



**Pierce Transit  
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)  
Virtual Meeting via Teams/phone  
Minutes – August 25, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE**

CTAG Members Present:

Don Green – Chair, Blake Geyen - Vice Chair, Linda Moran, Deirdre Maxwell, Jamie Witter, Paul Buchanan, Brandi DeCoteau, Ben Yoder, Maddie Merton, Ivan Tudela, Amin Tony Hester

Absent: Marlene Drucker

Guest: None

**Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present:**

Mike Griffus (CEO), Lindsey Sehmel (Principal Planner-Scheduling), Lani Fowlkes (Community Development Coordinator), Alexis Haynes (Community Development Intern)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Deirdre Maxwell, CTAG member*

Deidre attended the BRT Stream technical committee, which decided on what will be advised to the board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**Commissioner Kim Roscoe**

Interested in learning how CTAG operates. Shared that she operates a number of cities on the board and has offered to add a summary of CTAG on a quarterly update.

Ben asked Commissioner Roscoe which cities she reports to. She reports Steilacoom, Gig Harbor, Fife, Milton, and Pacific.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

***CEO Update (Mike Griffus)***

**Job Openings**

Reports 424 operator positions filled. Largest class of operators in September of 30 operators. Notes that although 88 operators have been hired this year, 85 have been lost, many through retirement. Comprehensive recruiting campaigns have been going on to combat this. Increased pay rates for operators and public safety officers, plus an internal referral bonus.



### **Public Safety**

Pierce County Sheriff's Department will no longer be providing service to PT. New model includes keeping Pierce County Sheriff and Investigator on staff. Signed a contract with Puyallup and solicited a private security company stationed at Commerce Street Station, Tacoma Mall, Tacoma Community College, 72<sup>nd</sup>, and potentially on base. In the next few years, more public safety officers will be hired as PT employees.

### **Ridership/Services**

Ridership is currently at 60% of a previous 9.4 million ridership rate in 2019. Large increase in vanpool due to high gas prices and state lowered qualification of vanpool from 5 to 3.

Spanaway Runner service will begin on August 29<sup>th</sup>. September service change made 24 to 31 route changes. Major service change will be implemented which involves a public hearing.

### **Free Youth Transit Pass**

Free Youth Transit pass begins September 1. Anyone 18 and younger will be able to ride free on PT and other regional transit in Washington. Move Ahead Washington package provided this service. Youth can use their Youth ORCA card or school ID. More ORCA cards will be distributed next year.

Ivan asked if Youth will have passes distributed at school, and how safety will be for students getting off the bus. Mike responded that there are many avenues of distribution being explored, educational materials for parents and youth, and reminders to operator staff for safety of students.

### **Revenue**

Revenues are up over 2021, but just meeting budget requirements in May and June.

### **BRT**

BRT is almost at 60% design. Construction planned to begin in 2024, and revenue service planned for 2027. Board approved funding plan for this in July.

### **Transit Centers**

Spanaway Transit Center groundbreaking event is October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at noon.

Tacoma Narrows, Kimball, Purdy, and Parkland Transit Centers are being updated for safety.

### **Bldg 4**

Building 4 is to be open to visitors soon.

### **Electric buses**

PT received \$3.8 million grant to supply 3 new electric buses and charging stations, adding on to the 9 currently owned. Goal is to have 40 by 2030. Zero emissions plan is being put in place.

### ***Fall Service Change (Lindsey Sehmel)***

Due to the staffing challenges at an operations level, PT was unable to add additional service to the network. Similar service will be provided for September. Route 500 has new trips added on Saturday, and four new round trips. Timetable adjustments for almost all the routes.



Anticipated ridership growth starting September as result of Free Youth Transit. Future developments will focus on bringing back service hours and trips on impacted routes. Public process for service change will monitor Title VI analysis of service cuts and ridership and its impact on marginalized communities.

Ivan asks how new routes are added. Lindsey mentions that new routes are developed by going out to the community where service seems to have more need, but also is influenced by public opinion and motions with city jurisdiction.

***Stream Expansion System – Letter of Support (Lani Fowlkes)***

Lani and Deidre motion to draft a letter of support. Don asks if Deidre can draft, and if him and Lani can sign its approval.

**Member Deliberation**

Deidre mentions on the Route 2 bus, Lakewood Transit center has moved the bays to where the buses are and she is unable to see the numbers. Ben suggests adding these changes to the Transit app. Tony adds that he has the same issue because many transit centers do not have braille. He also mentions that buses often are not audibly counting off stops – Deidre seconds this issue.

Ben brings up the Pierce Transit podcast and encourages members to listen. Don asks for dates at touring facilities, in which Lani responded about having it sometime in October.

**PIERCE TRANSIT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spanaway Transit Center event is Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12-1pm. Located at 207<sup>th</sup> and Mountain Highway.

Requesting volunteer for November Board meeting update.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lani Fowlkes

Approved by:  
Don Green