

A new class of 11 Operator candidates will begin 8 weeks of training Monday, February 6.

IT held a graduation ceremony on January 31 for Operator class 20-01. This was the class that graduated in March 2020 just as COVID hit so we paused on celebrating their graduation. The training group arranged for the class to get together allowing us to celebrate the completion of their training and their three years of dedicated service to Intercity Transit.

Staff is diligently working to pack up and move fully into the new Admin/Operations, Fuel, and Wash facility. We are still experiencing some delays in deliveries i.e., the antenna for the digital radio back-up system. Time is of the essence to clear out of the old building, hopefully by the end of February so Ehli's Auction can move in and document all that is remaining in the building and get everything up for auction so Forma can move in and demolish the facility.

The state legislature is in session, and we are monitoring several 2023- 2025 biennium projects IT submitted. The projects have been recommended through the legislature or have been recommended as high scoring projects by the WA State Department of Transportation. We need to ensure they remain in the budget. The Maintenance Facility Renovation is in the budget for \$5,046,000. This is the last piece of funding for the Pattison Street campus.

IT has two projects on the **WSDOT Regional Mobility Grant Prioritized Project List:**

- **Rear Door Boarding and Real-Time Passenger Information Deployments** to upgrade 55 bus stops to facilitate rear door access, deploy real-time traveler information devices at 17 locations, and rehabilitate three critical bus zones at the Olympia Transit Center for about \$1,211,221.
- **Zero-Emission Alternative Fuels Demonstration Project** to purchase three alternatively powered buses to use on select routes, along with fueling facility infrastructure for a total of \$10.3M over a 4-year period.

IT applied for \$6.8M project under the **WSDOT Green Transportation Grant Program – Intercity Transit Green Hydrogen Fuel-Cell-Electric Buses Demonstration Project** - IT is looking to acquire two additional alternatively fueled vehicles, address fueling infrastructure and upgrade facility safety features. The objective is to demonstrate alternatively fueled vehicles can replace diesel hybrid vehicles on the most demanding routes Intercity Transit operates with no degradation to safety, reliability, operating or scheduling efficiency, or public confidence.

WSDOT Bus & Bus Facility Project - for the East Martin Way Round About Preliminary Engineering to prepare for Right-of-Way and then construction. This will create a transit turnaround for future BRT service to increase efficiency and improve access for walkers, bikers and transit users. That grant is for \$850,000.

There is a lot happening within Vanpool.

- In January, Vanpool formed 10 new vanpool groups (4 vans to Costco on 93rd, 3 vans for Lacey Fire Department, and 3 vans for the National Guard).
- Freeman-Manzanares gave a shoutout to Vanpool Coordinator, Magic Aguinaga, who was accepted into the ACT Impact Leadership Program. ACT stands for Association of Commuter Transportation. The program recognizes, supports and develops professionals in their growth as leaders in Transportation Demand Management in which 15 individuals are selected nationwide.

Freeman-Manzanares showed graphics of the projects going on in Vanpool and Operations.

- Staff sent out 138,000 mailers to Thurston County residences and business to inform and educate about vanpool and the new fare structure showing how economical it is to vanpool.

- Staff is working on new ways to reach out the recruitment efforts for Operators. Freeman-Manzanares showed a flyer created by Hannah Newton in Marketing featuring Operator Ambassador Morgan Hagquist. There is a hiring event at WorkSource on February 22.
- Human Resources (Heather Stafford Smith, Amy Zurfluh, Amy Meierhoff, Alana Neal), along with Operations (Emily Bergkamp, Dena Withrow, Cameron Crass and Kevin Karkoski) are working very hard to be responsive to the needs of applicants and the needs of the market to simplify and speed up the hiring process. IT is looking for 100 Operators and if anyone is interested, check our website at intercitytransit.com or give us a call.

Attached are graphics shared or mentioned at the meeting.

Freeman-Manzanares shared that on Friday, January 20, Operator, Ted Depoe was notified there was an unresponsive individual and Depoe didn't hesitate to jump out of his bus, called 911 and was then directed to start compressions. Depoe continued the life-saving efforts until EMTs arrived, and then went back to driving to complete his shift. We thank Depoe for going above and beyond for this individual and praise him for his efforts.

Prepared February 6, 2023
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board