



Pierce Transit
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
Virtual Meeting via Zoom/phone
Minutes – July 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

CTAG Members Present: Blake Geyen, Deirdre Maxwell, Maddie Merton, Ben Yoder, Paul Buchanan, Marlene Drucker, and Ivan Tudela

Absent: Linda Moran, Brandi DeCoteau, Jamie Witter, Amin Hester, and Don Green

Guests: None

Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present: Chris Schuler (Pierce Transit Executive Director of Finance/IT - CFO), James Sullivan (Human Resources Specialist), Tammy Apthorp (Community Development Coordinator), Alexis Haynes (Community Development Intern), Lani Fowlkes (Community Development Coordinator) Julie Stutzke (Budget Coordinator), Lisa McVay (Budget Supervisor), Nathan BeVelle (Community Development Administrator), and Dena Withrow (Transportation Manager – Customer Experience)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from June 2022 were reviewed and approved. Deirdre moved, and Ben seconded.

CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blake Geyen, Vice Chair

Ben Yoder shared per last conversation that ORCA readers were not loud enough for hard of hearing. One commenter of that lives near him and it was great to address in person on it and bring it to full circle.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None (No in person guests. No unknown members of public in meeting list)

COMMISSIONER HINES

Not in attendance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Introduction of new CTAG members (Nathan BeVelle)

Nathan provided an introduction of new CTAG members, Maddie Merton, and Ivan Tudela. Amin unable to attend this month and will attend fulltime next month replacing Emily for inactivity.

Community Development Intern Introduction (Alexis Haynes)

Alexis introduced herself to the CTAG. We're working on being able to keep her over the school year on some level and hope her face will be a regular appearance at CTAG meetings.

Mechanic Apprenticeship Program (Marah Harris)

Marah was unable to attend. Lani will follow up to arrange attendance for a future meeting to share info about the Mechanic Apprenticeship Program.

2022 Budget Update (Chris Schuler)

Chris introduced himself to CTAG. As planned, fares down about 7 1/2% and that's primarily due to the operator shortages and some of the reduced routes.

Revenue highlights:

- Sales Tax year-to-date is slightly up over budget Inflation may impact this revenue source in the remaining months.
- Grants are up by 17.52% due to ARPA funding awarded at higher than budgeted amount.
- Other revenue category is up 25.87% due to gains on sold assets.

Expenditure highlights:

- Wages and benefits are under budget by 11.15% mostly due to the Operator shortage.
- M&O expenditures are still under budget even though we are experiencing inflation.

TIFIA loan update:

- The Board of Commissioners approved the agency to apply for a federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan to support the MOBI project.
- Application process can take 9 to 12 months.
- Benefits include only paying interest on revenue drawn and repayment can begin up to 5 years after the project is completed.

Julie put in the text chat "535 Transit Operators were budgeted this year".

Chris also held a Q&A session with CTAG.

Recruiting Update (James Sullivan)

In recruitment you would think we're just behind the scenes processing applications as they come through but it's a bit more than that. Recently we added two more to our team for a total of four. We do our own outreach events as well as partnered with Community Development and collectively attended 30 events. Additionally, Recruitment has teamed up with Marketing to produce many designs and informational media on operator, maintenance, and other open positions using brochures as well as bus and SHUTTLE ads. Monetary referral incentives are place for operator, journey level mechanic and public safety officer positions for \$1,000. As of today, we currently have 423 transit operators. Between January to July (July class started 7/25) we've had 94 students attend training. Unfortunately, not all complete the class to completion and on to transit operator classification for either not passing or deciding it's not the best fit for them. We're out there in the community trying to sell Pierce Transit as a whole.

Nathan asked how can CTAG help the recruiting team? James said members can help pass out flyers to those of real interest in positions and brainstorming for the next goal and ideas.

Dena added comment when talking to someone they may be interested but are intimidated by the size of the vehicle to reassure them we have an extremely talented training department, it's easier than it looks, and we won't ask anyone to do anything they're not comfortable with. She has been with transit for 24 years and started out as a driver herself with no experience. She was formerly a hairdresser and bartender and had never driven anything bigger than her car. We have the best trainers in the nation.

James held a Q&A session with CTAG.

MEMBER DELIBERATION

Marlene reminded all about Halloween Bike Ride, thanking Pierce Transit for the use of Kimball P&R for its origin. She's already submitted her application to Kim for this year's event as she'll need that for the permit with City of Gig Harbor. Marlene also mentioned about Forever Green Trails and information about how they serve the Pierce County Community in the text chat.

Blake mentioned he recently rode southbound route 3 and upon approaching South Tacoma Way and 56th there was an announcement the stop was not accessible by w/c. He said there is a sidewalk there and wondered about this issue. In attendance, Dena Withrow (Transportation Manager) said she would investigate it and follow up with Blake and Lani.

Ivan thanked Pierce Transit for the free rides to cooling stations and asked if this is tracked. Dena explained it's not because we often have free rides taken if a passenger doesn't have the fare, we still don't deny the trip but there is no way to differentiate these trips from temporary free ride campaigns such as cooling stations. She would investigate if they could at least report a spike in trips during these times and if there can be a report on this.

Marlene reminded group about free rides Saturday July 30th for the Transit to Trails Day event.

James complimented Ivan and/or Pierce County in their response time to the correction of cooling stations at libraries on Mondays as they are closed.

PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This will be Nathan's last meeting as he's accepted an external position. Lani Fowlkes will be leading future CTAG meeting with support of Alexis Haynes. Free Pierce Transit rides to Transit to Trails event this Saturday. Due to operator shortage we're unable to provide Gig Harbor Trolley service this year. We have however wrapped 30-foot coaches for that trolley 'feel' on route 100. RUNNER service currently serves Ruston, Tide flats and JBLM and expecting to launch Spanaway/Midland service mid-summer. Lani and Dwayne will be requesting feedback from CTAG. Stream System Expansion update is that we're still trying to wrap that up with the prioritization of those four routes. If anyone has any additional comments, they would like to submit on that feel free to reach out to Lani as she can get you connected back with Darin and Amber and the team leading that.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Submitted by

Approved by

Lani Fowlkes

Don Green