

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary

a brief recap of the January 17, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Received a presentation from Operations Director, Dena Withrow regarding the good work of the Operations Communication and Policy Committee (OCPC).
- Received an update from Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Director, Jonathon Yee regarding Zero Emissions Transition Recommendations.

Other Items of Interest:

- Cameron Crass introduced David Dudek, Service Impacts Supervisor.
- Cameron Crass introduced Operations Supervisors, Chad Edwards, Zachary Rose, and Ray Sigmon,
- Rob Rinehart introduced Nathan Davis, Senior IS Technician.
- Staci Revel introduced Ryan Vane, Facilities Technician.

General Manager's Report:

Intercity Transit welcomed the first class of 19 Operators for 2024. Class 24-01 started on January 15.

Lots of winter weather preparations took place last week and this week. Operating in winter weather is one of the most challenging, labor intensive things the Operations, Facilities and Maintenance work groups go through. Facilities staff were out laying down de-icer and making other preparations to make sure our facilities are safe for employees and passengers alike.

Operations Supervisors are out in the system in the very early morning evaluating the condition of the routes. Before the first bus pulls out of the yard, it is essential they determine which of our routes will be on detour.

On days of inclement weather, both Fixed Route and Dial-A-Lift Dispatchers have their hands full responding to phone calls and radio calls.

Maintenance and Inventory staff have continually prepared to ensure the auto-chain system is functioning properly, and repair parts are stocked, so Operators have access to this vital technology as they navigate through slippery parts of town.

Our Operators bravely report to work and hop into a Dial-A-Lift van or 35–40-foot bus, to make sure the community can get to work, doctor's appointments, dialysis, and more, in the snow and ice. Most of us avoid travel at all costs when it snows, but these folks meet it head on with the mental weight of keeping their passengers safe while driving in inclement weather. If buses get stuck in the snow, Operations Supervisors, Facilities and Maintenance staff respond as a team to do everything in their power to get buses back on track.

There are other support functions that keep us rolling in winter weather, too. The Planning staff updates the Foul Weather Plan annually, with pre-planned detours and are on call after hours and

over the weekend so they can get detour information out to customers. Customer Service staff answer many phone calls about what routes are impacted and work in concert with Marketing and Dispatch to stay up to date to communicate system impacts accurately to our passengers.

Bergkamp encourages everyone to thank these staff members for their commitment to not only Intercity Transit, but to our broader community when they themselves, like many of us, have kiddos at home with late starts or school cancellations. The Robert Frost poem, "Stopping by Woods On A Snowy Evening" states their experience aptly: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep."

Intercity Transit had the honor to provide transportation for members of the Nisqually Tribe traveling to the unveiling of a small model of the Billy Frank Jr. Statue on January 10 at the State Capitol. The Tribe posted on Facebook that two copies will be made. A full-size statue will be installed at the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. and a smaller version installed at the state Capitol Building. The statue design was created by Seattle artist Haiying Wu and approved by the Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee.

President and CEO of the Thurston County Chamber, David Schaffert, invited Bergkamp to attend their Board meeting last week to introduce herself as the new General Manager and provide an Intercity Transit update on high level subjects, issues, and opportunities. The Chamber has been very supportive of IT and the role it plays in support of community, people, and businesses. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with the Chamber in this manner.

Since the start of the pandemic, IT has been allowing members of the public to call into our meetings and watch via livestream on the Facebook page. Due to changes in the way Facebook organizes content, this is no longer a reliable option. Instead, members of the public will have three ways to participate in meetings moving forward.

1. Attend in person. Having moved to hybrid meetings, members of the public can attend meetings at the Pattison facility.
2. Dial into the meeting via telephone.
3. Join the meeting via teams as a meeting observer. A link will be provided to allow members of the public to register and join the meeting as an observer. When they join the meeting their camera and microphone will automatically be turned off. If they wish to provide public comment, they can email the Clerk of the Board and those controls can be toggled on for that portion of the meeting.

This is the method Sound Transit and several other agencies have adopted. For Authority members, staff and invited guests nothing will change in how they join the meeting remotely. This will increase transparency since it removes the requirement for someone to have a Facebook account to observe the meeting. It also exceeds the Open Public Meeting Act requirements for public agencies. We will begin advertising this change between now and the February meetings.

Prepared January 18, 2024

Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board