

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of the November 20, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Adopted the January 2025 Major Service Change Summary and Equity Analysis, as presented. *(Rob LaFontaine)*
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a change order with Transit Solutions LLC to increase the digital storage capacity on our Coach and Dial-A-Lift camera systems through December 31, 2027, for a total increased not-to-exceed amount of \$89,320, inclusive of a 10% contingency for adjustments in fleet size and exclusive of sales tax. *(Jeff Peterson)*
- Conducted a closed session authorized by RCW 42.30.140 (4) (b) to allow Authority members and necessary staff to discuss strategies related to collective bargaining related to ATU Economic Authority. The Authority did not reconvene to an Open Session and did not take action. *(Heather Smith)*

Other Items of Interest:

- Nick Demerice provided an update about the activities and plans of the Marketing and Communications team and discussed the next appropriate steps and solicited feedback and suggestions from Authority members.

General Manager's Report:

- Twelve candidates interviewed on Friday, November 18 to fill six open positions on the Community Advisory Committee. The caliber of candidates was very impressive – they have a lot of passion for public transportation and the community. Recommendations of new CAC members will be made to the ITA at the December 4 meeting. Interviews for ITA Board member Don Melnick's Community Representative position will be held Friday, November 22. We all look forward to the outcome of these important recruitments.
- Intercity Transit hosted a discussion and ride-and-look with partners from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Lewis County Transit on November 12. The primary intent was to educate PSE Leadership and staff regarding the prospective outlook, market, and impacts of the implementation of hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles within our region and across their service territory. Several other transit agencies attended the discussion remotely. Over the past few years, Intercity Transit has been building a relationship with PSE as we explored our zero-emission transition, and we continue to strengthen that partnership as early-stage planning and implementation become reality. Just as we have discussed the impacts a major change will have on Intercity Transit; PSE is facing even greater challenges as they work to support similar customer efforts across their service territory including increasing their own renewable energy supply.
- Intercity Transit commemorated Veteran's Day on November 11 to honor and thank our employees and their loved ones who served in the United States Armed Forces. Staff put together a wonderful slide show for agency monitors featuring pictures and quotes from IT

employees who are Veteran's as well as employees' Veteran family members. Thank you to all our Veteran's past, present, and future, for your sacrifice in service to our country. In the words of Bob Dylan, "I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom."

- Intercity Transit leadership attended a "Microaggressions" training to learn about subtle acts of exclusion and actionable strategies to **mitigate microaggressions** through conflict resolution. **We left with a better understanding of:**
 - How to be an ally when witnessing implicit discriminatory actions
 - Best practices for responding to microaggressions and exclusionary behaviors
 - Tactics for conflict resolution and bystander intervention
- Bergkamp attended the Washington State Transit Association's fourth quarter board meeting in Spokane. She rode Spokane Transit Authority's (STA) very convenient Routes 60 and 74 to get to and from the airport to the hotel downtown. It was super easy to board with a credit card tap and pay option, and convenient, dropping her off a short walk from her destination. Bergkamp joined transit CEO's and General Managers from across the state to discuss topics of safety and security, including a presentation from King County Metro's General Manager Michelle Allison about new safety and security initiatives, 2025 legislative priorities of preserving, maintaining and increasing public transit investments, incentivizing transition to zero-emission fleets, supporting safety and security for transit employees and customers, and protecting the effective and efficient delivery of public transit. They also took a tour of STA's [Downtown Plaza](#) transit hub, including further conversation about safety and security at transit centers, plus the fun of seeing an extremely busy hub during rush hour, including the operation and amenities of STA's new [City Line](#) Bus Rapid Transit service. We rounded out the meeting with updates about the Northwest Hydrogen Hub and Washington State Department of Transportation.
- Operator Class 24-05, the largest Operator class in IT history with 22 individuals, graduated Friday, November 15, and they are out on the road. Congratulations to Andrew Pritchett, Anita Donaldson, Brian Schumacher, Carolyn Mickel, Chris McConnon, Ernest Shabaan, Holly Persyn, James Phillips, Jason Robers, Jessica Adams, John Conley, Jon Phillips, Katerina Rose, Kristen Kibilowski, Miles Woodam, Payton Newell, Rachel Permann, Rebecca Chrisler, Shaun Stoffer, Stephen Crawford, Steven Williams and Thomas Dhamers. Thank you for saying yes to working at Intercity Transit and serving our community in your role as an essential service provider. You are the face of our agency, and very proud to support you as you represent IT.
- Intercity Transit leadership and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) have begun meetings for ATU's next contract, and we look forward to bargaining in good faith together. These leaders already meet monthly during Joint Labor Management Committee meetings, where we strive to work through operational issues and concerns as they arise. We also attend an annual labor relations conference together each spring hosted by the Labor and Employee Relations Association to grow in our collaboration and understanding of each other's interests. Maintaining positive labor relations is vital to navigating times when we have differences of opinion or are faced with challenges that threaten our ability to provide public transportation to our community as an essential service provider. Contract negotiations offer management and union leadership alike the opportunity to better understand each other and work together with sincere intention to be fair, open, and honest, with the goal of offering a contract that supports the needs of our mutual employees and union members.

- Bergkamp gave a special thanks to ITA Board member Don Melnick for introducing and facilitating a meeting with Executive Director Mr. Phil Jones from the Alliance for Transportation Electrification (ATE). Alliance for Transportation Electrification (ATE) is a recently established industry-funded non-profit association that seeks to promote the acceleration of transportation electrification deployments, a robust utility role, and interoperability and open standards. Mr. Jones also served on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) from March 2005 to March 2017. His unique experience makes him especially knowledgeable about purchasing electricity from regulated private electric utilities. We hope to host Mr. Jones at IT in the near future to provide an electric energy purchase 101 as we prepare for our zero-emissions transition.

*Prepared November 21, 2024
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*