



Pierce Transit
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Virtual Meeting via Zoom/phone
Minutes – January 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

CTAG Members Present: Don Green, Blake Geyen, Linda Moran, Cody Bakken, Marlene Druker, Denise Edington, Antoinette Craig, Paul Crandall, Deirdre Maxwell, Jamie Witter, and Paul Buchanan.

Absent: Emily Freeman.

Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present: Mike Griffus (CEO), Nathan BeVelle (Community Development Administrator), Stephanie Edwards (Regional ORCA Operations Team), and Chris McKnight (Regional ORCA Operations Team).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from December 2021 were reviewed and approved. Marlene Druker moved, and Deirdre Maxwell seconded

CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CEO Update (Mike Griffus, CEO)

Mike provided an update on the BRT Stream 1 project, including a quick background recap of the project. COVID delays have caused an increase in the budget and a delay in the anticipated start date. Pierce Transit continues to work with partner agencies to reach the 60% design threshold to request the FTA funds associated with the project. If the Project doesn't see any additional cost increases, it is fully funded.

Sales tax figures have been strong for the agency.

Pierce Transit is currently amid an operator and maintenance shortage, due to COVID outages, resignations, and retirements. The agency introduced a 10% service reduction along with the Fall service change to minimize missed trips for customers. There are no planned service cuts for the Spring service change. New operators are currently being trained. It takes 10 weeks to get through the training program. Based on current recruitment efforts there is hope for 100% staffing in the fall.

In 2021, Pierce Transit won the Healthy Community award. In part to our Essential Rides for Essential Workers program implemented during the pandemic. The Union and Pierce Transit recently agreed to a three-year extension. Mike held time for Q&A with attendees.

ORCA Next Gen Update (Stephanie Edwards and Chris McKnight, Regional ORCA Operations Team)

Stephanie provided an overview and update on the project. There was a discussion on the changes between account based vs. card-based systems. Stephanie covered the privacy and security updates with the new system. The retail network will increase to over twice the existing outlets.

An update on the timeline was presented. Like with most projects COVID is the reason for program delays. Customers can view and get updates from the new website MyORCACard.com.

There will be a transit advertising campaign February – June, across the whole region. There will be over 2,200 placements of ads. The material is being translated into six different languages. ORCA now has a social media presence. Brochures are available for distribution. Business Account outreach will begin in February. There will be a virtual open house in May. To date, there have been over 20+ community/group meetings, reaching over 450+ people, with over 400+ different agencies. Stephanie held time for Q&A with the attendees.

Chair and Vice Chair Elections (Nathan BeVelle, Community Development Administrator)

Nathan updated CTAG that the Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually, with no more than two consecutive terms. Don was elected Chair in Jan '21, and Blake Vice Chair in Feb '21. CTAG will elect Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting in February.

MEMBER DELIBERATION

A brief discussion on outreach to Emily was had. She has missed the last few meetings with no notice or communication. Nathan will pursue additional communication means to reach Emily.

Outgoing members Cody and Denise were thanked for their contributions to CTAG over the last six years.

The groups briefly discussed different transportation related bills in the state legislature.

PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tacoma TRAX Transit Oriented Development (TOD) recently held their groundbreaking. They will utilize the ORCA for Multifamily program for their tenants. The Drive and Thrive recruitment message was shared. CTAG was presented information on the Stream System Expansion Study and associated survey. A brief update on the Spanaway Runner service was provided. A future update will be presented soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Submitted by
Nathan BeVelle

Approved by
Don Green