

**SKAGIT TRANSIT
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 12, 2013 5:00 p.m.
Skagit Station Conference Room
Mount Vernon, WA

Valerie Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Valerie Rose
Doris Brevoort
Joy Kane
Oliver Berentson
Frank Damp

Skagit Transit

Troy Fair
Mary Lozeau
Dale O'Brien
Dennis Digges

Members of the Public

Tommie Yturralde
Caroline Nazareno
Russell Hixson (Skagit Herald)

I. Public Comment:

Tommie Yturralde and Caroline Nazareno visited from Community Action. They explained that clients at Community Action could only ask for emergency relief vouchers once every six months. This may include vouchers for food, gas or transportation. By November 12th Community Action was out of emergency funds for the month of November. They inquired about the free pass program that had been discussed during the September CAC Open House. A discussion followed and Dale O'Brien stated that he intended to present a report to the Board of Directors in December to request a free pass program in 2014 to assist community service agencies provide transportation to clients seeking jobs or needing transportation for essential necessities. Tommie and Caroline stated that day passes would be a big benefit to low income residents in need of transportation.

Tommie stated that two obstacles in current bus service was that the bus was not always convenient to people since affordable housing is oftentimes in rural areas. Also mothers with babies had a hard time standing at uncovered bus stops in the rain.

II. Approval of minutes: There were no minutes from the October Open House meeting.

III. Notes from the field: Doris rode the new Route 90X trip at 3:10pm. She commented that the trip definitely helped reduce the overload on the 4:10pm trip and that whatever service we put out, people will use it.

VI. General Update: The Sedro Woolley Transit Station will not be completed until Spring 2014 when the second roundabout is completed. Dale attended a Transportation Conference. Governor Inslee was present. Dale requested that the State help in keeping regional bus service funded while we keep local routes funded. Dale also stated that Dial-a-Ride denials are up. Skagit Transit is planning to add two more DAR routes in Mount Vernon and one in Anacortes. Dennis gave a briefing on the new flex service in the rural areas of Bay View, Bow/Edison, Alger and Big Lake. Fixed Route ridership is up 8.6% this year. Dale stated that we will be holding an open house at Skagit Station to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. A video is being made at this time.

V. **Unfinished Business:** None

VI. **New Business:** None

VII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Valerie Rose, Vice Chair
Skagit Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee

Attest:

Mary Lozeau
Clerk of the Citizens' Advisory Committee