

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

Thursday, September 11, 2014 5:00 p.m.
Skagit Station Conference Room
Mount Vernon, WA

Susan Pole called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Committee Members

Susan Pole
Joy Kane
Doris Brevoort
Valerie Rose
Oliver Berentson

Skagit Transit

Dale O'Brien
Troy Fair
Carolyn Chase

Members of the Public

None

I. Public Comment:

None.

II. Approval of minutes:

A motion to approve minutes from the May 2014 meeting was made by Doris Brevoort and seconded by Valerie Rose. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Notes from the field:

Dale O'Brien notified the CAC of the passing of Maintenance and Facilities Manager, Ben Haigh. He also discussed the MOA feasibility study Skagit Transit recently started. Dale also mentioned that the Sedro Woolley Park and Ride replaced the Food Pavilion as the major transfer location for east county routes effective September 2, 2014. Dale also mentioned Skagit Transit's commitment to starting a new Mount Vernon route that would service the new County jail proposed for the Truck City site.

Troy Fair told the group that the 40X service between Mount Vernon and March's Point in Anacortes is going well with strong ridership and recent schedule adjustments meant to improve transfer options. He also told the group that Skagit Transit recently hired several new, highly-qualified drivers. Troy also spoke about Try Transit day, a fare free transit day that coincides with Project Homeless Connect.

Carolyn Chase spoke about initial route planning discussions around a proposed Sedro Woolley local route and local Burlington route that would allow the existing Route 300 to run more directly between Sedro Woolley and Chuckanut Park and Ride. She also discussed a staff proposed service cut to Flex Route 255 and the timeline behind the proposed cut.

IV. General Update:

Valerie Rose brought up the idea of Skagit Transit running a half-page advertisement in the *Concrete Herald* as a way of increasing awareness about east county service. She also inquired about the quarterly newsletter that used to be published in the *Skagit Valley Herald*. Dale mentioned that this may be something that is reinstated in 2015 if it can be included in the budget.

Oliver Berentson asked Dale O'Brien how the budget for 2015 was looking. Dale discussed that sales tax revenue in 2014 is not as high as expected.

IV. Unfinished Business:

Susan Pole followed up on the Transportation Day at the Mall event and stated that if done again in the future, a date should be selected that does not compete with another large community event.

Susan Pole told the group that the ride pass program information is on the website and openly available for service organizations.

V. New Business:

Susan Pole brought up the idea of having a fare free day targeting those traveling to work. Another member had the idea of combining this type of event with national bike to work day. This began a discussion about the challenges faced by bicyclists who need secure bike parking. Dale mentioned that Skagit Transit is currently trying to win a grant that would purchase two bicycle lockers for the March's Point Park and Ride. Joy Kane mentioned that one problem she has encountered with bicycle lockers is that they can be too short to accommodate a more upright positioned bicycle.

Valerie Rose inquired about sealed windows on some of the coaches and requested that the agency consider allowing those windows to open. Valerie also inquired about having a shelter placed at LaVenture and Sandlewood and new stops being placed closer to Community Action along Route 208.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Susan Pole, Chair
Skagit Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee

Attest:

Carolyn Chase
Transit Planner