

Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary

A brief recap of December 18, 2024, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting

Wednesday night, the Authority:

- Declared DAL vehicle 24226 as surplus.
- Canceled the Wednesday, January 1, 2025, Authority meeting.
- Adopted Resolution 05-2024 that establishes the 2025 Budget.
- Adopted the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.
- Bid farewell to outgoing Board members Mayor of Tumwater, Debbie Sullivan and Community Representative Don Melnic.

Other Items of Interest:

- Izi LeMay provided an update on the Village Vans Program.

General Manager's Report:

Fleet Maintenance Director Jonathon Yee attended a 2024 Legislative Policy Summit coordinated by the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance, in which Intercity Transit are members. The session discussed the federal outlook for renewable hydrogen and explored opportunities for state level action. Workshop policy concepts on carbon-intensity based hydrogen standards; fuel quality and consumer protection; and county-level siting and permitting support were also discussed. Participants also provided feedback to RHA and partners about industry priorities and opportunities for action in the 2025 session. Yee also attended a newly formed WSTA Hydrogen Work Group which will meet on a continuing basis to coordinate Washington State Public Transit's efforts and learning around topics of hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and fueling.

Intercity Transited hosted the annual Holiday Banquet festivities. Each year, Executive Assistant Pat Messmer, takes the lead organizing this important event that gives us all the opportunity to share time together, enjoying good food and good company. Executive Assistant, Amanda Collins, and Administrative Assistant Intern, Nicole Jones, assisted with assorted details, and a large group of employee volunteers chipped in the day of the banquet ensuring everything went smoothly both at AdOps and OTC. Our facilities staff did an amazing job transforming our bus detail bay into a beautiful banquet hall, complete with a stage. We celebrated two employees' 30-year work anniversary milestones and were serenaded by the holiday singing of the Miracles on Pattison Street singing group. Special thanks to Intercity Transit Authority Board Chair, Clark Gilman, who spoke and thanked staff for their service and dedication to the community. And thank you to our other Board members who attended.

Last week, our state advocates David Foster and Joanna Grist facilitated meetings with 27th Legislative District Representative Jake Fey and 21st Legislative District Senator Marko Liias. Elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 2012, Representative Fey currently serves as Chair of the House Transportation Committee and as a member of the House Environment and Energy Committee. Senator Liias was appointed to the House of Representatives in 2008 and won re-election three times. He was appointed to the Senate in 2014 and is currently serving his third term as a senator. As Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Marko championed the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation package. We discussed Intercity Transit's projects prioritized by WSDOT for funding consideration in the 2025-2027 biennium including:

- Battery Electric Coach Replacement Project

- Corridor Express Introducing New Limited-Stop Service from West Olympia to East Lacey
- Lacey Express Introducing I-5 Service from Lacey Transit Center to Sounder Station via Hawks Prairie and JBLM,
- Crosby Loop at SPSCC Improvements,

We also discussed possible funding of Intercity Transit's new route 14, which is taking the place of previous DASH service, by serving the Capitol Campus region and downtown Olympia with service to the Farmer's Market. IT is respectfully requesting 50% of estimated operating costs over the coming biennium (\$1,225,000). Kudos to Grants Program Manager Jessica Gould and Project Coordinator Thera Black for writing the grant applications that cleared the first WSDOT prioritization hurdle which is required to be considered for funding by the legislature.

Intercity Transit's project titled AI-Powered Smart Sensors & Integrated Data Management Dashboard has been selected for \$2M of federal funding through Stage 1 of the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program. This funding will help IT partner with the City of Lacey to install smart sensors at selected intersections, identifying traffic conflicts and managing signals around the Lacey Transit Center and South Puget Sound Community College campus. It will also help implement an integrated data management dashboard. All of these features improve transit reliability and performance, which ultimately improves our customer/rider experience which is central to our mission.

This award is quite significant, given that only 38 awards were made out of 308 applicants. It also represents a new funding source for Intercity Transit, and promoting this achievement could strengthen our position for Stage 2 funding if we choose to apply. Kudos go to Development Director Peter Stackpole, who spearheaded the grant application for this important project. This success is also largely due to the City of Lacey's willingness to support the pilot project. While there is still work to do before the funds are obligated, we look forward to hosting a formal project kickoff in the New Year.

Bergkamp provided an update on the current contract negotiations between Intercity Transit and ATU which began in November. Negotiations such as these often take time and can be complicated. While negotiations are still underway with the current contract set to expire on December 31, 2024, both negotiation teams support extending the current contract until a new contract is approved.

While we continue to partner with ATU to create a contract in good faith that works for both the members they represent and the organization, we all remain committed to our shared mission of providing excellent service that supports our community. We are all confident we can achieve this goal and move forward as an organization that always strives to not only be a leader in the public transit industry but more importantly a wonderful place to work.

Prepared December 19, 2024

Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board