

MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Ray Bock, Doris Brevoort, BJ Carol, Chris and Judy Jones, Mike Kerr, Monette Partin, Irene Prokuski, Valerie Rose, and David Stevens.

Today's public commenter is Liam Diephuis of Mount Vernon, who commutes daily to and from work, taking the 90X and 80X. He states drivers have told him they have been instructed not to let passengers deboard via the rear exit on the northbound 80X or southbound 90X at the Chuckanut park and ride, and is asking those instructions be changed, giving people the additional option. Maleah states she will look into the matter and is taking his contact information for follow-up. He is also encouraged to call Customer Service as another option to interact with Skagit Transit.

It was moved and seconded the November meeting minutes be approved as submitted, by Chris and BJ, respectively. Motion carried.

Anna Zivarts, Director of the newly-launched Nondriver Alliance, highlighted the organization's mission to bridge the gap between transit agencies and the communities they serve. She discussed a 2025 law that empowers PTBA boards to appoint two voting members—a transit rider and an agency representative—to ensure users have a voice in leadership. Additionally, Anna shared that Washington is leading the way by using state funding to create a comprehensive sidewalk map database for use by urban planners. To support these initiatives, a specialized seminar will launch this fall to provide intensive training for ridership board members. She also took time to field some questions.

Under staff reporting, Maleah announced three new staff hires that will be starting with the agency shortly.

The October fixed route ridership numbered 48920, an 8.78% increase from 2024, with the year to date fixed route up 7%. Para transit is up 16.5% with 7917, an alltime record for para transit, year to date up 13.47%. The agency is also looking at software that can best utilize vehicles and operators to ensure the service demand can be met.

This month, the committee is asked to review the document within the board packet that compares similar transit agencies' full geographic size, operating budget, and population, as requested by the board. It will be posted on the Skagit Transit web site and will be sent out to the members as well.

The agency is working hard to get ready for the coming route changes, with one of the tasks being organizing the bus stop data, which can help ascertain how many riders are actually being served at a stop. Contractors are also calibrating the passenger counters on the vehicles to capture boarding and deboarding. This work should be finished by the end of the month, and will allow planners to view how a stop is being utilized by ridership.

The micro transit system has been evaluated to see if there is a way to combine para transit and micro transit on the same system, as well as having dispatchers for both on the same system.

Rogelio attended the December 5 Winter Wonderland event.

Regarding committee business, Judy made sure to take note of any member suggestions to the current by-laws. These recommendations will go to the CEO to make sure suggestions are in line with agency policies, then submitted for a legal review, and finally resubmitted for the committee's review, before an approval vote, then going to the board for official ratification.

Next year, Judy will be addressing a possible recommendation to take to the board regarding the adoption and implementation of the new law regarding voting ridership board members.

Next, Valerie suggested the agency clean up the automated phone system by making the auto-attendant prompt language more concise and focused.

Another suggestion is to use bus exteriors to promote Skagit Transit's bus service. Maleah stated the signage is being addressed, and the committee will be given an update once the new marketing staff is familiar with their positions, possibly in a couple of months.

Doris then asked via Chat if there is any consideration of changing the 90X schedule to make the morning run faster to Lynnwood to get to the light rail. Maleah states this is on a priority list if the agency can figure out a way to pay for it.

It was moved by Dave and seconded by BJ the meeting be adjourned.

Next meeting, January 13, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair