

Skagit Transit Community Advisory Committee  
June 8, 2021 **DRAFT V1** Minutes

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

**Members in Attendance**

Vice Chair Chris Jones  
Special Projects Assistant Joe A. Kunzler  
  
Louise Edens  
Valerie Rose  
Dick Phillips  
Robyn Gosney

**Staff**

Planning and Outreach Supervisor Brad Windler  
Marketing & Public Affairs Specialist Cheryl Willis

**Guests**

None

The meeting began at 4:44 PM with a quorum.

Roll was called by Cheryl Willis.

No public comment was offered.

Minutes were approved with no changes. Robyn Gosney moved to approve, Valerie Rose seconded and unanimously approved.

There was a brief conclusive by-laws discussion about having a '25<sup>th</sup> Amendment' in the by-laws so the members can remove an officer for any reason however necessary. The proposed changes were based on the May discussion and Joe A. Kunzler made a motion to approve, Valerie seconded with unanimous approval.

The discussion then pivoted over to Brad Windler briefing the CAC about the Sedro-Woolley Food Bank pullout. The pullout is for rider safety. There is also a comfort station/driver restroom at the Sedro-Woolley Park and Ride being built and hopefully will be completed by October.

The staff report by Brad Windler started with June 14 being the restart of the normal Skagit Transit service schedule. The MyRide app is now fully operational to track in real-time Skagit Transit buses. Eventually, the UMO fare payment app will have "regionalization" so that Skagit Transit fare collection can work

alongside Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) fare collection. In other words, you can deposit \$10 on an Umo account and withdraw from that deposit to pay for both Skagit Transit & WTA rides.

Meanwhile bus routes will be adjusted. Route 207 will have a service increase to every 30 minutes on weekdays and Route 717 will become a flex route/deviated route to support Upriver and connect Concrete to SeaMar Medical + Red Apple Grocery + Concrete Park & Ride. The new flex route will deviate to pick up and drop-off folks upon request with time points along the way to replace current paratransit service. The new flex route will then link up with the new 70X that will go from Concrete to Sedro-Woolley Park & Ride to Skagit Station every three hours or so.

In January 2022, both Sedro-Woolley and Burlington will get circular routes. Burlington will get a new Route 101 circular to expand service within Burlington. The delay is to ensure sufficient transit operators are ready for Skagit Transit during a national transit operator shortage.

Moving to bus stop sign updates – Covid19 did impact the vendors ability to meet the demand for bus stop signs and bus shelters. But the bus stop signs and bus shelters are coming nonetheless.

Joe chimed in about worries about operator care during the Covid19 crisis and appreciated Skagit Transit putting operators and maintainers first. Brad explained that Skagit Transit kept operators on staff, but had longer 10-hour shifts as the agency had only one shift during Covid19-induced service reductions. Joe was happy and asked if there were plans for Monday, 14 June and service restart. Brad and Cheryl didn't have the resources to pull off a launch event. Joe said regardless, "Monday's going to be a special day". Cheryl then chimed in the Whistle Stop Café in Skagit Transit with new ownership will open in mid-June. The new ownership has a track record of success in Skagit.

Robyn then shared a story about how a paratransit operator helped Robyn explain to a paratransit rider the rules and regulations of paratransit. The rider wanted the operator to help get to the vehicle, but the rules of paratransit don't allow that.

Brad then pivoted to the Summer Youth Pass update. Skagit Transit is promoting it with flyers and on the new digital kiosks. The Summer Youth Pass is only

available as an electronic Umo fare product. Due to the Covid19 crisis, low demand for now but Brad is positive about future demand.

Valerie then asked if it's possible to market the youth pass thru the schools and libraries? Brad said the libraries are interested but having trouble getting staff to help with reopening.

Robyn suggested putting up posters in the bus shelters. Brad was on board. Joe also offered to put up a few at Sedro-Woolley's Central Skagit Public Library.

Then the CAC transitioned to roundtable. Valerie and Joe brought up the PSRC outreach on disability accessibility. Joe said he was registered.

Joe followed up with discussion about the need to update Google Maps and Skagit Transit with the June 14 relaunch schedules. Joe also added this may be the last year he's on the CAC due to working at full mental capacity.

Vice Chair Chris then added for him & Chair Judy that Chair Judy has been discussing about scheduling Skagit Transit Boardmember rides on Skagit Transit. There was also a discussion about having a recommendation to the board on wearing masks after the Covid19 pandemic was over to help clamp down on flu transmission. Joe said the idea is to make it recommended, not required to protect operators from having to take on an enforcement role but do something pro-public health. No other members were interested.

Valerie made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 PM. Robyn seconded. The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted and Approved on \_\_\_ July 2021,

Joe A. Kunzler  
Special Projects Manager