

**Authority Meeting Highlights**  
***a brief recap of the Authority Meeting of May 6, 2020***

*In order to comply with the Governor's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" and in keeping with the Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamation 20-28.1 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act, this meeting was held remotely.*

**Action Items**

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Declared Coach 940 as surplus to our needs.
- Authorized the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 05916, to issue a purchase order to Toyota of Yakima in the amount of \$377,868 to purchase twelve (12) new seven-passenger Toyota Sienna minivans.
- Scheduled a public hearing for June 3, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on the draft Intercity Transit 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP).
- Scheduled a public hearing for June 3, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed September 20, 2020, fixed-route service changes.

**Other Items of Interest:**

February 2020 ridership ended with approximately 112,000 more trips than February 2019. In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, we changed our focus from promoting ridership to limiting ridership to essential trips only.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has been rapidly unfolding and Intercity Transit has been seeking as much information as possible to ensure the safety of our employees and passengers.

Beginning March 11, 2020, all personnel who did not have to be on site to support service on the street were directed to work remotely.

The weeks following, groups like customer service and DAL staff were moved off site. Staff who never thought they could work remotely were making it happen. Because of the contagious nature of this disease, removing everyone possible from our facilities allowed us to eliminate as much risk as possible and preserve service on the street.

The Governor issued the Stay Home, Stay Safe Order, and Intercity Transit, along with nine other transit systems in the state were sharing information with the Governor's Office on ridership so they could ascertain behavior. Intercity Transit advertised essential trips only and our ridership didn't drop significantly enough to abide by the social distancing requirements.

Backup buses were added to see if we could provide better social distancing and we just couldn't make that happen. We were getting reports that individuals were riding without destinations, and as a result individuals who needed to get to work and run essential errands were being left on the side of the road. Intercity Transit was stuck between a rock and a hard place, so when it came down to how we could best keep our employees and passengers safe, we started an advanced reservation system. We have provided over 10,000 rides between April 13 and May 6. The highest daily ridership has been approximately 600. Up until this last week the balance of trips was about 80% work trips and 20% were

essential errands. Last week it changed to 70% work trips and 30% essential errands. We have not turned down any essential trips made within the 2 to 5 day window. Exceptions have been made on a case-by-case basis for same-day and next-day trips.

Freeman-Manzanares gave a huge thanks to the creative and hard-working staff who stepped up to ensure that those with essential trips were able to make them safely while ensuring our staff stayed safe. Intercity Transit staff are a great example of people who are flexible, out-of-the box thinkers and are totally in-service to our community.

The Senior Management Team met with transit systems and organization from around the world to learn as much as possible about this rapidly changing situation. It's interesting to note that one of the first things systems did was eliminate fares to protect drivers from the virus.

Currently, the agency is developing virus barriers around the drivers' compartments for DAL and Coaches, and Operators are testing with safety protocols. A big shout-out to the creative Maintenance and Operations staff for their work on this.

Intercity Transit enhanced cleaning protocols using electrostatic sprayers and hospital grade cleaners, and tested the supply chain, as have many others, to get what is needed to support a clean and safe environment.

There are five Community Vans working within the community (3 with the City of Olympia, 1 with Pipe, and 1 with Sacred Heart).

Management is looking at a phased approach to re-establishing fixed-route service in accordance with the Governor's plan to the extent possible.

#### **CARES Act**

Intercity Transit submitted an application for approximately \$17.4 million dollars under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (Cares) Act. The grant funds will be used for operating assistance, paratransit service, preventive maintenance, project administration, security services and security equipment in order to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Public transportation systems are facing extraordinary challenges and these funds will go a long way to assist in battling COVID-19. There is no guarantee, however, that this will cover the true impact of this public health crisis. Intercity Transit will continue to work with our advocates and associations to ensure we can provide critical transportation infrastructure.

#### **I-976**

It was announced that the Washington Supreme Court decided to keep the injunction preventing implementation of I-976 in place during the appeal. Additionally, the Court agreed to accept direct review of this case and to set an expedited briefing schedule. The Supreme Court set oral argument for June 30, 2020, at 1:30 pm. It is not yet known if argument will be virtual or in person, but we will keep the Authority posted on those details.

#### **Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)**

On May 4, 2020, the state legislative leadership agreed to an extension of the OPMA Proclamation 20.28.1 through May 31, 2020.