

**Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary**  
***a brief recap of the October 2, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting***

**Wednesday night, the Authority:**

- Authorized a public hearing on the 'January 2025 Major Service Change Summary and Draft Equity Analysis' for Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. (Rob LaFontaine)
- Authorized a public hearing for the 2025 draft budget for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Final adoption is proposed for December 4, 2024.

**Other Items of Interest:**

Michael Midstokke introduced **Operator Class 24-05**, and **David Randall, Jason Bryant, Joe Miller, Instructor/Training Interns.**

Jane Denicola introduced **Peter Doane, Customer Service Representative.**

**General Manager's Report:**

Intercity Transit's three applications submitted to TRPC's Call for Projects have gone through an initial review by the Transportation Policy Board, in which ITA member Justin Belk serves, and will receive further review by a subcommittee and TRPC, which ITA member Mayor Sullivan serves, before a funding decision is rendered in early December. Those projects are:

- Walk N Roll Operations
- Smart Corridors Phase 4
- Battery Electric DAL's and chargers

ITA Chair Clark Gilman helped arrange a meeting with several members of the ITA and the Olympia-Lacey Depot Amtrak volunteers. Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Director Jonathon Yee worked with volunteer coordinator Larry Ganders to define an agenda to discuss what their needs are at that facility, and it was a very productive meeting. Intercity Transit staff also attended their yearly volunteer meeting on September 24 for more information sharing.

The fifth Operator class of the year started September 9, with 24 participants, which is the largest class to date.

United Way Workplace Campaign Manager, Kristi Duke, who is a Leadership Thurston County Program participant, interviewed Bergkamp about her leadership, and her role and passion for all things Intercity Transit.

Intercity Transit held its First Annual Safety Fair on September 17. There were several different vendors providing information on safety, security, and emergency management. It was a great opportunity for employees to ask questions and learn from professionals in these respective areas. Legendary Doughnuts was on site with their doughnut truck. Participants also received a safety fair passport, and when they visited each table received a sticker, then submitted their completed passport for a chance to win door prizes.

Five applications were submitted for the open ITA Community Representative position, and twelve applications were received for six open positions on the CAC, however, no new youth applications were submitted. Our current youth member John Paul is continuing for an additional year. Recruitment for both ITA and CAC is set to close on October 4, however, staff is considering extending the CAC timeline for another few weeks in hopes of gaining interest from more youth.

Bergkamp is participating in the **Week Without Driving Event – September 30 through October 6**. This is a yearly event to draw attention to the difficulties faced by nondrivers in accessing our communities across the country and to inspire decision makers to address the barriers and gaps in our transportation system.

Staff met with South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) regarding possible grant funding to renovate the transit zone on campus currently located in Crosby Loop for easier access by students and buses/drivers, as the original design of the loop isn't completely compatible with buses. IT staff in attendance were Bergkamp, Rob LaFontaine, Cameron Crass, Dean Taylor, Jonathan Martin, and staff from SPSCC, Director of Safety & Security Fred Creek, Director of Facilities Darrell Huggins, and Vice President for Finance and Operations Dr. Tysha Tolefree. These are preliminary discussions, and no designs have been identified but Dr. Tolefree indicated the college would provide a letter of support for the pursuit of grant funding. IT staff will attend more meetings with SPSCC to dial in the scope of the project in the near future. Staff is also in the process of updating the Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the college for accessing campus property for transit service.

Bergkamp shared recognition of Intercity Transit by North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) as a partner through our shared commitment to enhancing safety and accessibility for students and families within NTPS district.

- Field trip transportation
- Rolling Classrooms
- Walk N Roll Program for safe walking and biking to school, and utilizing public transportation
- The first bike program at Envision Career Academy
- Exploring new collaborations for fueling of NTPS propane fueled school buses through an MOU.

A big portion of our partnership with NTPS is through the leadership of IT's Walk N Roll Program Supervisor, Kerri Wilson and A Puri WNR Representative. Additionally, Bergkamp noted that A has been working over the last three years to develop the bike program at Avanti High School which is the blueprint for the program at Envision. The seeds of this program are planted, and we can't wait to see the growth and harvest.

Intercity Transit is a recipient of \$1.8M in community project funding shepherded by Congresswoman Strickland for zero fare bus stop enhancements, which includes expanded concrete pads that accommodate front and rear door boarding and amenities like shelters and solar lighting for our Pacific NW weather. Congresswoman Strickland will visit IT next week, starting with a tour of the IT facility, so staff can provide an overview of the work planned at the stops. Afterwards we plan to visit a nearby stop scheduled for enhancement. The Clerk will forward information about the date and time of the visit to the Board members.

Bergkamp welcomed past CAC member Michael Van Gelder to the meeting this evening. Van Gelder also worked at Intercity Transit a few decades ago and was Bergkamp's informant for many years in his role at DES about happenings at the Capitol Campus and how they might impact IT Operations.

*Prepared October 3, 2024*

*Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*