

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
a brief recap of the October 16, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Conducted a public hearing on the three planned changes to bus service anticipated to take effect in January 2025. *(Rob LaFontaine)*
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a Task Order with SCJ Alliance in the amount of \$225,000. *(Jonathan Martin)*
- Authorized the General Manager to execute Task Order 4 with Iteris, Inc. providing additional contract authority of \$400,000, for a revised total not-to-exceed contract value of \$1,067,642.33, to support engineering and consulting services for implementation of TSP and Thurston Smart Corridors. *(Peter Stackpole)*
- Directed staff to conduct interviews with all candidates who applied for the Community Advisory Committee open positions. *(Emily Bergkamp)*
- Directed staff to conduct interviews with all candidates who applied for the ITA Community Representative open position. *(Emily Bergkamp)*

Other Items of Interest:

- Jane Denicola introduced **Carey Leanord, Customer Service Rep.**
- Intercity Transit's Federal Advocate, Dale Learn, of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs, provided an update on activities affecting public transportation in Washington D.C.

General Manager's Report:

- Last week, Intercity Transit's Authority Board Chair Clark Gilman, Administrative Services Director Heather Stafford and Bergkamp met with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to collaborate on possible language to include while updating the mission and vision statements to better reflect our values of equity and inclusion. While the Board approves these renewed mission and vision statements annually with the updated Strategic Plan, this work with staff demonstrates the agency's dedication to ensuring everyone feels a sense of belonging at Intercity Transit so we can better serve our community with these same principles. Bergkamp plans to bring the draft updated Strategic Plan before the Board in November.
- Bergkamp, Grants Program Manager Jessica Gould and Chief Marketing, Communications, & Outreach Officer Nick Demeris, met with State advocates Joanna Grist and David Foster to discuss Intercity Transit's priorities for this year's legislative session.
- In response to feedback from our employee engagement survey earlier this year, Human Resources developed a Leadership Academy for all levels of leadership at Intercity Transit which started last week. The purpose of this academy is to ensure supervisors, managers, and others have the tools and resources they need. The first session gave leaders the opportunity to learn

what their personal strength profiles are, including if they lead from a promoting, supporting, analytical, or driving framework under both positive and adverse conditions. The goal is not to prove one framework is better or worse, but simply provide everyone with the tools on how to best interact with others from styles we may not be as strong in, to avoid miscommunications and unnecessary misunderstandings. The process encourages learning more about us and others and offers an opportunity to celebrate differences and provide support for each other's individuality.

- The Maintenance Department held a chili cookoff and potluck last week to commemorate their transition to the temporary structure for Maintenance Operations while their facility is being rehabilitated. They will move in at the first of the year.
- Deputy Director of Planning, Rob LaFontaine, provided a Transit 101 to the Tumwater Planning Commission last week. The presentation shares the major ingredients that go into transit planning in cities like Tumwater, as well as an update on current service levels, our progress on promises from Proposition 1, our Long-range Plan, and future system enhancements.
- Intercity Transit hosted a visit from Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland last week. The agency 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. We started Congresswoman Strickland's visit with a staff overview of the work planned at the stops, similar to the comprehensive update the Board received at their meeting in August. Afterwards we took the Congresswoman on a tour to visit two nearby stops on the 94 at WMS scheduled for enhancement. Special thanks to ITA member and Lacey City Councilmember Carolyn Cox for joining us for this visit and Operator Lois Thomas for being our driver and tour guide going to the bus stops. Staff members, Drew Goffeney, Jessica Gould, Peter Stackpole, and Tammy Ferris were also on hand to provide details of the project.
- Bergkamp, Operations Director Dena Withrow, Deputy Director of Operations Cameron Crass, and Service Impacts Supervisor David Dudek attended a memorial service for fellow transit colleague, Shawn Harris Operations Manager at Island Transit, who recently passed away after a battle with cancer. Bergkamp shared the following information from his obituary: "Shawn had plenty of jobs throughout his life because he was always willing to try something new. When he came to Whidbey Island he started working as a driver for Island Transit. With years of consistency, he moved up to Operations Manager where he would be able to showcase his creativity and impact on the company and community with his thoughts and ideas. His work ethic would ensure all of his people were straight and taken care of. He was the glue of the household. Shawn had a glow about him that was noticed every time he walked into a room."

Prepared October 17, 2024

Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board