

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

January 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Campbell called the regular board meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

Marty Campbell, Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember
Kent Keel, City of University Councilmember (*representing University Place and Fircrest*)
Ryan Mello, Pierce County Councilmember
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, Vice Chair of the Board, City of Tacoma Councilmember
Jason Whalen, City of Lakewood Mayor
Victoria Woodards, Mayor of the City of Tacoma

Staff present:

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

OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Chair Campbell welcomed board members, staff, and citizens to the virtual meeting and provided attendees with instructions for meeting participation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Campbell provided participation instructions to the public and opened public comment.

Clerk Jacobson announced that no written comments were received for public comment today.

There were no public comments provided or received and public comment was closed.

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 Roscoe and Palmer **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 6-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, December 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
Operating Fund #10
Self-Insurance Fund #40
Capital Fund #90
Payment Nos. 377370 through 377601
Wire Nos. 9178 through 9495
No Advance Travel Checks
Total \$12,816,253.29
2. Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2021, regular board meeting.
3. FS 2022-001, Authorized the Chief Executive Officer to increase the contract authority amount with Gene's Towing, Inc., Contract PT-32-16, in the amount of \$65,000 for a revised contract spending authority of \$442,706.22 through September 2022.

ACTION AGENDA

1. FS 2022-002, Electing a Primary and Alternate Representative to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board for Calendar Year 2022

Chair Campbell gave an overview of the meeting schedule for the PSRC Transportation Policy Board and reviewed the 2021 representatives for historical background.

Commissioners Walker and Mello **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2022-001, electing Commissioner Campbell to serve as the primary transit representative and Commissioner Palmer to serve as the alternate transit representative for the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board for calendar year 2022.

Motion **carried**, 7-0. (*Commissioner Keel arrived at 4:08 p.m.*)

2. FS 2022-003, Appointing Paul Buchanan, Jamie Witter, Brandi DeCoteau, and Benjamin Yoder to the Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)

Community Development Administrator Nathan BeVelle gave an overview of CTAG's role at Pierce Transit and detailed the recruitment process for filling the vacancies. He gave a high-level overview of the candidates' background and fit with the CTAG.

Various commissioners expressed their thanks and appreciation to the members for participating in CTAG and applauded staff's efforts for seeking a diverse group of candidates.

Commissioners Walker and Roscoe **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2022-002, appointing Paul Buchanan and Jamie Witter each to a CTAG term beginning January

27, 2022 and ending January 23, 2025, and Brandi DeCoteau and Benjamin Yoder each to a CTAG term beginning April 28, 2022 and ending April 24, 2025.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

STAFF UPDATES

1. Bus Rapid Transit Update

Executive Director of Planning and Community Development Ryan Wheaton provided a lengthy update on the project and reported on the challenges that have delayed the project and contributed to cost increases. He reported that the new estimated cost has increased from \$202 million to \$222 million. The cost increases were attributed to inflation, Covid, and the Traffic Impact Analysis (*Commissioner Woodards arrived*) rework required by the City of Tacoma, which is needed to achieve 60 percent design. He noted that revenue service is anticipated to begin Q4 2026.

Mr. Wheaton noted that the agency still needs to achieve 60 percent design completion (anticipated March 2023) in order to receive the \$75 million grant funds from the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). The FTA has expressed concern about Pierce Transit's ability to complete the project.

Mr. Wheaton recommended returning in March/April 2022 with an official cost estimate update after a revised FTA risk assessment is completed.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst commissioners and staff about the following:

- how to keep the project on track;
- the challenges that have delayed the project and increased costs;
- emphasis on all parties working in a collaborative effort;
- project delays and cost increases anticipated due to supply chain issues;
- solutions to closing the funding gap and mitigating impacts to schedule and project costs; and
- risk of jeopardizing FTA funding due to delays in the project and other challenges.

Commissioner Mello suggested it would be beneficial if the planning departments of the City of Tacoma and Pierce County allowed for BRT and rail projects to be permitted outright so that projects could be expedited and uncertainties could be mitigated.

Commissioner Woodards suggested that our congressional delegation should be updated on the current state of this project so that they hear it from Pierce Transit and not hearsay through other channels.

2. CEO'S Report

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following items:

- Groundbreaking ceremony for the Tacoma Trax Construction Project will be held Jan. 20th from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

- Congratulated Commissioner Keel on his re-appointment to Chair of the Sound Transit Board.
- Congratulated Commissioner Whalen for his appointment/election to Mayor of Lakewood.
- Applauded employees for the good work they did during the snow event, noting few missed trips and few accidents occurred.
- Reported out on the impacts Covid 19 is having on personnel and service levels.
- Staff is monitoring the federal mandate that may be imposed. Pierce Transit has purchased 2700 rapid test kits in anticipation of the vaccine mandate going into effect.
- Thanked Executive Director of Finance Brett Freshwaters for his service to the agency and congratulated him on his retirement. Finalist interviews for his replacement will occur this week and there are five good candidates.
- Announced that January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month and discussed Pierce Transit's support of the **Not Alone Campaign**.
- He introduced the agency's new Chief Operating Officer, Rafeh Haidar. He gave a brief overview of his background and experience in the transportation industry.

Mr. Haidar expressed his pleasure for joining Pierce Transit and for the opportunity to serve the Pierce County community.

INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS

1. Chair's Report

- On behalf of the Board, Chair Campbell thanked Mr. Freshwaters for his service and dedication to public transportation and to Pierce Transit.

Mr. Freshwaters expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work for Pierce Transit and spoke about the dedication of its employees.

- The Board will hold a study session meeting on Monday, February 14 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to discuss a new policing model.

2. Sound Transit Update

Commissioner Keel reported on the current business of Sound Transit.

3. Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update

Commissioner Mello reported on the business that will be discussed at the next PSRC Transportation Policy Board meeting.

4. Commissioners' Comments

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Keel and Walker **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marty Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Deanne Jacobson
Clerk of the Board

Marty Campbell, Chair
Board of Commissioners