

**PIERCE TRANSIT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

February 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Campbell called the regular board meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

Marty Campbell, Chair of the Board, Pierce County Councilmember
Olgy Diaz, City of Tacoma Councilmember
Daryl Eidinger, Mayor of the City of Edgewood (*representing Edgewood and Puyallup*)
John Hines, City of Tacoma Councilmember
Shannon Reynolds, City of Fircrest Councilmember (*representing University Place and Fircrest*)
Kim Roscoe, Mayor of Fife (*representing Fife/Milton/Pacific/Auburn/Gig Harbor Ruston/Steilacoom*)
Kristina Walker, Vice Chair of the Board, Deputy Mayor of City of Tacoma
Jason Whalen, City of Lakewood Mayor

Commissioners excused:

Ryan Mello, Pierce County Councilmember

Staff present:

Mike Griffus, Chief Executive Officer
Grantley Martelly, Chief Operating Officer
Chris Schuler, Chief Financial Officer
Deanne Jacobson, Clerk of the Board
Brittany Carbullido, Assistant to the CEO/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Aaron Millstein, Counsel

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Campbell stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People.

Chair Campbell led attendees in the Flag Salute, followed by a moment of silence.

OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Chair Campbell welcomed board members, staff, and citizens to the meeting and provided attendees with instructions for meeting participation. (*Commissioner Roscoe noted that she would be unavailable for part of today's meeting.*)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Honoring Angelina Santana for Operator of the Month for January 2023 and for her Exceptional Actions for Keeping her Passengers Safe

Transportation Assistant Manager Ron Makenzie honored Operator Ms. Santana for being selected Operator of the Month for January 2023, noting that Mr. Santana has been an operator since January 2020, and she has grown into her position demonstrating passenger safety with the highest priority. He commended her for her great customer service, for not sacrificing safety over schedule, and for taking pride in her community.

Chief Operating Officer Grantley Martelly honored Ms. Santana for her quick-thinking actions and bravery in protecting her passengers and herself from an emergency event that recently occurred. She was presented with the Pierce Transit Service Excellence Award for her actions.

Ms. Santana expressed her thanks and appreciation for receiving the award and expressed gratitude to her family for their support and the many employees of Pierce Transit who support her in her career every day.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Campbell congratulated Ms. Santana for receiving the award and for her day-to-day service and commitment to passenger safety.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Welcoming Commissioner Olgy Diaz from the City of Tacoma to the Pierce Transit Board

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chair Campbell welcomed Commissioner Olgy Diaz from the City of Tacoma.

2. Welcoming ATU Local 758 President John Hoheusle to the Pierce Transit Board, Serving as a Non-Voting Member

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chair Campbell welcomed Commissioner John Hoheusle to the Pierce Transit Board and expressed the Board is happy to have him be part of the conversation.

3. Welcoming New Pierce Transit Chief of Public Safety, Ed Roberts; Item deferred to the April 10 Board meeting.

4. Filling a Vacancy on the Service Delivery and Capital Committee

Chair Campbell expressed that he would like to appoint Olgy Diaz to the Service Delivery and Capital Committee.

Ms. Diaz requested to receive more information about the committee before fully committing to serve. This item was deferred to the April 10 Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Campbell provided participation instructions to the public and opened public comment.

Deborah Vinyard - In honor of Black History Month, Ms. Vinyard honored former Pierce Transit employee Anna Carr for being the first female African American operator for Pierce Transit.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposal to Amend Pierce Transit's Fare Policy to Allow for the ORCA LIFT Program and to Remove the Policy Goal to Achieve Fare Parity Between SHUTTLE and Adult Fixed Route Services

Senior Planner Lanai Tua provided an overview of the ORCA LIFT Program, which would allow qualified riders to pay \$1 for a one-way trip on transit providers that participate in the ORCA network. Ms. Tua reviewed the application requirements and reviewed the proposal to amend Pierce Transit's policy to eliminate the goal of achieving fare parity between Shuttle and Adult Fixed Route Services. She reported that Pierce Transit is the only transit agency in the ORCA program that does not currently participate in ORCA LIFT. She reviewed the ORCA LIFT eligibility requirements, noting that an estimated 37 percent of the Public Transportation Benefit Area population would qualify for the program and the program would impose a fiscal impact estimated at \$240,000/year; however, actual impacts cannot be determined without knowing how many people will apply and qualify for the ORCA LIFT program.

Ms. Tua reviewed the agency's outreach plan utilized to engage with the community and stakeholders about the ORCA LIFT program and related fare amendment and reviewed survey results that showed strong support for the ORCA LIFT program.

She reported that partnering agencies who have already implemented ORCA LIFT have experienced increased ridership. She reviewed the proposed code changes and noted the timeline for implementation is scheduled for April 1, 2023.

Chair Campbell provided instructions to attendees wishing to provide comment and opened the public hearing at 4:33 p.m.

Laura Svancarek from Downtown on the Go provided comments in support of the ORCA LIFT program, citing that reduced fares could change people's lives by increasing access and opportunity for low- income riders.

Chair Campbell closed the public hearing at 4:35 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Items listed below were distributed to Commissioners in advance for reading and study and are enacted with one motion. Item(s) may be moved to the Action Agenda at the request of a commissioner.)

Commissioners Walker and Eiding **moved** and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

1. Approval of Vouchers, January 1 – 31, 2023
Operating Fund #10
Self-Insurance Fund #40
Capital Fund #90
Payment Nos. 379939 through 380130
Wire Nos. 12609 through 12864
No Advance Travel Checks
Total \$11,253,587.70
2. 2022 4th Quarter Sole Source Report and Contracts Executed Over \$100,000 Report
3. Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

ACTION AGENDA

1. **FS 2023-006, Approval of Resolution No. 2023-002, Amending Pierce Transit Code Section 3.72 FARES to Implement the ORCA LIFT Program, with an Effective Date of April 1, 2023, Removing Fare Policy Goal Language Seeking Fare Parity Between Adult Fixed Route Service and SHUTTLE Service, and Acknowledging Acceptance and Receipt of Related 2023 Title VI Fares Equity Analysis**

The Board received an overview of the proposed fare amendment and ORCA LIFT program during the public hearing that occurred earlier in the meeting.

Chair Campbell and Vice Chair Walker thanked staff for their work in implementing the ORCA LIFT program.

Commissioners Walker and Eiding **moved** and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2023-002, authorizing Amendments to Pierce Transit Code Section 3.72 FARES, as presented in Exhibit A, authorizing the ORCA LIFT program, with an effective date of April 1, 2023, removing the policy goal that there be parity between Adult Fixed Route service and SHUTTLE service, and accepting the 2023 Fare Equity Analysis as presented in Exhibit B.

Motion **carried**, 7-0.

2. Authority to Purchase up to Fifty (50) Replacement Vanpool Vehicles and up to Eleven (11) Replacement Support Vehicles Utilizing Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Contract No. 05916

Warranty Coordinator Brenda Lacey presented on the item. She spoke about ongoing supply chain issues that are impacting vehicle replacement orders, noting that Pierce Transit may not be able to order vehicles until the third quarter of 2023. She reviewed the agency's replacement guidelines.

Upon inquiry, she noted that it is the agency's goal to purchase hybrid or electric vehicles if they are available.

Commissioners Walker and Reynolds **moved** and seconded authorize the Chief Executive Officer to purchase up to fifty (50) Replacement Vanpool Vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$1,933,230.00 and to purchase up to eleven (11) Replacement Support Vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$626,830.00 from the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Contract No. 05916, for a total not to exceed amount of \$2,560,060.00

Motion carried, 7-0.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. 2022 Competitive Grants Review and 2023 Lookahead

Senior Planner Tina Lee presented on the item, reviewing the agency's grants team and talent that support the agency's grants program. She reviewed the agency's grants priorities and gave an overview of the grant applications submitted in 2022 and the programs that they support. She reviewed the total amounts of grant monies requested vs. amount of grant monies received.

Ms. Lee spoke about the competitive nature of the grants, with grants "asks" far exceeding grant funds available. She reiterated that there is a lot of chatter about "all the money out there," but also noted there is a lot of need out there and the grants are very competitive.

Ms. Lee reviewed the grant programs the agency plans to apply for in 2023, reviewing the grant ask and the program or improvements the grants would fund.

Ms. Lee reviewed the grant programs that are expected to be available in 2024. (*Commissioner Roscoe returned at 4:55 p.m.*)

Commissioner Roscoe requested to receive an update on the MOBI project.

CEO Griffus advised that the Board will receive an update on the MOBI project at the March 13 study session.

STAFF UPDATES

1. CEO'S Report

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following items:

- Welcomed Commissioner Olgy Diaz from the City of Tacoma and ATU President John Hoheusle to the Board and expressed his appreciation for both unions resuming representation at the Board level.
- Congratulated Vice Chair Walker on her recent appointment of Deputy Mayor of Tacoma
- Reported that Pierce Transit will restore 7,800 hours of service with the March 18 service change, with more of the hours going towards weekend service.
- Announced that the bus featuring the Free Youth Transit Pass wrap will be promoted at the Capital Tuesday, February 14 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. giving legislators and other elected officials an opportunity to stop by for a selfie photo.
- Reported that he spent the day last Thursday, February 9, riding the system to get a feel for how things are going out there and noted he is always impressed by the service our operators give to the public.

Commissioner Hines inquired about when the agency expects to be a full operator capacity.

CEO Griffus advised that the agency is short approximately 80 operators and 36 maintenance positions. He answered questions relating to the agency's workforce and the retaining employees and noted that every transit agency in Washington state is experiencing the same labor issues.

2. BRT Update

CEO Mike Griffus reported on the following:

Sixty percent design set has been completed. A new cost estimate will be provided and the agency is expecting project costs to increase by 10-20 percent. He provided an update about a recent meeting with City of Tacoma staff, noting the meeting was productive and he thinks all parties want to see the project re-rated by the FTA, which is expected to occur in August. In the meantime, the agencies will continue to work to finalize the critical agreements for the project.

Reported on a recent meeting with Representative Jake Rey to discuss the work Pierce Transit and WSDOT are doing on SR-7. He is hopeful that WSDOT will accelerate the safety feature work along the SR-7 corridor close to the same time the BRT construction work is expected to begin, instead of in 2028, and noted there could be additional funding for this.

Commissioner Whalen inquired if there will be a BRT study session soon to discuss the critical decision points on the project.

CEO Griffus advised that it may be good to hold a study session in August, when the agency learns more information about the amount of funding it will receive for the project from the FTA. In the meantime, the agency needs to complete the NEPA and SEPA work and other critical agreements including agreements with the City of Tacoma.

INFORMATIONAL BOARD ITEMS

1. Chair's Report

Chair Campbell reported on the following:

- The next Service Delivery and Capital Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- There will be a study session meeting scheduled prior to the March 13 Board meeting to discuss whether to pursue a ballot measure in 2023 and to receive an update on the Maintenance, Base and Operations Improvement (MOBI) project.
- Chair Campbell noted he will be attending the APTA Legislative Conference in DC on March 13 and will try to attend virtually; however, Vice Chair Walker will Chair the meeting.
- Reported that we haven't had any success scheduling a retreat, and we are now looking out past May. Encouraged all members to attend the retreat in person and to complete the Doodle poll when it is sent out.

2. Sound Transit Update

- Vice Chair Walker noted that the Hilltop Link opening date will be set shortly and is expected to occur before the end of Q3 of 2023.
- Commissioners Roscoe and former Commissioner Keel had an opportunity to ride the Hilltop Link. The required training hours/miles must be met before the service can be opened to the public.
- Discussions are occurring at the Sound Transit Board and Committee levels on the West Seattle/ Ballard Extension. Decisions are expected to happen in April.
- Discussions continue to occur about Sounder service in the South Sound and how to better serve that area along with the challenges with sharing the track with BNSF.

3. Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board Update

Vice Chair Walker reported on the following:

- At their last meeting, the Policy Board received an update on the Transportation Work Program and all the pieces that the work program encompasses.
- The Policy Board also learned about the Puget Sound Regional Electric Vehicle Collaborative Clearinghouse, a partnership with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, which will be a resource and tool for entities to access polices and procedures around electrification and reduce the need to recreate the wheel around electrification.
- A final decision on the equity allocation of FTA funds to transit agencies is expected to occur next month.

4. Commissioners' Comments

No comments were provided.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURMENT

Seeing no further business before the Board, Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Deanne Jacobson

Deanne Jacobson
Clerk of the Board

Marty Campbell

Marty Campbell, Chair
Board of Commissioners