

Authority Meeting Highlights
a brief recap of the September 20, 2023, ITA/CAC Joint Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Hosted a hybrid Joint Meeting of the Authority and the Community Advisory Committee.
- Authorized the Interim General Manager to execute a new contract with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs for Federal Advocacy Services for a period of one year in the amount of \$96,000. *(Noelle Gordon)*
- Authorized the Interim General Manager to execute a one-year contract extension with Foster Government Relations to provide State Legislative Advocacy Services in the amount of \$48,000. *(Noelle Gordon)*

Other Items of Interest:

Welcomed ***Kenny Revel, Inventory Specialist, Donlee Robinson and Lucas Sampson, Support Specialists.***

Recognized and celebrated the **2023 State Rodeo Grand Champions and Excellence in Transit Recipients.**

Procurement Coordinator, Tammy Ferris, provided a summary of the recent improvements at the Olympia Transit Center including worked planned for the fall.

Planning Manager, Rob LaFontaine, provided information regarding additional Federal requirements for designing, operating, and changing fixed-route bus service resulting from the 2020 US Census.

Administrative Services Director Heather Smith and HR Manager Alana Neal provided an update on the General Manager recruitment process.

Interim General Manager's Report:

The Holiday Banquet is scheduled for Friday, December 8. Pat Messmer and Amanda Collins along with support from the Facilities and Maintenance crews are planning a wonderful holiday meal with all the fixings from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in one of the new detail bays, with food available at the OTC and a meal earlier in the week for the Maintenance swing shift & graveyard crew. We are also recruiting Miracle on Pattison Street singers for the return of the holiday singalong. Operator Joe LaGrand will “come out of retirement” to lead us with members who are both familiar and fresh faces: Customer Service Representatives Jane Denicola and Renee Fonseca, Operators Tyler Bain and Glenroy Sandy, Development Assistant Fiona Sheehan, Senior Planner Steve Swan, and Bus Buddy Coordinator Scott Schoengarth. This group will also graciously allow Bergkamp to join in the fun.

CDL testing went very well this past week, and all 10 members of the Class 23-04 are now CDL holders! They are out doing routes learning everything transit related. The class is very excited to be learning routes and continuing their training. Congratulations to class 23-04!

The HR and Operations recruitment team hosted a second Coach Operator Open House Event on August 31 at the Tumwater Worksource. It was a great success and combined with the interviews that were held at the OTC on September 5, 6, and 7, 28 job offers were made for Class 23-05 starting on October 9. In addition, there were 3 applicants held over from a previous recruitment. While a few candidates didn't work out, we achieved a net total of a class size of 29 – one of the largest classes to date.

Applications for the Community Advisory Committee recruitment are now available. Anyone interested is encouraged to apply by October 6! Interviewees will be selected on October 18 and interviews will take place in early November or December. Special thanks to ad-hoc committee members Sue Pierce, Don Melnick, Debbie Sullivan, Ty Flint, Clair Bourgeois, Nicole Smit, and staff member Amanda Collins for their work on this years' recruitment.

During the month of September, Intercity Transit will host visits from Senator Hunt, Representatives Bateman, Barkis, and Fey, who is also the Chair of the Transportation Committee. Special thanks to our state advocates Joanna Grist and David Foster for arranging these visits, Pat Messmer for coordinating all the dates and times, and Chief Marketing, Communications and Outreach Officer Nick Demerice for assisting with the tours.

Several Board members who had availability to attend a tour of Nisqually Tribal Facilities, will join staff on Friday, September 22 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. For those interested in carpooling, please meet at Intercity Transit in the Ad/Ops visitor parking lot. We depart IT at 1:05 p.m.

Village Vans and Dial-A-Lift are transitioning to a new ride scheduling software called Via, which was launched on September 11, 2023, in Village Vans. It includes an app for customers to use to request rides and get real time updates on their rides. It will launch in DAL on October 14. Via has the capacity to be used for other on-demand services, such as our innovative service zones also known as micro transit which we identified as a future enhancement to our services as one of our nine promises from Proposition 1.

The September Service Change has been in place since September 3, 2023, and is going smoothly, which puts IT up to 88% of pre-COVID service levels.

Service Details - 30-minute Frequency on Weekdays: Routes 21, 45, 47, and 60.

Extended Service:

- **Route 12** – Restored weekday and weekend trip leaving the Olympia Transit Center (OTC) at 9 p.m.
- **Route 13** – Restored weekday round trips leaving OTC at 8:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.
- **Route 41** – Restored weekday and weekend round trip leaving OTC at 9:30 p.m.
- **Route 48** – Restored weekday and weekend round trips leaving OTC at 9:15 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.
- **Route 62A** – Restored weekday and weekend inbound trip leaving Orion & Willamette Dr. at 9:50 p.m.
- **Route 62B** – Restored weekday and weekend round trip leaving OTC at 9:30 p.m.
- **Route 65** – Restored weekday and weekend trip leaving the Lacey Transit Center (LTC) at 8:58 p.m.
- **Route 66** – Restored weekday and weekend round trip leaving OTC at 9:15 p.m.

- **Route 68** – Restored weekday and weekend outbound trips leaving LTC at 9:01 p.m. and 9:31 p.m. as well as restored weekday and weekend inbound trips leaving Capital Mall at 9:18 p.m. and 9:48 p.m.

On September 1, 2023, Customer Service Representatives (Renee Fonseca, John Staikos, Traci Burns and Steve Lauckhart) took turns rotating shifts between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to staff a table on the OTC platform to call attention to the September 3 service change. Passengers and Operators were very appreciative of the extra visible support. Some were happy with just the service change information, and others asked general service questions including GH/Flix, and information about other transit services. Overall, it was a great success!

Intercity Transit received a note of appreciation from Michael Cade from the EDC for Authority Chair, Clark Gilman's support for a Regional EDC conference and for Dena Withrow's and Cameron Crass' operational support. Cade wrote, *"Clark, please accept my heartiest words of appreciation for your participation at the WA Commerce Economic Development Conference this past week. Your message and discussion points were so very on the mark – it certainly addressed the notion and theme of the conference that economic development is a concerted effort to support strategic pathways for building a strong community. Your discussion of the role that Intercity Transit plays in this arena was impactful to the group and I had more than several positive comments of appreciation."*

"Thank you to Dena and Cameron from Operations for their arrangements of support. The tours were fantastic, and it was a blessing to have the buses available to drive the folks through our community. I know that both WA Commerce and BusinessOregon were very appreciative – and both mentioned to me that by adding that component and support, it has made this conference one of the premier conferences in the northwest." Thank you! Onward and upward! Michael

Bergkamp shared the Week Without Driving campaign sponsored by Disability Rights Washington takes place October 2-8, 2023. Participants are encouraged to get around however they want, but the challenge is not to drive themselves in any car. They suggest this applies to all activities — not just work commutes. It also applies if you normally transport other family members or friends. This isn't a disability simulation or a test of how easily you can find alternatives. We know that it is far easier to give up your keys if you can afford to live in a walkable area, well served by transit or can outsource your driving and other transport and delivery needs to other people. Having to drive during the challenge does not signify failure. The point is to consider how someone without that option would have coped, and what choices they might have made.

Prepared September 21, 2023
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board