



**Pierce Transit  
Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)  
Virtual Meeting via Teams/phone  
Minutes – FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE**

CTAG Members Present: Don Green (Chair), Blake Geyen (co-chair), Marlene Druker, , Deirdre Maxwell, Brandi DeCoteau (DE-KO-TO), Maddie Morton, Ivan Tuleda, Jamie (guest), Linda Moran, Jamie Witter

CTAG Members Absent: Ben Yoder (excused), Paul Buchanan, Amin (Tony) Hester

**Pierce Transit Employees and Presenters Present:**

Amber Stanley, Tammy Aphorp, Lanai Tu, Christian (IT), Mark Eldridge

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for January and February will be presented and approved at March Meeting – approved by members

**CTAG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Don Green**

Maintenance uniforms

Increased funding for portable toilets

Motion to approve agenda – approved

**Lanai Tu**

ORCA LIFT – current outreach, working with King County Public Health to hold an enrollment event – rollout for April 1

Meeting next week with King County to coordinate efforts to set up enrollment tables

ORCA Lift apply now – April 1 will begin the reduced fair

**Mark Eldridge**

Zero emission Bus program (ZEB) - roadmap to transition fleet to 100% ZEB

PT has been running cleaner vehicles since 1980s (CNG as opposed to diesel)



Two options- Battery Electric bus, Fuel cell Electric bus – main difference is Fuel cell is Hydrogen charged (higher PSI, more expensive, green hydrogen is not found easily)

Benefits: zero tailpipe emissions, lower fuel cost, quieter operations, lower maintenance costs

Cons: higher capital costs, range limitations, additional parking areas

Charging methods – Slow depot, Fast conductive via Pentagraph, Fast inductive via electrical coil magnetics

Current fleet – 2% on diesel, 5% BEB, 13% Hybrid Electric, 80% CNG

In process for grant – 20 additional BEB, 3 dispensers, 7 charges – lose a little bus parking, must have application in by April 13

Current grants: FTA for new vehicles, State grants for potential success, Regional Mobility grant for on route charging (answer to Linda Moran’s question)

Capital expenditures – additional funding needed, competing projects – BRT, MOBI, CAD-AVL HDR has assisted in planning – Depot charging will not keep busses charged long enough, need on-route assistance to charge at transit centers

Transit Center Candidates for On-route charging - Commerce, Lakewood, TCC, Tacoma Mall, South Hill Mall

8 Transit centers have layover time

On route charging decreases the demand for more BEBs, only 3 more busses

Hydrogen Fuel cell busses have NO issues running out of energy on route

Need to finalize route modeling, complete facilities assessment

*Answer to Marlene’s question: Yes, HFC Buses are preferred, early stages in development, Need to coordinate with King County, between agencies, national standard needs to be developed, electrical grid is finite, only so much available, 32 buses OK, fleet is 300, lacking electricity – Mixed fleet of BEB and Hydrogen fuel cell, but HFC needs to develop*

**Nathan Groh – Zero Emissions Fleet Coordinator (253) 983-3751; [ngroh@piercetransit.org](mailto:ngroh@piercetransit.org)**

*Answer to Don’s question: Battery recycling is not supported by infrastructure now, lithium is valuable, this is a matter of Sustainability, Environmental Consciousness not revenue,*

*Maddie’s Question: Bus fleet, end of life, timing wise is this pre-planning or what is timeline?*

*Mark’s answer: Bus has typical 16yr life span, most funds from FTA are expecting to use bus through end of life, BEB is mature and established, having issues with current chargers*

*Ivan’s question: Assuming 1/3 vehicles will be electric in a few years, more electric buses and cars on the road concerning infrastructure?*

*Mark: I am concerned, there is a push to remove natural gas, putting more demand on electrical grid, need to radically increase supply of electricity (e.g., via rooftop maybe 80% covered), must be able to scale the electricity usage to avoid collapse*

*Mark’s solution: Solar panels, battery storage on site to help regulate demand on electrical grid, solar charging for our battery bank*

**Eric Jaszewski – Senior Planner – [ejaszewski@piercetransit.org](mailto:ejaszewski@piercetransit.org)**

New RUNNER service hoping to launch in Puyallup by end of the year

Needs a CTAG member present at staff meetings – CONTACT TAMMY APTHORP TO APPLY

Puyallup Runner WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant – applied, expecting to receive the grant (2.2 mil) in July and launch September 2023



Runner overview – On demand microtransit service, funded by existing grant, JBLM (First Transit), Ruston, Tideflats, Spanaway (Medstar), Puyallup (proposed, Pierce Transit)

Types of service– Point to point, point to hub, stop to stop

Going outside of the zones just go to major PT destinations/transit centers

15 minute wait times, 7am-10pm daily, 2 ADA vehicles

App, call, hail - \$2 fair, \$1 reduced fare, free youth with ORCA

Transit app for route planning, Token app for fare payment, GOIN app

Deployment team role – needing CTAG member

STILL NEED TO DO: buy vehicles, set them up for safety, operating needs – hiring, dispatching, customer service, hailing rides (apps? Call center?) , marketing needs

NON CDL operators – bonus for hiring drivers

Challenges: vehicle market availability, operator recruitment, short window from grant reception to service launch

Questions

*Linda: to the extent that you need drivers without CDLS, where do people apply?*

*E: Advertised online, recruiting events*

*Maddie: has the other RUNNERS been marketed past English speaking language barriers?*

*E: Not sure, will find out. (HIGH PRIORITY)*

*Lanai: Marketing team does translate to 200 languages including braille*

*Maddie: Translators at call center would be very helpful*

## **Member Deliberation**

## **Pierce Transit News and Announcements**

Members all receive monthly highlights – IVAN doesn't

Tammy: Thank you

Welcome G'Joi, Community Development Coordinator

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Submitted by: G'Joi McMillian, Community Development

Coordinator

Approved by: