

Authority Meeting Highlights
a brief recap of the April 21, 2021 Authority Meeting

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with [SCR 8402](#) extending certain gubernatorial orders issued in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Action Items:

- Scheduled a public hearing for May 19, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public comment on the draft 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. *(Jessica Gould)*
- Cindy Waterhouse, Vanpool Manager, led a discussion about how the current vanpool fare structure is a barrier to access and promotion of the program. The Authority directed staff to move forward to adopt a flat rate fare structure.

Other Items of Interest

- Sophie Stimson from the City of Olympia provided an update on the Transportation Master Plan adopted by the City of Olympia in February 2021.
- Duncan Green provided an update on the results of the 2021 Winter Bicycle Commuter Challenge.
- Kerri Wilson provided information about the traffic safety yard sign program. She encourages those who live in Olympia to post a sign in their yard and for everyone to help spread the word. If the project is successful and IT is able to get additional funding, the program can expand beyond Olympia to include more of Thurston County.

General Manager's Report:

The agency held a topping off ceremony on Monday, April 12 at the Pattison construction site, and Congresswoman Strickland addressed the audience. Staff had the opportunity to discuss with Strickland the possibility of future grants, specifically funding for bus rapid transit and alternative fuel infrastructure and vehicles.

The Marketing and Communications staff along with Information Systems staff are working to advance the IT website, and improvements include using the state's usability lab. They are recruiting individuals to participate and extended an invitation to the Community Advisory Committee. Staff will present the results at a future ITA meeting.

The CAD/AVL system contract is completed and approved. Staff is looking forward to the kick-off meeting and hopes to have the system in test mode later in the year and fully accepted in 2022.

All fourteen new Gillig buses are onsite. These vehicles are part of the pilot group for the new CAD/AVL system.

The pre-submission meeting was held today with the City of Olympia for the development of the next phases of the Pattison Street Master Plan project which includes the renovation of the

Maintenance Facility, bus yard and demolition of the existing administrative/operations building.

There is continued interest in zero-fares. Posted on the IT Facebook page is the radio interview Cool Solutions conducted with Councilmember Gilman and Freeman-Manzanares. To view click here: <https://soundcloud.com/cool-solutions/the-stone-soup-recipe-for>. The interview starts around 6:44.

Freeman-Manzanares gave a “shout-out” to Cindy Waterhouse and all of the Vanpool staff for all of the research that has gone into the vanpool fare proposal. They have been working with a consultant, AECOM, through a grant received from the state to educate staff on how to process and sell vanpool. It’s called Persuasion and Behavioral Change training. The vanpool staff has been reaching out and doing a lot of reading and experimenting on how to expand selling skills.

The APTA Legislative Conference will be held virtually on May 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This conference provides education on important federal legislation and policy initiatives. Board members interested in attending can contact Pat Messmer.

Nick Redmond joined IT for a six-week internship through the WorkEx program. This program is designed to provide civilian work experience for soldiers planning to exit the military. He will be helping IT research and gather information on the alternative fuel study. Nick is a West Point graduate with a degree in economics and has spent his military career as a commissioned Army officer in Korea, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Thera Black, who is familiar to many for her work with TRPC and SCJ Alliance, joined the Development Department as a part-time Project Coordinator. Thera will provide much needed support for several new projects in Development that support full implementation of the adopted Long-Range Plan including many of the corridor-based service programs such as High-Capacity Transit (BRT Light).

Freeman-Manzanares gave a “shout-out” to the Human Resources team for thinking outside of the box on how to recruit new employees. Anyone who has visited the SPSCC campus lately will have noticed when exiting the facility signage indicating that IT is hiring. It must be working because applications are coming in. The message is also posted on the front of the buses.

The last three days, Operations staff has been conducting interviews for the next Operator class. Training is scheduled to begin at the end of May.

Prepared April 22, 2021
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board