

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

The Skagit Transit Board of Directors met in a special meeting in Burlington, WA. Commissioner Peter Browning chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Members Present

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner (Chair)
Ron Wesen, Skagit County Commissioner
Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon, Mayor
Bill Aslett, City of Burlington, Mayor
Karl de Jong, City of Sedro-Woolley, Councilmember
Carolyn Moulton, City of Anacortes, Councilmember
Marna Hanneman, Town of La Conner

Members Present via Teleconference

Assessor Danny Hagen attending as a representative for Joe Burns, Skagit County Commissioner (Vice Chair)
Judy Jones, Community Advisory Committee (Chair, non-voting member) (joined at 11:40 a.m.)

Members Absent:

Jeremy Akers, Town of Concrete, Mayor
Michael Rainey, Labor Representative (non-voting member)

Providing Legal Counsel:

Dannon Traxler, Langabeer and Traxler

Staff Present

Abby Bissell, HR Generalist
Carrie Towne, Operator Trainer
Chris Arkle, Director of Finance
Crystle Stidham, Chief Executive Officer
Eric Gambill, Security Supervisor
Greg Latham, Director of Maintenance and Facilities
Jennifer Davidson, Director of Human Resources
Larissa Farrell, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Staff Present via Teleconference:

Clerk of the Board
Jill Isaacson, Operations Supervisor
Jim Young, Operations Supervisor
Kaitlin West, Rideshare Coordinator
Larissa Farrell, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Les O'Neil, Operations Supervisor
Rebekah Tuno, Grants Manager
Rick Heerspink, Finance and Accounting Manager
Taylor Trammell, Finance Analyst

Members of Public Present

Alyssa Stamey; Colleen Kennedy; Jason Kelley; Soren Jensen;

Members of the Public Present via Teleconference:

1-9***90; BV; Cameron Martinez; For the People; Joe Macdonald; Nil; Skat4Life; Terminate CEO Employment;

1 Public Comment

Public comment was made.

2 Point of Order

Councilmember Carolyn Moulton moved that, moving forward, one Governance Committee member report which committee members attended the most recent Governance meeting and summarize the topics discussed. Mr. Wesen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3 Consent / Action Items

- a) Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of Claims and Payroll
 - June Payroll Direct Deposit and Checks
 - June Direct Federal Withholding Transfer
 - June Claims Checks and ACH #5925-6097
- c) Approve June Budget Update
- d) Approve Fare-Free FR Service for American Legion Event
- e) Approve 2026-2031 Transit Development Plan

Mr. Donovan made a motion to approve all consent agenda items. Mr. Aslett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4 Full Discussion/Action Items:

a) Approve Updated Skagit Transit Board Bylaws

Mr. de Jong noted potential revisions for sections 5.11 and 5.12.

This item was tabled for further discussion at the September Board meeting.

b) Approve Two (2) New CAC Members

Ms. Farrell noted the correct first name of one of the proposed candidates, Kirk, not Kurt, Kennedy. Introductions were given for the two candidates, Joe Macdonald and Kirk Kennedy.

Mr. Donovan made a motion to approve the two (2) new CAC members. Ms. Moulton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5 Information Items

- a) CEO Update
- b) CAC Update*
- c) June 2026 Productivity and Ridership

*The CAC Update was skipped and will be moved to the September Board meeting.

Peter Browning adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Peter Browning

9FB11B1D22C2430

Peter Browning, Chair Skagit Transit Board of Directors

Signed by:

Larissa Farrell

92442EE5FA0F474...

Larissa Farrell, Clerk of Skagit Transit Board

From: Public Records <PPublicRecordsRequest@pm.me>

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2026 10:25 AM

To: carolynm@anacorteswa.gov; Billa@burlingtonwa.gov; mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov; hannaho@mountvernonwa.gov; swmayor@sedro-woolley.gov; ward6@sedro-woolley.gov; commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us; sonshines59@gmail.com

Cc: Larissa Farrell <LFarrell@skagittransit.org>

Subject: Written Public Comment for Transit's 8/19/26 Meeting

Skagit Transit Board Members,

Please find my written public comments below for inclusion in the upcoming August meeting packet and to be read allowed by the new Board Chair during the public comment period at your next meeting. The forwarded emails are simply included for your information but are not intended for inclusion in the agenda or minutes as written comment. Although the agenda has posted, I do not see anything on transit's website about the written public comment period cutoff other than on the TDP page where it states written comments are required 24 hours beforehand. If I have missed something, please excuse me. I hope you will accept my written comments and attach them accordingly to an updated agenda. My public comments are as follows:

I am writing to ask for your consideration in adding transit's Governance Committee meetings to Skagit Transit's Agenda and Minutes webpage. Since its inception, this committee has not provided transparency to the public. As a matter of fact, it is difficult for anyone to even find any information about who is on this committee as there is nothing easily extracted from any agendas or minutes regarding this group on Skagit Transit's website.

As you will see from my recent correspondence with Skagit County (included below), I am unable to even get governance committee attendance logs from the Skagit County records department even though it is understood that two sitting Commissioners are currently serving on this committee and these meetings are listed on their archived agendas. As we can see, there is nothing to be found on transit's site. This is not a response I am used to seeing from the county's public records office. Why would a government agency try to suppress public meeting attendance logs and where then may the public, board members, or staff find this information?

To add some insight, a past board member and Chair spearheaded this committee after she was publicly called out, by me, for ethics violations at the September, 2023 transit board meeting. I encourage you to watch that meeting. This committee was formed just after that, with a clear attempt to change agency policies and bylaws that the board and staff were supposed to be following, behind closed doors with the CEO, while the whistleblower CFO was on administrative leave after bringing this and many other things to light.

Since the committee's inception in 2023, past board members have randomly discussed their governance meetings on camera, but few details are shared with the public. In fact, there seems to be a clear coordination in the past between board members and the CEO without any discussion or questions in a public forum. We have repeatedly seen action items added to agendas brought forward by this committee with an immediate vote and no open discussion, a clear indication that the entire board had been previously brought up to speed prior to the public meeting. I'm disturbed to say that when called out for violations of policies and laws, the CEO and members of this board simply changed policies to suit their needs using this governance committee and then tried to shut down oral public comments. Last December, agency staff and members of this board also tried to prevent the public from seeing the SAO audit exit conference by scheduling it inside this "governance committee" meeting that was supposed to be for discussing policy revisions. Any public audit conferences have historically been part of public meetings. What is being hidden? These are not the type of leaders that should be allowed in our top public servant roles. Some people would call this shadow-governing.

According to MRSC, "if the parent board routinely adopts the subcommittee's suggestions without discussion, it gains decision-making authority. This legally forces the subcommittee meetings into the open."

Going forward, it would build trust for this board to direct staff to post as much information about the governing committee as possible on transit's agenda and minutes site back to 2023. This is a reasonable administrative task with a format pre-existing on the Agenda and Minutes webpage. In going a step further, the Board may consider evaluating whether it may be time to sunset this committee, given that it was allegedly formed as a temporary mechanism to study the policies with old allegiances and alliances that no longer apply. Trust is earned and has been abused. I would ask you to please consider what is best for the agency moving forward and how this trust may be restored.

After what has been reported by multiple whistleblowers over the last 3.5 years regarding conduct at this agency between top executive staff and members of this board, I have not felt any new sense of hope for this agency until now. Maybe with fresh oversight, the vision of these new members will carve out a path back towards accountability.

The addition of expanded community representation and board members along with the new language in the proposed Bylaws changes including, "Enforcement and Accountability" are a great step in the right direction. In the future, I hope more public input will be seriously considered, with this new board earning the respect and trust of members of the public and staff.

Best Regards,

Alyssa Stamey

**CEO Verbal Report Out
Board Meeting
August 19, 2026**

MOA2

We signed the BUILD grant agreement on August 7, 2026! We plan to go out to bid in the next few weeks. Construction is expected to start at the end of 2026 and substantial completion is slated for mid-2028.

Finances

A full financial report is included in the packet, but I wanted to provide a few highlights. Sales tax revenues were down about 5.35% YoY from May 2025 to May 2026, down about 2.19% YTD (Jan-May).

Fuel costs – We continue to see elevated fuel costs due to the conflict in the Middle East:

June 2026

➤ Diesel - \$682,497.14

Up 48.85% YoY

Trending to be almost \$500,000 over budget (budgeted \$917,000)

Operations KPIs

June

LTA – Average 2

OT

➤ May \$59,195.74

➤ June \$42,998.37

○ YTD - \$356,664.67

▪ OT down 27.36% from May to June

- We believe this is partially due to the new Spare software that we implemented at the end of May. We'll know more as the year progresses.

○ Budgeted \$575,000 for 2026

Driver absenteeism for June was 24.31%, down from 20.52% in May

Ridership

There is a full ridership report included, but here are the highlights:

- FR – Up 10.35% from June 2025 to June 2026, up 6.12% YTD
- Para – Up 1.88% from June 2025 to June 2026, up 6.20% YTD

Recruitments

We currently have the following open positions:

- Director of Operations:
- Public Records Officer
 - Candidate starts September 9, 2026.

We had a class of 2 start on July 2. One already quit for personal reasons. We plan to start another class in October.

Governance Committee Update

The last Governance Committee Meeting was July 23rd. We discussed the Cash Handling Policy, WTA fare changes, and the Community Advisory Committee Charter.

The next Governance Committee meeting is August 27th. We will be reviewing the following:

- Public Comment policy
- Time tracking for grants policy
- Cash handling and till reconciliation policy
- Data management policy
- Title VI Policy
- EEO Policy
- P-card update

Negotiations

- Dispatch – Progressing - Next meeting is August 24th, 2026.
- Drivers – 1st session scheduled for September 22nd, 2026.

Community Events

Skagit Transit will be participating in the following August 2026 community events:

Event Name: Reading & Resources

Event Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026

Event Location: Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley

Population Served: Elementary to Middle School aged kids and their families.

Type of Event: This back-to-school community event promotes literacy while connecting families with organizations that provide educational resources and supportive services. Families can receive free school supplies, books, and information to help prepare for the 2026–27 school year. Skagit Transit will host Story Time on the Bus while sharing Youth Ride Free information and demonstrating how public transportation can connect students and families to schools, libraries, and community programs.

Event Name: Burlington Edison Back to School Fair

Event Date: Saturday, August 22, 2026

Event Location: Maiben Park in Burlington

Population Served: Burlington-Edison School District families

Type of Event: This annual back-to-school resource fair helps families prepare for the upcoming school year by providing free backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, and other essential services. Community organizations will be available to connect families with ongoing programs and resources that support student success. Skagit Transit will promote Youth Ride Free, assist new riders with setting up transit passes, and provide information on using public transportation to access schools, libraries, extracurricular activities, and other important destinations.

Event Name: Triumph Teen Center Back to School Event

Event Date: Saturday, August 22, 2026

Event Location: Triumph Teen Center, Mount Vernon

Population Served: Skagit County youth and families

Type of Event: This annual back-to-school event provides students and families with school supplies, community resources, and supportive services to help them start the school year with confidence. Local organizations will be available to connect attendees with programs that promote education, health, recreation, and overall well-being. Skagit Transit will provide information about the Youth Ride Free

program, assist eligible riders with setting up transit passes, and answer questions about routes, trip planning, reduced fares, and public transportation. By helping families understand how to use transit, we aim to increase access to schools, libraries, after-school activities, jobs, and other important destinations throughout Skagit County while encouraging greater independence and mobility.

Event Name: Concrete Community Resource Day

Event Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Event Location: Concrete Community Center, Concrete

Population Served: East Skagit County residents and families

Type of Event: This community resource event brings together local agencies and organizations to help residents in the upper Skagit Valley connect with services and support close to home. Attendees can learn about healthcare, transportation, housing, food assistance, youth programs, and other community resources. Skagit Transit will provide information about Youth Ride Free, fixed-route service, reduced fares, paratransit, and trip planning, helping community members learn how public transportation can connect them to jobs, schools, appointments, shopping, and other important destinations throughout Skagit County.