

# RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS SKAGIT TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, July 19th, 2023

The Skagit Transit Board of Directors met in a regular Meeting in Burlington, WA and via teleconference. Vice Chair Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, and introductions.

## Members Present

Lisa Janicki, Skagit County Commissioner  
Colleen Kennedy, Labor Representative (non-voting member)  
Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner  
Ron Wesen, Skagit County Commissioner  
Julia Johnson, City of Sedro Woolley, Mayor  
Matt Miller, City of Anacortes, Mayor (Vice-Chair)  
Steve Sexton, City of Burlington, Mayor

## Members Present via Teleconference

Judy Jones, Community Advisory Committee (Chair, non-voting member)  
Mark Hulst, City of Mount Vernon, Councilmember

## Members Absent:

Bill Aslett, City of Burlington, Councilmember  
Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon, Mayor (Chair)

## Providing Legal Counsel:

Evan Chinn, Summit Law

## Staff Present

Laura Klein, Clerk of the Board  
Nicolas Bergman, Information Technologies  
Crystle Stidham, Chief Executive Officer  
Chris Chidley, Director of Information Technology  
Jennifer Davidson, Director of Human Resources  
Melinda Hunter, Coach Operator  
Jose Reeves, Coach Operator  
Rocky Bliss, Coach Operator  
Tracy Cook, Coach Operator  
Soren Jensen, Coach Operator  
Alan Brooks, Operations Supervisor

## Staff Present via Teleconference:

Greg Latham, Director of Vehicle Maintenance  
Abby Bissell, HR Generalist  
Mika Bergman, Maintenance Support  
Jim Young, Operations Supervisor  
Justin Self, Information Technologies

## Members of Public Present

Jill Kennedy  
Joe Downes, Local 176-T Representative

## Members of the Public Present via Teleconference:

Jill Business, Dale O'Brien, "JW", Brad Tinges, Karen S., Jim Heffern, "Ray", "Marcia", "Mount Vernon", "Same E", Kevin Davis, "Public", "Aurora's Grandma"

## **1 Public Comment:**

Soren Jensen presented a public comment expressing concern that the Union representative was not paid for this meeting and claimed that the Board passed a resolution saying that union presidents will receive 2 hours of paid leave to attend Board meetings.

## **2 Consent / Action Items:**

- a) Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Mayor Miller instructed the clerk to change his attendance for the June meeting minutes as he was not present at the meeting.

**Mr. Sexton moved to approve all Consent / Action items. Mr. Browning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### 3 Executive Session – Potential Litigation (RCW 42.30.110 (1)(a)(i))

The Board met in Executive session to discuss Potential Litigation per RCW 42.30.110. The Executive Session began at 11:04 am with the intention of ending at 11:24 am. The Board extended the executive session by 15 minutes. The Board returned to regular session at 11:42 am.

### 4 Full Discussion/Action Items:

- a) Approve New FTE – Project Manager
- b) Approve Resolution 2023-04 Suspending Resolution 2022-08 for Sign-on, Retention, and Referral Bonuses

Item b was removed from the agenda at staff's request.

- c) Approve Award 23-014 for Construction of Marketplace Drive Bus Stop
- d) Approve Entering into Interlocal Purchasing Agreement with WSIPC

Items a, c, and d were moved to the August Board Meeting Agenda.

- e) Approve Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 and 5339 Grant Awards

Ms. Stidham read the report as stated in the packet.

**Mr. Sexton moved to approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 and 5339 Grant Awards. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- f) Approve WSDOT Consolidated Grant Awards

Ms. Stidham read the report as stated in the packet, noting that this was read as an informational item at June's Board Meeting.

Ms. Janicki asked for clarification on the funding of items a-f as presented in the packet. Ms. Stidham clarified that staff will make that correction.

**Mr. Wesen moved to approve the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Awards. Ms. Janicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### 5 Information Items

- a) FTA Audit Results
- b) MOA2 Update
- c) Site visit from Representative Rick Larsen
- d) Berry Dairy Days/Loggerodeo parade
- e) Public Transit Rideshare Grant Award - \$487,087
- f) Annual Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update
- g) Delaying New Service

Items a-g were summarized in a written report sent to the board of directors after the regular meeting. This was done in the interest of time, as the Executive Session ran long.

h) Union Statement

Ms. Kennedy read a statement from the union expressing dissatisfaction with the current leadership.

Mr. Miller noted that the Board is taking those concerns seriously.

i) Video Policy

A summary of the video policy draft was read by Mr. Chidley. This draft policy was provided to the board before the Board meeting. Highlights of the policy include respect of privacy rights, provides guidelines on placement of cameras, when audio and video are recorded, when audio and video are reviewed, and other pertinent information regarding laws and regulations surrounding this topic. Cameras will be placed in public areas, but never private locations such as offices or bathrooms. Audio recording will not be utilized except for specific areas with posted signage. Video and audio may be reviewed under circumstances such as vehicle incidents, complaints, public records requests, and law enforcement requests.

Mr. Chidley invited the board to review the policy and provide feedback.

Ms. Janicki asked for clarification from the last meeting, asking if the equipment was already purchased or if just an estimate was given. Mr. Chidley responded that there is room in the budget for 2023 for cameras and air monitoring in the Skagit Station bathroom area.

j) CAC Minutes

Ms. Jones noted that the CAC provides a report, not meeting minutes. This has been noted for future meetings. The CAC summarized their report from the packet regarding their special meeting held at the Burlington Senior Center on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

k) Ridership Report

Ms. Stidham stated that the report was in the packet and due to time constraints, if the board had any questions, they should contact Brad Windler.

*Mr. Miller made a comment directed at the union representative. He stated that he has been mayor for a year and a half and has had 30 years of leadership and management experience. He stated that if staff has a supervisor, director, or manager title next to their names, "if you don't think that bringing in a new CEO or director after the previous director had been there for almost 20 years that there's not going to be some friction, then you need to do a little self-reflection. This is an organization that is half the size of my city, it's got the same number of directors, they all make more than my directors, we've got a major capital project that's two years over time and over 100% over-budget, there's ridership issues, 40% down since 2019, management salaries significantly over driver salaries, so this one board member is absolutely expecting the new executive director to shake things up in the organization. Based on my experience in running large organizations, this is exactly what needs to happen and its what taxpayers demand."*

**Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.**

Attest:

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Jill Boudreau, Chair Skagit Transit Board of Directors

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Laura Klein, Clerk of Skagit Transit Board