

**Intercity Transit Authority Meeting Highlights/Summary**  
***A brief recap of April 2, 2025, Intercity Transit Authority Meeting***

**Wednesday night, the ITA:**

- Received an update from David Foster from Foster Government Relations and Joanna Grist from Grist Public Affairs, LLC about activities affecting public transportation in the Washington State Legislature.

**Other Items of Interest:**

- Duncan Green provided an update on the **2025 Winter Bicycle Commuter Challenge and progress on the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycle Commuter Challenge coming up in May.**
- Katie Cunningham introduced **Alejandro Soto, Inventory Supervisor.**

**General Manager's Report:**

Planning Deputy Director, Rob LaFontaine presented to the Yelm City Council this week providing a general agency update and conceptual overview of our bus system redesign tentatively scheduled to launch in May 2026. LaFontaine took members for a walk down memory lane of IT's 2016 public engagement campaign known as the Road Trip which identified our community's desire to have more service in the form of a transformational transit system, then Proposition 1 being approved in late 2018 to fund the elements of the transformation, the decision process of going zero-fare January 2020, the barriers COVID created preventing completion of the transformation, how we've fought our way back to pre-pandemic service and ridership levels, and are now back on track to resume a redesign to usher in the remaining element promised with the additional funding of Proposition 1. The presentations were well received with a steady flow of good questions.

Last weekend our amazing Maintenance team, Jonathan Reynolds, Sean Malay, and Richelle Loken participated in the Pierce Transit Maintenance Rodeo, taking the 1st place title with them! They not only scored the highest overall but by over 300 points, a remarkable accomplishment! Their hard work and ability to work together sets them apart from other Maintenance teams.

Bergkamp also thanked Joe Bell, who inspires the team and is by their side at all competitions; Bill and Shanaka Miller, and David and Lillian Dudek volunteered their time to assist in facilitating the flow of the competition; and Bryce and Annie Reinhardt judged the Bus Inspection.

Intercity Transit is the reigning International Rodeo Grand Champion, meaning we have a title to defend! Operator Clinton Jimenez and Maintenance Team Richelle Loken, Sean Malay, and Jonathon Reynolds will compete at the American Public Transportation Association's International Rodeo April 4-8, in Austin, Texas. The Rodeo runs concurrently with APTA's Mobility Conference April 6-9. The conference addresses the critical priorities and challenges facing bus and paratransit systems and explores the changing environments in which these systems operate. As a result, several staff members will attend both the Rodeo and the conference and will be on hand to cheer our competitors on!

The Vanpool team met the goal to get all available vans on the road! We issued our last available van to a new group on March 13, which means future new groups wishing to start will be placed on a waitlist. New groups on the waitlist will complete all the onboarding steps and receive vans as they become available. Kudos to Kyle McPherson for his marketing and outreach efforts that helped make this happen, along with several new employer partners developed during the pandemic. We look forward to the road ahead and working toward our goal of increasing ridership in the remainder of the year.

Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) recognizes the long-term dedication and commitment to safety by awarding their annual Safety Star awards. Awards are made in three categories: Small-size agency, Medium-size agency, and Large-size agency. **This year's Large-size agency winner is Intercity Transit!** Members with the best ratio of actual auto liability losses (uncapped) relative to the Pool as a percentage of miles travelled are awarded the Safety Star Award. The 2024 award is based on the claim data/activity for the period 2019 – 2023. **Congratulations!! This is a testament to the hard work by everyone in the organization.**

Bergkamp read a compliment from EDC Executive Director, Michael Cade. Cade wrote, "Today I wanted to reach out with a note of thanks and appreciation to you and Intercity Transit. I was driving back to the office this afternoon from a series of fairly turbulent meetings and coming towards me was one of your buses. I noticed that the reader-board-sign on the front on top said, "Spread Kindness." It truly put a smile on my face. It made me so proud to live and work in a community in which the public transit system is a beacon of goodness and a spreader of the message of kindness. It truly was wonderful to see and made the difference in the rest of the day for me – and I am sure it will extend into the weekend as well and beyond. I don't know who makes the decisions for the reader board messages, but they are truly a wonderful person doing wonderful things."

The Community Transportation Association of the Northwest (CTANW) annual awards have expanded this year, and Bergkamp is very excited to announce that voting has commenced and three of our staff members, as well as our agency are nominated! There are 11 categories to vote on, however, Bergkamp is particularly focused on the following:

- Morgan Hagquist is nominated for the Frances Rankos Excellence in Travel Training award.
- Intercity Transit is nominated for Urban Transit of the Year.
- Rick Smart is nominated for Driver of the Year.
- Tom Pulling is nominated for Dispatcher/Scheduler of the Year.

The winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet on Monday, May 19 in Bremerton, Washington. This information will be forwarded to the Board members so they can cast their vote, or you can click this link: <https://www.ctanw.org/2025-ctanw-awards>

*Prepared April 3, 2025*

*Pat Messmer/Clerk of the Board*