

**Authority Meeting Highlights**  
**a brief recap of the Authority Meeting January 6, 2021**

*In order to comply with the Governor's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" and in keeping with the Governor's Proclamation 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was held remotely.*

**Items of Interest**

- Welcomed new Board members ***Citizen Representative Justin Belk and Thurston County Commissioner Carolina Mejia.***
- Welcomed ***Sean Barrett, Operations Trainer; Kyle McPherson, Vanpool Coordinator; Daniel Driscoll, Inventory Specialist; Josh Jacobs, Network Systems Analyst; and Ann Xiong, IS Database Developer.***
- Welcomed the recipients of the Surplus Van Grant Program: ***Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, Thurston County Food Bank, Interfaith Works, Safe Place, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Behavioral Health Resources.***
- Received an update on the Youth Education Program presented by Kerri Wilson.

**General Manager's Report:**

- Freeman-Manzanas reported there have been several fires near the Pattison Street facility in the last week - to the east of the facility, in the area known as the "Jungle," and near the exit gate on Pattison Street. These fires create health risks to our employees and our assets (our vehicles) which is very concerning.
- Since 1985, entry and exit points to provide service to the community are exclusively on Pattison Street. When construction is completed on the north parcel, there will be another entry/exit point on Martin Way, however, until then, and that will be in 2022, the possibility of having Pattison Street close down is particularly concerning in terms of our ability to provide both regular services, and if IT is called into service to respond to an emergency.
- We have been paying close attention and navigating the multitude of protests and general unrest in the community. IT's focus remains on keeping staff, passengers and assets safe while ensuring people get where they need to go. People need to get to work, the grocery store, to the doctor, and dialysis despite it all, and we have amazing people working at IT ensuring we are re-routing and communicating and making it all happen. That, and so many other actions by our employees, deserve a lot of praise. **Kudos to staff!**
- In addition to those hazards, staff is forging ahead despite the heavy winds and rain to get people where they need to go. Among other things, there was an unfortunate encounter with a tree that came down on a bus as it was on route. No one was injured. Maintenance staff is dealing with the aftermath.
- Here is a link to an article in Thurston Talks about the Pattison Street construction project. <https://www.thurstontalk.com/2021/01/04/renovation-and-rehabilitation-improvements-at-intercity-transit/>. Also, Intercity Transit was mentioned in an Olympian article on December 25, 2020, about a family who moved to Olympia last August and are receiving services through the Family Support Center. They mentioned how the free transit system has been hugely helpful to them.

- Staff is monitoring information related to the vaccine distribution. We have frontline workers, transporting frontline workers so we, like so many, are very interested in the details and trying to be patient as this is rolled out. According to the Department of Health, our frontline staff are in groups B2 and B4, which are anticipated to receive the vaccine in February and April. We will continue to monitor and do what we can to assist staff in receiving the vaccine.
- DASH is not in the Governor's budget for the 2021-2023 biennium. We will be working with the state legislature with the goal of ensuring it is in the budget by the end of session.
- The October sales tax, which was received at the end of December was 8.4% higher than December 2019. Through October 2020 we are \$3.1M over what was anticipated for sales tax revenue in our 2020 budget.
- We are very excited to welcome two classes of new Operators starting this month. These are smaller classes than normal due to COVID-19; and these are the first classes since the pandemic struck.
- Several volunteer Bus Buddies recently returned to service to assist individuals who need personalized support for essential travel. Kudos to Scott Schoengarth and the Bus Buddies for being safe and reaching out to help individuals in need. We look forward to getting beyond COVID and welcoming back all of the Bus Buddies.
- There are 13 Dial-A-Lift vehicles with the new brand out on the streets – they are bright and colorful.
- Twelve vanpool vehicles have been delivered. These are replacement vehicles for current groups
- Multiple service plans are at the ready depending on how COVID impacts our community and frontline staff. It is a daily exercise to ensure everyone is safe and healthy, who is being tested and who needs to quarantine.
- Freeman-Manzanares shared a **BIG THANK YOU to all of IT's resilient staff**. Work looks different, and COVID added a significant amount of work on top of already full schedules, and staff have moved forward in that changed space in such creative and successful ways.
- Freeman-Manzanares indicated there is the possibility there may not be any agenda items for the January 20, 2021, meeting. She will notify the Board if that meeting needs to be canceled.

Prepared January 7, 2021

Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board