

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary

a brief recap of the February 7, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Authorized the General Manager to approve the revised total construction contract with NPM Construction Co., to \$552,467 *(Tammy Ferris)*
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a contract with SCJ Alliance in the amount of \$798,124.67. *(Peter Stackpole)*
- Authorized the General Manager to increase Tapani, Inc’s contract by \$60,588.83 for a revised total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,300,000. *(Eric Phillips)*
- Authorized the General Manager to increase the SCJ Alliance contract by \$35,000 for a revised total not-to-exceed amount of \$531,288. *(Eric Phillips)*
- Discussed and identified performance measures for the General Manager as outlined in the employment contract. Section 1 of the General Manager’s employment contract indicates the Board is to adopt performance measures within 90 days of the General Manager’s employment start date.
- Elected City of Olympia Councilmember, Clark Gilman as Chair of the Intercity Transit Authority.
- Elected Thurston County Commissioner, Carolina Mejia as Vice Chair of the Intercity Transit Authority.
- Completed committee assignments as follows:

<p>--Thurston Regional Planning Council: <i>Alternate</i></p> <p>--Transportation Policy Board: <i>Alternate</i></p> <p>--Pension (401K) Committee:</p>	<p>Mayor Debbie Sullivan <i>Councilmember Carolyn Cox</i></p> <p>Community Representative Justin Belk <i>Commissioner Carolina Mejia</i></p> <p>Community Representative Sue Pierce</p>
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Other Items of Interest:

- Cameron Crass introduced Operator Class 24-01.
- David Chaffee introduced Service Workers Dylan Deuel and Ariel Halverson.

General Manager’s Report:

On Friday, January 26, 2024, Intercity Transit and ATU staff and leadership celebrated the retirement of **Transit 1, Operator Dave Rood**. **Rood retired** after 42 years of service to our community. Rood has taken thousands, if not millions of people of all ages and walks of life to work, school, medical appointments, the grocery store, and other essential destinations since he started in 1982. Not only is Rood’s career a testament to his loyalty and dedication as an Operator, but also to the culture we have at Intercity Transit, the importance of the services we provide, and the difference they make in people’s lives. Rood was joined at the celebration by his daughters, Michelle & Rebecca. They intend to take their dad to more live concerts now that he has more free time. It is one of their favorite pastimes as a family. They already have their tickets to see **New Kids on the Block** together.

Bergkamp had the opportunity to meet with North Thurston Public School Superintendent (NTPS) Dr. Debra Clemens, Assistant Superintendent Operations Troy Oliver, Executive Director Communications Amy Blondin, and Transportation Director Garrett Kendall to discuss various partnership opportunities. NTPS is very familiar with Walk N Roll, with traffic gardens at Lydia Hawk and Mountain View Elementary Schools and looks forward

to getting reconnected with all our services. Staff shared their district's desire to increase student participation in school and/or community-based activities. We discussed ways Intercity Transit can provide helpful tools for families and students to successfully navigate their public transit system, so transportation isn't a barrier to accessing inclusive experiences.

- Explore opportunities for more Walk N Roll activities.
- Create videos/materials for advisory hour use, to easily educate students on "how to ride Intercity Transit."
- Work with NTPS to recruit youth for participation on our Community Advisory Committee and other volunteer opportunities that help us include vital feedback from youth to improve our public transportation system.

Last Wednesday, Walk N Roll Program Supervisor Kerri Wilson and Bergkamp had the opportunity to attend the [North Thurston Public School's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#) for newly remodeled [Komachin Middle School](#). Attending this event reminded Bergkamp to put our own construction woes into perspective. While IT's project has been challenging with employee parking, daily bus yard changes, and schedule setbacks, imagine working around **1,400** students, during multiple school years, moving them into portables, out of portables, all while teachers and staff do their best to help students learn. Suddenly, IT's project looks like a cakewalk! But it will be great to finally cut the ribbon on our project someday too and turn our current construction challenges into distant memories.

Bergkamp attended the [Washington State Transit Association's](#) (WSTA) Quarterly Board Meeting and Legislative Conference, held in Olympia and Intercity Transit's service area. This event allowed General Managers from transit agencies around the state the opportunity to:

- Learn about potential impacts for regional transit systems from Seattle being selected one of several host cities in the United States for the 2026 FIFA World Cup,
- Meet Kirk Hovenkotter, Executive Director of [Transportation Choices Coalition](#),
- Receive an update from [WSDOT's Public Transportation Division](#),
- Tour Intercity Transit's AdOps and Maintenance facilities, and
- Meet [Senate](#) and [House Transportation Committee](#) members Senators [Lias](#) (Chair), [Shewmake](#) (Vice Chair), and [King](#), plus Representatives [Fey](#) (Chair) and [Donaghy](#) (Vice Chair).

Special thanks to IT's Operations Crew – Dena Withrow, Cameron Crass, David Dudek and Operator Rob Wood, for ensuring the transportation for the tour of our Pattison Facilities went off without a hitch, and to our Maintenance Crew for always making sure we have a beautiful, well maintained, clean bus available for tours like these. Our Marketing Crew also did an outstanding job of providing "goodie bags" for each transit General Manager complete with a sampling of Intercity Transit swag and a few sweet treats. Everyone really helped us put our best foot forward as system hosts.

A reminder that local and Express bus service, Dial-A-Lift and Village Vans will operate on regular schedules on Presidents Day, Monday, February 19.

With the removal of the temporary Plexiglas barriers installed during the pandemic, we're happy to announce our fixed route service returns to all-door boarding for all passengers. When the barriers were in place, front door boarding was reserved for people with mobility issues. Work continues to identify an appropriate barrier for operator's personal safety, but our goal is to find a design that ensures we maintain all-door boarding moving forward.

An employee's role is crucial in shaping Intercity Transit's success as an organization. The Human Resources division is coordinating an Employee Engagement Survey to help us identify what's working well and where we have opportunities to improve as an organization. Every Intercity Transit employee is invited to complete the survey and share feedback regarding their experience with our workplace culture. Everyone's insights will guide us in co-creating a workplace that continues to exceed expectations. The survey is open until February 29 at 11:59 p.m.

Intercity Transit is improving transparency by making public records easily accessible to the public. Requestors of public information will have the option of submitting Public Records Requests through an online form. While other methods for submitting requests are still available, we are excited to be able to offer a more convenient option. The online request form is available on our website under the **Contact Us - Public Records Request** page.

A big shoutout to Public Records Officer Amanda Collins for leading the implementation, Rob Rinehart, Jen Amandala, Pat Messmer, Michael Maverick, and Jason Aguero for supporting the implementation project!

Intercity Transit's Strategic Programs Director, Eric Phillips, is retiring after eight years. Phillips started as Intercity Transit's Development Director on March 28, 2016. Since his arrival, Phillips has shepherded many of the major projects and initiatives Intercity Transit has completed or are still in progress since this time.

Phillips came to IT from the City of Edgewood, where he served as their Community Development Director, Assistant City Manager and Acting City Manager. Previous to his work with the City of Edgewood, he was a Transportation Planning Specialist 4 and a Regional Coordination Branch Manager with WSDOT as well as a Project Manager and Senior Planner with Pierce Transit.

Phillips grew up in the San Juan Islands and lives in Lacey with his wife Joyce, who is a Senior Planner-Special Project Manager with the City of Olympia, their son Keegan and dog Yuki. He's been a well-respected member of the Intercity Transit Senior Management team where he has helped us make a difference in people's lives every day.

Specifically, Phillip's worked on the following:

- Organized our grants management, helping IT get the most use out of past and present grant funding.
- Guided IT through multiple Triennial Reviews
- Worked tirelessly on the Intercity Transit Road Trip, which led to the creation of our current long-range plan and increased sales tax funding voters approved through Proposition 1.
- Planning and implementation of The One, IT's Bus Rapid Transit demonstration project.
- Construction of OTC2 with improved Operator, Customer Service Staff and Customer amenities, plus the ability to accommodate Greyhound and Flixbus service.
- Underground storage tank replacement, installation of the traffic signal at Martin Way and Pattison, paving the way for Construction of Ad/Ops, plus countless hours of work to ensure the building we work in could become a reality.
- Martin Way Park & Ride improvements, with a new flyer stop and Operator amenities, to name just a few.

Bergkamp read a Proclamation of Appreciation for Phillips and his work.

*Prepared February 8, 2024
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*