

Minutes
INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
May 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cox called the Intercity Transit Authority meeting of May 7, 2025, to order at 5:33 p.m. This was a hybrid meeting held at the Pattison Street facility.

Members Present: Chair and City of Lacey Councilmember Carolyn Cox; Vice Chair and Community Representative Sue Pierce; Labor Representative Mark Neuville; Community Representatives Justin Belk and Wendy Goodwin; City of Olympia Councilmember Robert Vanderpool; City of Yelm Councilmember Brian Hess; Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser.

Members Excused: Thurston County Commissioner Carolina Mejia; City of Tumwater Councilmember Kelly Von Holtz.

Staff Present: Emily Bergkamp; Pat Messmer; Amanda Collins; Brian Nagel; Dena Withrow; Heather Stafford; Jana Brown; Jonathon Yee; Katie Cunningham; Matt Kenney; Michael Maverick; Peter Stackpole; Ramon Beltran; Thera Black; Jane Denicola; Jesse Eckstrom; Kerri Wilson; Brenden Hoax; Jonathan Martin; Noelle Gordon; Nick Demerice; Jessica Gould.

Others Present: Jeff Myers, Legal Counsel; Rachel Weber, Community Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was M/S/A by Goodwin and Belk to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Neal Ward, a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1765 provided comment regarding the recent termination of two IT Operators.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was M/S/A by Belk and Menser to declare fixed asset items on Exhibit A as surplus.

A. Maintenance Building Fixed Asset Surplus *(Noelle Gordon)*

Declare the Fixed Asset items listed in Exhibit A as surplus. This list encompasses various capital assets that were either housed within, or components of, the Fleet Maintenance shop that are now surplus due to the recent building remodel. All items listed were either non-functional or not retrievable for sale at auction. Forma Construction properly disposed of these

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 2 of 15

demolished materials. Furthermore, most of these items were fully depreciated, possessing little to no actual accounting value.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Village Vans Vehicle Purchase.** Procurement and Project Management Coordinator, Noelle Gordon, requested authorization to purchase three (3) new Ford Full-Size Passenger Vans from Bud Clary Ford under Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) Contract No. 28423. This acquisition will facilitate the replacement of the current Village Vans, which have reached their useful lifespan and are scheduled for replacement. Following the arrival of the new vans, two of the replaced vehicles will be designated as surplus, with the locally funded van to be added to our Van Grant program.

As a member of the Washington State Purchasing Cooperative, Intercity Transit is eligible to procure vehicles through DES Contract 28423, which was awarded to Bud Clary Ford via a competitive bidding process. Staff concurs with the DES assessment regarding the fairness and reasonableness of the pricing offered by Bud Clary Ford and their demonstrated ability to perform.

Based on our previous positive experiences with Bud Clary Ford, staff are confident these vehicles are mechanically sound and will effectively serve the needs of our agency and the Village Vans Program.

It was M/S/A by Goodwin and Pierce to authorize the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 28423, to purchase replacement vehicles to support our Village Vans Program from Bud Clary Ford in the amount of \$214,200.

- B. Installation Services for Driver Protective Barriers.** Senior Procurement and Project Management Coordinator, Brenden Houx, requested approval to procure Installation Services for Arow Driver Protective Barriers in the fixed-route fleet.

In order to improve the safety of its Coach Operators, Intercity Transit has ordered Arow brand driver barriers for its fleet of fixed route buses. To aid in the timely installation of the protective barriers, Intercity Transit seeks additional resources and installation services provided by Complete Coach Works. Intercity fleet maintenance staff remain involved in the installation process through additional installations and quality control activities.

This request includes the purchase of installation services for seventy-nine (79) of Intercity Transit's fleet buses at a fixed rate of \$1,200 per bus, or a total of \$113,570 including sales tax and a contingency of 10% for any unanticipated installation plan changes. The installation rate of \$1,200 per bus is an all-inclusive rate, which includes the installation service and travel expenses incurred by Complete Coach Works staff during the installation process.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 3 of 15

The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) competitively bid Contract 06719, awarding to the lowest responsive and responsible bidders by category with Complete Coach Works being the solely awarded vendor for the Rebuilding, Repowering, and Refurbishing category on the contract.

As a member of the Washington State Purchasing Cooperative, Intercity Transit is eligible to purchase from the DES contract. Intercity staff concur with DES's assessment regarding Complete Coach Works' ability to perform and complete the necessary tasks, and that the contract pricing is fair and reasonable. Complete Coach Works has extensive experience in the bus industry, and staff are confident that the services provided will ensure that our protective barriers will be mechanically sound and will serve our operators well for many years to come. Intercity Transit has quality assurance measures in place to guarantee installation is correct, safe, and of the upmost quality.

It was M/S/A by Pierce and Belk to authorize the General Manager, pursuant to Washington State Contract 06719, to acquire driver barrier installation services from Complete Coach Works in the amount of \$113,570, which includes sales tax and a 10% contingency.

- C. Walk N Roll 2024 Annual Program Report.** Walk N Roll Program Supervisor, Kerri Wilson, shared the 2024 accomplishments of the Walk N Roll Education Program which is IT's education program that works to increase independence, improve safety and inspire a healthy lifestyle by making walking, biking, rolling and riding public transit more accessible to people in our community.

Wilson said in 2024 IT provided transit education to 538 youth, through classroom presentations, bus visits to schools, and Rolling Classroom field trips. Participants learned how to ride the bus and about why transit is important to our community.

In partnership with the Child Care Action Council's Safe Kids Thurston County program and funding from State Farm, we assisted with the installation of a permanent traffic garden at Seven Oaks Elementary School. A traffic garden is a miniature street scape that includes real world traffic features like intersections, roundabouts and crosswalks. The garden provides a place for children to learn and practice pedestrian and bicycle safety skills safe from cars. The traffic garden is open to the public when school is not in session. This is our 5th permanent traffic garden in Thurston County with two more planned for 2025.

Wilson said the Mobile Traffic Garden is a partnership between Walk N Roll and Child Care Action Council's Safe Kids program. We have an indoor and outdoor traffic garden that we take to schools and youth programs around Thurston County. Included with the mobile traffic garden is a fleet of balance bikes, scooters, helmets and educational tools. Last year we took the garden to 6 Elementary schools in Tumwater, North Thurston and Yelm School Districts. We

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 4 of 15

set up the traffic garden in the gym, train the PE teacher how to use it, then leave it with the PE teacher for the rest of the week to teach to all of their classes. We took our outdoor Traffic Garden to 8 summer camps including camps with City of Tumwater, YMCA, and Thurston Inclusion. In total we taught 3,395 students bicycle and pedestrian safety skills.

Walk N Roll supported bike rodeo events at Seven Oaks and Chambers Prairie elementary schools at bike rodeo events youth visit stations where they learn and practiced bicycle safety skills, get their helmet fitted and received bicycle safety checks. IT provides a bike rodeo kit that includes all the materials needed for hosting an event. We also helped at Seven Oaks by running the bike safety check station and brought the mobile traffic garden to Chamber Prairie.

In partnership with Safe Kids Thurston County, Target Zero, and the Olympia Police Department, we held the third Great Olympia Bike Rodeo at Garfield Elementary School. We had 106 youth participate in this fun, free, family-friendly event. We gave away free helmets, taught young riders how to use hand signals, gave bike safety checks and did minor bike repairs. It's a very fun event that we will be holding again this year on the first Saturday in June.

We held summer bike camps for youth ages 8 through 10. We held one in Olympia and one in Lacey. Campers learned bike handling and safety skills through fun games, group bicycle rides and hands-on activities. Each day we took campers on a new urban adventure traveling by walking, biking, and riding public transit. On the last day of camp to celebrate a week of learning and bike adventuring, we took students and their families on a group bike parade.

We held Learn to Ride classes in partnership with South Sound YMCA and Tumwater and Olympia Parks and Recreation. Through these classes we taught 104 youths and adults the skills needed to ride a bicycle.

This program has been around for many years, and we finally gave it a name. We now call it our Pedal it Forward Program. People from the community donate bikes, then volunteers learn bike mechanic skills while refurbishing those bikes in our Walk N Roll Educational Bike Shop. Then we give the bikes back to our community through our education programs and partnerships. In 2024 volunteers contributed 1,527 hours refurbishing bikes, and 87 bikes were given back to the community.

Some of those refurbished bikes were given to folks through our new Full Cycle program. This program started in 2024. We partnered with organizations helping people obtain permanent housing, gain employment, and earn a college degree. These bikes help these folks address their transportation needs. We partnered with the City of Olympia's Calyx at Plum Street housing community, the Evergreen State College, and local refugee communities to give away 35 bikes.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 5 of 15

We partnered with Olympia Parks and Recreation and Nisqually Middle Schools to provide after-school and summer Earn-A-Bike classes, 44 youths learned essential bicycle safety and maintenance skills through a series of hands-on activities and group bicycle rides on city streets. All participants received a refurbished bicycle from our Pedal it forward program, a new helmet and lock.

We continued our partnership with Avanti High School, teaching 13 students bicycle safety and maintenance skills as part of their physical education curriculum. The class was co-taught by Avanti's Physical Education teacher and Walk N Roll staff. We provided refurbished bicycles for students to use for the class and when the class was complete, they got to keep the bike along with a helmet, lock and set of lights. To wrap up a year of learning, 11 Avanti Bikes! students went on an overnight bike camping trip riding 46 miles. For many students, it was their first camping experience.

In 2024 we expanded our high school bike education program to include Envision Career Academy, a North Thurston alternative high school. The school was having trouble meeting PE graduation requirements for their seniors. The bike class started in fall of 2024 and is running through this school year and will provide seniors with the PE credits they need to graduate from high school. Same as Avanti, we are also providing refurbished bikes for students to use for the class and keep when it is over.

This was our second summer of offering two paid internship opportunities for high school students. Both of our student interns were previous Walk N Roll participants and volunteers. The interns gained valuable job skills while providing support for our summer earn-a-bike and bike camp programs.

We held an advanced bike mechanic class for people who identify as woman, transgender and non-binary. We had six students who learned how to overhaul a bicycle.

We partnered with the Timberland Regional Library to offer bike maintenance kits at the Olympia and Lacey library branches. Anyone with a library card can check out the kit for free. The kits include all the tools and supplies needed for basic bike maintenance and minor repairs and 15 people checked out the kits.

We provided maintenance and repair to North Thurston Public School's bike fleet. This fleet is used to teach bicycle safety in their PE classes. We supported the Hope Bike Shop at Reeves Middle School by providing donated bikes. We also gave them helmets and locks to give to folks along with their refurbished bikes. In 2024 the Hope Bike Shop was expanded to offer shop time to all students at Reeves!

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 6 of 15

We helped eight schools in the Olympia and North Thurston school districts organize 58 Walk N Roll to School events, including celebrations for national Walk and Bike to School Days. These events encouraged students and their families to walk, bike and roll to school to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around the school. The Olympia Police Department came out to support and walk to school with students.

We held the 37th Bicycle Community Challenge!

- 354 people road in the Winter Bicycle Challenge
- 180 people participated in the Earth Day Market Ride
- 715 people participated in the May Bicycle Community Challenge
- 300 riders visited bike to workstations

We partnered with Avanti High School's art teacher to hold an art contest for a new set of traffic safety yard signs. Three designs were selected. Thurston Target Zero's program paid for the printing, and we distributed 1,000 signs throughout the community. The goal of this program is to remind drivers to slow down, making it safer for people walking and rolling in our neighborhoods.

There are lots of exciting things happening in 2025.

- We started our first DIY Bike Repair Nights at the WNR Bike Shop held monthly and people can come to the shop to work on their own personal bikes. The tools are provided, some small parts and expertise from our staff and volunteers.
- We started a monthly bicycle maintenance class. These classes will teach participants essential skills to keep their bikes running safely.
- We are offering Adult Urban Cycling Classes. These are the first adult bike safety classes.
- To grow our dedicated volunteer base, we are offering more volunteer training opportunities.
- We started our Teens Biking to Destinations program. This program is funded by a grant through the Washington Department of Transportation and administered by Cascade Bicycle Club. We are offering afterschool and summer bike safety classes to middle and high school youth. Upon completion of the program youth earn a brand new, very nice bicycle, lock, helmet and set of lights.

Rachel Weber asked Wilson if IT has worked with the City of Olympia Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee to highlight sidewalks that might need improvement for the Walk N Roll program. Wilson said we haven't but that would be a great opportunity.

Hess said he's excited about the possibility of getting the bicycle rodeo for one of the elementary schools in Yelm. He asked if Wilson ever reached out to Lynn Roy. She organizes a lot of activities within the community of Yelm and runs

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 7 of 15

their Facebook page for outdoor recreation. Hess thinks Yelm might be able to get a lot of people, in particular the kids, interested in biking. He said Yelm also has a bike repair shop and a bike shop. It's across the street from the City Park. Hess has talked to that individual and will reach out to him again being a volunteer on bicycle repairs. Wilson said that would be a great connection. She was hoping to bring the learn to ride classes to Yelm this summer.

Hess said the Yelm Prairie Days Parade is coming up and asked Wilson about organizing something like that as well.

Belk thanked Wilson, staff and volunteers for making this all a successful program. He said there's no better place to house a program like this than Intercity Transit. The program complements everything we seek to do and extends our outreach, even beyond where we can roll buses – it's a marquee program.

Vanderpool appreciates the work the Walk N Roll staff has done, and all the program does with Olympia and our schools particularly now that we're having conversations with the schools about using joint funds on projects. He will make a note with his transportation staff about having the handshake on the data so that we know along with our data marking those routes and ensuring that they're getting those catchments for kids.

Goodwin thanked Wilson for the outreach in Lacey. She went to the Mountain View safety program with A and it was a wonderful day. It was a great service that was provided and she's glad to see the program back in Lacey.

Cox said looking at the cumulative impact of what this program has done is staggering and heartwarming and she's proud of the work Wilson and her staff have done.

D. Marketing & Communications Update. Chief Communications External Relations Officer, Nick Demerice, briefed the ITA about the various marketing/communications activities.

Demerice said Marketing and Communications does everything internally or externally from service communications, earned media, internal communications, and project communications. The look and feel all the way to how we paint the buses and bus stop signs is all within the realm of the marketing division. They also partner on paid marketing for all of the different programs and manage all the outreach events throughout the course of the year, like the Lacey Spring Fun Fair, and the Earth Day event, and a number of events throughout the course of the year where they go out and table and talk to people about the great work of Intercity Transit.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 8 of 15

Demerice mentioned the Falls Fest event in Tumwater that is a relatively new event and there's concern about parking, so IT partnered with staff at that event, and encouraged people to ride the bus to and from the event for a special opportunity and Walk N Roll provided valet checked bike parking service, so people can feel safe about leaving their bike.

Demerice reviewed the four brand messaging pillars to provide equitable access throughout the community, always putting customers first. Marketing helps the public understand that IT is a safe and dependable form of transportation, and that as an organization we celebrate quality and creativity. We're trying to innovate and trying new things to be successful within our community.

Demerice shared a photo found on Facebook from 2018 during the Proposition 1 campaign. Prop 1 was the guiding light for IT, and how we talk about the work that IT does like the service changes and proposed improvements that were created as part of Prop 1. Now is the time for IT to start implanting some of these things, and that's what you see when we talk about the system redesign, and hear about the incredible investments we're making, which is one of the biggest projects IT is doing for the next year and a half. It's been split into three phases, and we've just completed the first phase, which was adding capacity to the system span and frequency to the current system.

Demerice said September will be about commuter services with the success that we've had in getting support from legislature. It's about how we get those express services up and running and the bulk of that happening in May of 2026.

Throughout 2025-26, IT has a number of other projects that are going to talk to the community about. IT is taking possession of first zero emission buses. We are on schedule to finish up the planned phases of the Pattison construction. We're investing in safety barriers for Operators. There are a number of things happening around real time signage like Navilens. We're making significant forward progress and investment in the next 12 to 18 months.

Demerice talked about a new branding campaign called Next Stop that speaks to the values that we have. There's a sense of forward progress and a pretty clever tie into a bus and getting off of the next stop moving forward to the next stop. He explained this could be an umbrella brand for the efforts Intercity Transit is going to be doing over the next 12 to 18 months to take the next steps to turn into the next version of IT and it created unlimited possibilities, to come up with great taglines and connection points. He referred to a flyer that says, "next stop, your commute reimaged." To imagine the Lacey Express connects and launching that next stop connecting people to Pierce County and beyond, as you think about real time signage, next stop, fast, accurate information at your fingertips. It creates this opportunity for us to launch this brand and this

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 9 of 15

campaign in a more holistic way, again within the brand family. This would show up on the new bus signs and the printed materials.

Demerice said another project marketing is working on they're doing a photo refresh. We partnered with a local photographer to go out into the community and do a photo library refresh. We gave the photographer a list of things we wanted to shoot in all of the different communities, and she went out on different days grabs those. For example, capturing the cherry blossoms and she took great photos of buses cruising through cherry blossoms. Last fall she went out and got some spring colors with some of our buses going through. We're also updating a lot of our photography with our Operators, maintenance and facilities staff working in the community.

We had a little money left for the vanpool marketing grant and we were able to execute a couple of ads that are currently out in social media right now as well as some print materials. These are from LinkedIn and Facebook.

Marketing does a lot of advertising throughout the course of the year and advertises in different community publications and newsletters. Last November they decided to launch ads with TVW which is the online producer and distributor of all the legislative and state government content and great news shows. Knowing the people who work in and around the campus or come to the campus, particularly during legislative session are a target audience for IT, so we did an ad campaign there. The primary watchers are legislative staff. For a low investment, we were able to get both banner ads, and a commercial consideration paid for at the beginning of some of the hearings and they also have a quick ad role that comes through narrated at the beginning of some of the videos before they start.

Vanderpool asked if there are any plans surrounding the marketing of such events as the FIFA World Cup coming to Olympia because one of the reasons this area was selected was for our fare free transit system. Demerice agrees, and said it's something they have circled on the calendar in the coming years. It's also part of the connectivity with Sound Transit and Pierce Transit.

Goodwin if there is a way to add into that collection destination spots with your busing routes? It would be nice to be able to show that the bus gets you where you want to go. Demerice said yes. There's a photo with a head sign on the bus that says Route 14 and gets you to the Capital.

Goodwin also suggested we partner more with the jurisdictions regarding the advertising of their events and how Intercity Transit can get people to those events.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 10 of 15

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston Regional Planning Council (May 2). Vanderpool said TRPC voted to reject the recommendation of the Transportation Policy Board to remove equity, climate and other language targeted by the federal executive orders from the Regional Transportation Plan. There was one vote against, and a few abstentions. He thanks leadership for sticking to their values and ensuring that we weren't going to do something that would harm our region of its projects and where we want to go from here. Vanderpool said TRPC conducted the Executive Director's annual evaluation, and it was very positive. He also shared that Marc Daily is leaving TRPC and going on to the Puget Sound Regional Council. TRPC will soon be looking for new leadership.

B. Community Advisory Committee (April 21). Rachel Weber said the CAC formed an ad hoc committee to contact and develop relationships and maybe plan an event in the future, interacting with other Community CAC's to see what they're doing. Also, the CAC received legislative updates from IT's state advocacy team, David Foster and Joanna Grist. Duncan Green provided an update on the Winter Bicycle Community Challenge, and they received a report on the Capital Improvement Plan.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Thurston County Auditor's Office's *Your Neighbors, Your Elections* video series won a national Clearinghouse Award from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), recognized for excellence in voter education and communications. The Auditor's Office also received an honorable mention in the Accessibility category for "Expanding Access: Public Transit Partnerships for Accessible Elections."

Through the "Public Transit Partnerships for Accessible Elections" program, the Auditor's office worked with IT to extend bus service hours on Election Day, improved ADA access at the Voting Center, and used community vanpools for staff transport to reduce costs and congestion. Furthermore, the Auditor's office worked with IT to add ballot drop box and Voting Center locations into local transit maps, the initiative expanded access and demonstrated an innovative, cost-effective approach to improving elections for both voters and staff.

April 23 was Administrative Professionals Day and Bergkamp gave a big shoutout to our Administrative Professionals and those being mentored by them. This includes Clerk of the Board Pat Messmer, Public Records Officer Amanda Collins, both mentoring Executive Administrative Assistant Intern Nicole Jones, Operations Assistant Christina Loomis mentoring Operations Assistant Intern Matthew Kelzenberg, Maintenance Assistant Jason Aguero Jr., Development Assistant Fiona Sheehan, and Human Resources Assistant Taylor Slobojan. Their diligent behind-the-scenes efforts

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 11 of 15

keep all departments running smoothly. Thank you for consistently keeping us organized and creating a network of support for all staff to thrive!

Two out of our six NEW grant requests were funded in the state budget for 25-27 and 27-29. Considering it was a difficult budget year, we're happy with the outcome. The following new projects were funded:

- *Corridor Express: Introducing New Limited-Stop Service from West Olympia to East Lacey*
 - Provide 15-minute, limited-stop express service between west Olympia and east Lacey via the Harrison Avenue/Martin Way corridor, establishing the east-west spine of IT's high-performance urban system.
 - Funding Source: Regional Mobility Grant (2025- 2029)
- *Lacey Express: Introducing I-5 Service from Lacey Transit Center to Sounder Station via Hawks Prairie and JBLM*
 - Introduce new service between Lacey Transit Center and Sounder Station via Hawks Prairie Park & Ride and JBLM at Madigan Gate, for connections with Pierce Transit's Rt 206 for secure base access.
 - Funding Source: Regional Mobility Grant (2025- 2029)

The following projects were NOT funded, and Senior Management will meet to discuss other funding opportunities for them:

- *Battery Electric Coach Replacement Project*
 - IT hoped to acquire two battery electric buses with chargers to replace two diesel hybrid buses at the end of their useful life.
 - Funding Source: Green Transportation Grant
- *Crosby Loop at SPSCC Improvements*
 - Transit facility improvements at South Puget Sound Community College
 - Funding Source: Bus & Bus Facilities Grant
- *Introducing Route 14: Intercity Transit's Dash-like service*
 - 2025 - 2027 Transportation Budget Request (sponsors Senator Bateman and Representative Doglio)
 - This request (\$1.2M) would have provided funding for 50% of the operating costs for the Route 14 that connects the Capitol campus and downtown Olympia, including the Olympia Farmer's Market and the Olympia Transit Center.

We'll find out from WSDOT the status of the following project in June:

- *2025- 2027 Replacement Rideshare Vehicles*
 - Replacement Rideshare (expect hybrid and/ or no/ low emission vehicles)
 - Funding Source: Public Transit Ride Share

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 12 of 15

The Bicycle Community Challenge is upon us, and Bergkamp encouraged ITA members to join her in celebrating Bike Month (May) with some trips around town using pedal power! There is now added bike parking in the covered visitor parking area of the AdOps facility.

AUTHORITY ISSUES

Menser said Thurston County proclaimed May Bike Month and Duncan Green was in attendance at that meeting. Green provided the same information about Walk N Roll as Wilson did this evening.

Pierce appreciates the new greetings on the bus message reader boards.

Belk was happy to participate in the Procession of the Species. Between that event and Arts Walk, and it was good to see the buses doing their job. They were pretty full and the 47 was packed. It's good to see IT doing their part to make that event more successful.

Goodwin said on April 17 she worked at the Food Bank in Lacey conducting the crosswalk survey that was sponsored by TRPC with about 125 respondents. The community was able to see the bus stops and how that would impact their lives getting food and getting back and forth throughout the neighborhood on Martin Way. On April 30 she attended the TRPC Open House to review the pedestrian biking bus stops and they're doing three now where the food bank is actually located; and there's a survey going out on Facebook. On May 6, Scott Schoengarth and his team from Bus Buddies presented the Bus Buddy program to the League of Women Voters. They have 15 volunteers who assist riders ages 12 years old and up and a lot of the League women and men were impressed. They did not know 12-year-olds could get on a bus by themselves with the Buddy Program. They're making a trip on May 22 to Port Townsend and people are signing up for that and Schoengarth shared that Thurston County is the perfect place for the Bus Buddy Program because of the size of our area and how many people are willing to volunteer. On behalf of the League of Women Voters, it was a great presentation, and they are grateful for this service.

Hess said the City of Yelm is excited that the 510 northern loop was approved, and hopefully in two years there will be a complete loop that goes from Southworth Elementary School to Walmart. Hess said there are three roundabouts along the 507 that have been approved that go from Yelm all the way into McKenna. Hess said he continues discussions about working to make sure that Intercity Transit and the people of Yelm know that it's available. Hess has been explaining to the people that the developer did not plan properly to allow a nice turn around for the bus. But he said Yelm is hopefully going to be getting more involved and as Yelm grows, their planning department will work with IT's planning department to make sure that everyone is working together to increase the capability of IT coming into the area and continuing to be a wonderful resource for the residents of Yelm.

Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting

May 7, 2025

Page 13 of 15

Vanderpool said the City of Olympia formed a subcommittee with the Olympia School District on safe routes funding. This is an Olympia School District safety levy funding, and they reached an agreement on what the first projects will be, and they will be remarking all the existing crosswalks surrounding the Olympia schools about a half mile radius. This will be worked on in the summer of 2026 and they're also conducting some corridor safety improvements that are traffic calming. This will be near Reeves and Roosevelt, and then another on Hanson and Marshall so there will be an East and West side of town. This includes signs, markings, reduced speeds, crosswalks, median speed tables, physical and non-physical improvements on those routes. That will be added to the City's capital facilities plan in 2026 and be constructed in probably '26 or '27. The City's going to help pay for some of this because it is on their transportation master plan. This is the first of its kind in trying to see ways to do joint funding on projects to get some of these projects moving ahead sooner than if they were independently funded. Vanderpool said on May 8 the Port is going to have a private company present the concept of an electric ferry, and he's excited about that.

Cox said the Lacey Spring Fun Fair is May 17 and 18 and she's excited the Bubble Bus will be there. Cox said paving will take place on Martin Way towards Carpenter. She said on May 6, Lacey City Council conducted a second briefing of their comprehensive plan. The first briefing was about the new climate section that is a new requirement for comprehensive plans this year. They were also dealing with land use and housing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:05 p.m., in accordance to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), Chair Cox announced the Authority would be in executive session until 7:50 p.m. to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Those attending included: Chair and City of Lacey Councilmember Carolyn Cox; Vice Chair and Community Representative Sue Pierce; Community Representatives Justin Belk and Wendy Goodwin; Labor Representative Mark Neuville; Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser; City of Olympia Councilmember Robert Vanderpool; City of Yelm Councilmember Brian Hess; Emily Bergkamp; Peter Stackpole; Jonathon Yee; Jana Brown; Heather Stafford; Dena Withrow; Legal Counsel, Jeff Myers.

At 7:50 p.m. the Clerk of the Board announced an extension until 8 p.m. At 8:02 p.m. the Clerk of the Board announced an extension until 8:20 p.m.

The Authority reconvened to a regular session at 8:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**Intercity Transit Authority Regular Meeting
May 7, 2025
Page 14 of 15**

With no further business to come before the Authority, Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

INTERCITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Carolyn Cox

Carolyn Cox, Chair

ATTEST

Patricia Messmer

**Pat Messmer
Clerk to the Authority**

Date Approved: June 18, 2025

Prepared by Pat Messmer, Clerk of the Board/Executive Assistant, Intercity Transit.

