

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary
A brief recap of December 4, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Conducted a public hearing on the 2025-2030 draft Strategic Plan.
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with PalAmerican to renew the contract for transit center security services for a period of one year in the amount of \$1,046,183. *(Brenden Houx)*
- Re-appointed the following individuals to serve second consecutive three-year terms beginning January 1, 2025: *Eliane Wilson* and *Rachel Weber*. Appointed the following individuals to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2025: *Brandon Mixon, Dara Dotson, Hallie Sutter, Margaret Janis, Michael Gray, Shawn Sandquist, and Suzanne Simons*. Re-appointed the following individual to a consecutive one-year term youth position beginning January 1, 2025: *John-Paul Fox-Seidel*. Appointed the following individual to a one-year term alternate youth position beginning January 1, 2024: *Julian Preston*. Selected the following individuals to be on the list of approved alternate candidates for 2025: *Kristi Duke, Jim Hanley, Will Stuivenga, and Wayland "Mike" Hubbard*. *(Emily Bergkamp)*
- Appointed Wendy Goodwin to the Intercity Transit Authority as a Community Representative, for a term to begin January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027. This appointment fills the position of outgoing Community Representative Don Melnick. *(Clark Gilman)*

Other Items of Interest:

- Rob LaFontaine provided the Authority with an overview and discussion of the anticipated restructuring of fixed routes in September 2025.

General Manager's Report:

Intercity Transit Leadership and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) met today and will meet again on December 6 to negotiate ATU's next contract. Negotiations can be deeply emotional because they deal with deeply personal issues of compensation and benefits, as we heard this evening from co-workers. IT remains committed to bargaining in good faith with the ATU and co-creating a contract that allows us to support our employees, continue providing an essential service to our community, supports financial stability, and ensures IT remains a great place to work.

On November 22, 2024, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) completed an audit of IT's federally mandated drug and alcohol testing program for safety-sensitive transit employees. Kudos to HR Analyst Amy Meierhoff and HR Specialist Alysia Bair who coordinated the program for ensuring the audit went smoothly. Audit Team Leader Laurena Stoddard shared that working with enthusiastic, well organized, happy people like Amy and Alysia changes the entire audit feeling. She further stated that FTA understands these audits place an additional management effort that entails a great deal of time and planning on our part. FTA greatly appreciated our cooperation, patience and hospitality during this review.

To honor and in recognition of Rosa Parks' contributions to promote civil rights, equal rights, respect, and dignity, Intercity Transit reserves a seat on the buses on December 1, marked with a single red rose. This yearly tribute is important because we should remember the role public transportation once played during segregation. Through this remembrance, our industry can and will remain united against institutionalized racism. On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a crowded bus to a white passenger. The Montgomery City Code required all public transportation be segregated and bus drivers had the "powers of a police officer of the city while in actual charge of any bus for the purposes of carrying out the provisions" of the code. While operating a bus, drivers were required to provide separate but equal accommodations for white and black passengers by assigning seats. Ms. Parks said "I'd see the bus pass every day. But to me, that was a way of life; we had no choice but to accept what was the custom. The bus was among the first ways I realized there was a black world and a white world." She later recalled that her refusal wasn't because she was physically tired, but she was tired of giving in.

Bergkamp and several staff members will attend the Regional Economic Development Council Expo on December 5. This annual conference is an opportunity for our region's leaders to network and discover strategic actions that build a strong, inclusive economy.

Employees, Board and CAC members, and Intercity Transit volunteers are invited to the Holiday Banquet December 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a recognition program at noon, followed by singing from the Miracles on Pattison Street.

*Prepared December 5, 2024
Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*