

CAC Report

February 8, 2022

As Judy Jones was absent due to illness, Doris Brevoort, Co-Chair officiated the meeting.

Joe A. Kunzler was on the call briefly to mention legislation which was brought before the State House of Representatives and Senate allocating significant funds to assist in several public transportation arenas. This is called Move Ahead Washington. Brad indicated that several of Skagit Transit's programs and facilities stand to benefit relative to these proposed opportunities. There will be more discussions of this during the next meeting.

The meeting minutes for December, 2021 were approved. There was not a quorum for the meeting in January, 2022.

Cheryl Willis received the news that our esteemed CAC member, Dick Phillips' wife had recently passed away. Members were encouraged to send notes of condolence to him through her. Skagit Transit had kindly arranged for flowers to be sent in her memory.

On February 1, 2022, there was an excellent article explaining upcoming changes in Skagit Transit services. Another article made mention of changes such as additional sidewalks and curb cuts, which are being considered already by Skagit Transit to enhance mobility in communities within the county.

Brad explained that these improvements had been requested as a part of the approved Skagit Transit Budget. Working in concert with community partners enables both these jurisdictions and Skagit Transit to take full advantage of community grants available for these purposes.

Brad then stated that Skagit Transit will be developing a new Strategic Plan for a 3 to 5-year timeframe. Planning for this should be taking place from March/April and with results available around November.

In May, 2022, the Route 207 will be used to travel into neighborhoods in Mount Vernon which have had little transit service. Brad indicated that the agency is still short of qualified drivers. During the Fall of 2022, the Route 300 will serve Sedro-Woolley exclusively. A new route 101 will circulate in Burlington, Route 513 will be available hourly and Route 615 will add another bus, making it available every two hours.

Brad indicated that Mark Hamilton will address the CAC during our April 12 meeting to discuss the Household Travel Survey Findings within the county.

Paratransit requests will be taken daily from 8:00A.M. to 4:30P.M.

Cheryl explained that there will be a Legacy Stuff the Bus event on Saturday, February 26, 2022 beginning at 11:00A.M. at the Cascade Mall in Burlington. This drive will be for food

and supplies such as razors, soaps, shampoos and the like. Pioneer Marketplace in Sedro-Woolley will also be assisting by having a bin available for items to be donated to the Helping Hands Food Bank. At both locations, patrons can also offer cash donations to assist the Helping Hands Food Bank effort.

There was no update from the Regional Awareness Committee at this time.

On February 21, 2022, Presidents' Day, Skagit Transit's offices in Burlington and the main transit facility in Mount Vernon will be closed.

As Brad had indicated the possibility of Skagit Transit making youth passes available to young people, one of our members expressed concern about children being able to travel independently without parental knowledge or permission. We all agreed this was an item warranting further discussion. Cheryl indicated that it is possible for parents to track young people via cell phones. Apps exist for this kind of tracking.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Jones, Special Project Coordinator