

**PIERCE TRANSIT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**February 14, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Campbell called the special study session meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present:

Marty Campbell, Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember  
John Hines, City of Tacoma 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 Deputy Mayor  
Victoria Woodards, City of Tacoma Mayor

Staff present:

Mike Griffus, Chief Executive Officer  
Deanne Jacobson, Clerk of the Board  
Brittany Carbullido, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Jessica Skelton, Pacifica Law Group

**OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING**

Chair Campbell wished all attendees a happy Valentine's Day. He reported that the purpose of today's study session is for the Board to review and discuss a new public safety model for the transit system. He announced that the Board will recess into Executive Session shortly for approximately 15 minutes to discuss litigation or legal risks of a current practice or proposed action, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) (iii). He noted that no final action or disposition on any matter today.

**RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 3:05 p.m., Chair Campbell recessed the meeting into Executive Session for 15 minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) (iii) to discuss litigation or legal risks of a current practice or proposed action. He noted that no final action or disposition will occur. He announced that the board expects to return to open session at 3:20 p.m.

At 3:20 p.m., Chair Campbell announced to attendees that the Executive Session meeting will be extended 10 minutes, with a new return time of 3:30 p.m.

## **RECONVENE MEETING TO OPEN SESSION**

Chair Campbell reconvened the meeting back to open session at 3:32 p.m.

Rodney Chandler, Emergency Management Administrator, proposed a new public safety model that contained short and long-term solutions. Mr. Chandler reported that the Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) notified Pierce Transit near the end of 2021 that they would be reducing their level of service with Pierce Transit. As a result, Pierce Transit has been forced to look at a different public safety model that would still provide a similar level of public safety presence and response times that occurred with the use of PCSD deputies to the following core areas in the Pierce Transit system:

- Commerce Street
- Tacoma Mall Transit Center
- Tacoma Community College Transit Center
- Tacoma Dome Station
- 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Transit Center
- Routes in the encompassing areas serving these locations

The Board reviewed a combination of short and long-term solutions that would supplement the agency's current model, which consists of the Pierce Transit Public Safety Officers, law enforcement contracts with other police agencies for extra duty service, and continuing with the existing Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) contract at a reduced level of service.

The following short and long-term solutions were reviewed:

- Contract with Tacoma Police Department (may or may not be successful) and utilize PCSD contracted personnel as extra duty shifts
- Utilize a private security firm (if unable to contract with City of Tacoma) and expand the agency's public safety officer program
- Continue to contract with law enforcement agencies for extra duty services where possible
- Develop and incorporate Transit Ambassador roles and partner with other agencies to develop behavioral health solutions and training

The Board received an overview of the challenges and benefits to the short and long-term solutions and received an overview of the Public Safety Officer program and the supportive role that Pierce Transit Service Supervisors have in the field. The Board also received an overview of the Ambassador Program and Behavioral Healthy partnerships and which will be components of the new public safety model. It was emphasized that Pierce Transit does not conduct fare enforcement and that the Public Safety Officers are unarmed personnel. *(At 3:50 p.m. Chair Campbell left the meeting and Vice Chair Walker assumed the role of chair.)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioners Keel and Roscoe **moved** and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Motion **carried**, 8-0.



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Deanne Jacobson  
Clerk of the Board



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Marty Campbell, Chair  
Board of Commissioners