

# SKAGIT TRANSIT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2020

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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Skagit Transit

Robin Gosney

Brad Windler

Chris Jones

Cheryl Willis

Judy Jones

Joy Kane

Joe Knunzler

Valerie Rose

Louise Edens

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chris Jones

#### 2. INTRODUCTIONS:

none

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

#### 4. MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

none

#### 5. COVID\_19 UPDATES

Chris wondering if the committee can help out in any way.

Brad reports: All transit agencies dealing with the same things.

- a. Ridership down 73% on fixed route and way down on Para Transit as well

- b. Financially: It will take a while to know the outcome of how it is affecting Skagit Transit. May take 2 to 3 months before we know. Have received money from the Cares Act which is specific on how it can be spent.
- c. Behind the scenes Skagit Transit continues to work on new bus stops and shelters, the new food bank pull out in Sedro Woolley.

Mark Kennedy, Operation's manager, and guest speaker reports on how Operations is dealing with the Covid-19 issue.

- a. Safety measures: Driver area taped off, back door being used for entrance and exit for passengers except for passengers with disabilities. No fares being collected at this time. Asking passengers to take essential rides only. Masks worn by drivers and suggested to passengers. Buses wiped down throughout the day with disinfectant wipes and soaked with disinfectant at night. Drivers keep their window open as needed to add fresh air to the buses. Buses mostly running on Saturday schedule and all dialysis patients are getting to their appointments.  
Skagit Station closed at this time. Social distancing for Amtrak passengers . Following guidelines of local health department.
  - b. Retaining and training staff: All drivers driving part of each week. Schedule is rotating to make sure all drivers get to drive. All drivers retaining their wages and benefits. Drivers getting training that there us usually not time for.  
6 new drivers being trained so will be ready to go when the crisis is over.
  - c. Cheryl reports on educating public on changes: She has kept up with reporting changes to our schedules and other issues in regards to Covid-19 to radio stations, newspapers, etc.
6. Discussion about fiscal help for transit: Joe started discussion and suggested a tax increase.
- a. tax increase, may not be feasible at this time because of the poor economy. Judy would like the board to know that this committee would like to see it on the ballot.
  - b. Help from Washington state. The state is keeping track of consequences of Covid-19 on transit agencies. There are some changes possibly being made that may help.

- c. Committee wants board and Dale to know that they will be glad to help behind the scenes to get the word out that we need to keep transit going. Free ride day suggested for appreciation to our rides. Maybe make buttons to pass out.
- 7. Round Table.
  - a. Louise thanked the group for getting her on to the meeting and keeping drivers employed
- 8. Meeting adjourned: Motion made by Louise Edens and seconded by Dick Phillips