He noted that it is the Pierce Transit maintenance department who performs quality assurance, maintenance, and vehicle safety checks to the vanpool fleet as well as to the SHUTTLE fleet. He noted that these employees provide conscientious work and that Pierce Transit's vanpool fleet is cleaner and better maintained compared to other peer vanpool fleets on the road.

He noted before the COVID pandemic, there was no inconvenience to the customer to navigate through the vanpool program. Mr. Tate suggested that the Board consider using different sized vehicles in its fleet, such as cut-outs or cut-away vans, to attract ridership interest in areas such as Frederickson. He encouraged the Board to look at different models. He noted as the ATU president he does not support the loss of any ATU represented

positions and he encouraged the Board to not just be thinking solely about costs but to be thinking about safety as well.

Chair Woodards passed the gavel to Vice Chair Campbell to chair the remainder of the meeting. *[Chair Woodards left the meeting at 4:58. p.m.]*

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **1. Title VI Service Equity Analysis Relating to Emergency Service Reductions to Certain Routes Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic March 2020 – March 2021**

Principal Planner Lindsey Sehmel presented on the item and noted she has made previous presentations about emergency service changes that have occurred throughout the course of the pandemic and the upcoming service changes scheduled for the March 2021 service change. She reviewed Pierce Transit's definition of what is considered a "major service change" and noted that an equity analysis under Title VI is required to be done. She reviewed the data sets that staff used to make decisions to reduce routes.

The March 2021 service plan identifies continued reductions in span and frequency on five local bus routes (13, 63, 212, 402, 425), and continued elimination of one local express route (102). All these continued reductions meet the standard of a major service change which in turn required acceptance of the equity analysis this evening.

To help mitigate the impact of Route 102, Pierce Transit coordinated with Sound Transit to ensure continuity of service between Purdy, Gig Harbor and Tacoma Dome Station, with Sound Transit adding a stop at Tacoma Dome Station on Route 595. Although the span and frequency of Route 595 differs from Route 102, this additional stop will minimize the impact by allowing residents of Gig Harbor and Purdy to maintain a direct connection to Downtown Tacoma via transfers to Pierce Transit local routes, including locations formerly served by Route 102.

Vice Chair Campbell opened the public hearing at 5:03 p.m. and gave instructions for providing comment. The following individuals spoke:

- Laura Svancarek, representative from Downtown on the GO, reported that she lives in Tacoma and uses Pierce Transit's service. Ms. Svancarek acknowledged the care staff takes when making service cuts decisions, noting that she understands that they are hard decisions. She expressed concerns about the cuts being made now and how long they will last. She expressed concern that the routes that are being looked at for service reductions many of them are the only routes that go into neighborhoods such as Northeast Tacoma, Puyallup and Purdy areas, which already are exposed to reduced service.

Vice Chair Campbell closed the public hearing at 5:06 p.m.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*(Items listed below were distributed to Commissioners in advance for reading and study and are enacted with one motion. Item(s) may be moved to the Action Agenda at the request of a Commissioner.)*

Commissioners Dammeier and Keel **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020  
Operating Fund #10  
Self-Insurance Fund #40  
Capital Fund #90  
Payment Nos. 373095 through 375326  
Wire Nos. 6070 through 6380  
No Advance Travel Checks  
Total \$10,901,021.32
2. Minutes: December 14, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
3. FS 2020-003, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and execute Contract No. 1161 with Clever Devices to provide Hardware Warranty and Software Maintenance Support Services to the new Computer Aided Dispatch/Automated Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) System for (5) years, and four (4) optional one-year extensions, for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$4,565,728.

## **ACTION AGENDA**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **STAFF UPDATES/DISCUSSION**

### **CEO's Report**

CEO Dreier reported on the following:

- Pierce Transit anticipates that it will receive up to \$22 million from the COVID relief bill passed by congress and which will be distributed by the Puget Sound Regional Council. She will update the Board when the actual amount is available as the \$22 million is a preliminary number.
- Pierce Transit's recent virtual BRT open house was very successful last month. Prior to COVID, we averaged about 10 community members. With the virtual open house, there

were 99 attendees. She encouraged the Board to visit RideBRT.com to view the open house and to view communications sent to property owners. She also noted that there is a video of the open house on YouTube as well.

- Staff is preparing for its next virtual event that is focused on 501c3 organizations. Pierce Transit's sales and outreach team has reached out to approximately 346 not for profit organizations who are not currently participating in the program to promote the program. Outreach efforts included mailers, calls and social media. The virtual event will be held January 12 and the Board will receive an update on the event.
- CEO Dreier wished all a healthy happy 2021.

## **INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS**

**Chair Report** - Chair Woodards announced that the Board retreat meeting date has been set for Thursday, March 18, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Sound Transit Update**

Commissioner Keel reported that Sound Transit is going through a realignment process. Due to revenue problems due to COVID, some project due dates will need to be extended.

He also noted the Puget Sound Region is booming and property values have increased resulting in increased costs for property acquisition and construction labor costs. Adjustments will occur but the projects will be completed.

Staff and elected officials are working to obtain money that may be available in relief packages from the federal and state levels.

Commissioner Dammeier reported that our region is being represented well by Kent Keel serving as the Sound Transit Board Chair. He noted the realignment process has been challenging and Commissioner Keel has led the organization well through this process. He noted that there will be challenges but we need to continue to advocate for the Pierce County related projects to remain in the queue. Commissioner Dammeier thanked the members of the Board who currently serve on the Sound Transit Board for their service.

### **PSRC Transportation Policy Board Update**

Commissioner Anderson stated that he did not attend the last PSRC Transportation Policy Board meeting due to a conflict. He reported that the Board reviewed the passenger only ferry system that is still progressing and the Board recommended \$15 million for the West Seattle Bridge project.

He reported on the topics of the upcoming meeting and noted that funding opportunities and funding formulas have not been distributed fairly and he continues to advocate for the fair distribution of funds.

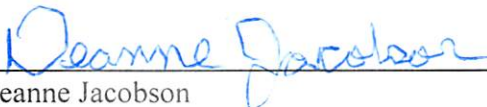
**Commissioners' Comments**


None.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioners Keel and Walker **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting into closed session at 5:23 p.m. to discuss labor relations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(b).

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

  
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Deanne Jacobson  
Clerk of the Board

  
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Victoria Woodards, Chair  
Board of Commissioners