

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

June 2026 – Meeting Minutes

Date: June 9, 2026

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: Skagit Station Community Room (in-person)/Microsoft Teams (online)

Recorded by: Skagit Transit

1. Call to Order (00:00:00 – 00:00:10)

The meeting was called to order by CAC Chair Judy Jones at 4:30 PM.

2. Roll Call/Public Comment/Meeting Minutes – May (00:01:19 – 00:11:41)

2.1 - Roll Call:

CAC Members: Doris Brevoort, BJ Carol, Robin Gosney, Chris Jones, Judy Jones, Dave Stevens, Daniel Kihangu, Irene Prokuski, Dick Phillips, Valerie Rose, Ray Bock, Monette Partin

Skagit Transit Staff: Crystle Stidham, Maleah Kuzminsky, Derek Messling, Sarah Pelle, Rogelio Conejo

Public Attendees: Hannah Oliver – Mount Vernon City Council

2.2 - Public Comment:

Hannah Oliver, Mount Vernon City Council/Skagit Transit Board Member, introduced herself.

2.3 - Meeting Minutes:

May's CAC meeting minutes were approved by Dick Phillips and seconded by Ray Bock.

3. Staff Reporting (00:13:31 – 00:33:34)

3.1 – Ridership Report:

- 22% decrease since pre-pandemic 2019.
- There is a 10% increase in ridership, on average, every year but is still down from pre-pandemic.
- Ridership for Paratransit has increased and surpassed the numbers pre-pandemic.

- Concerns with route optimization and want to look at data to make the right changes
- Fix-Route ridership May – 47,087 riders
- Paratransit ridership for May – 6,700 riders

3.2 – Transit Development Plan (TDP):

- Transit development plan was later than expected official opened June 9, 2026. Will be open until July 8, 2026, Was published in the Skagit Valley Herald
- 30-Day public comment period started with public hearing on June 15th.
- Any public comments can be sent to Maleah K. – planning manager, during those 30-days
- The financial plan to look what is ahead.
- Transportation budgets will be cut significantly – preservation of service is the priority.
- Existing grants that Skagit Transit has received in the past, Skagit Transit may no longer receive them.

3.3 - Staff Report:

- Launched SPARE – new paratransit software.
 - Work in progress, little hiccups
 - Overall, working well.
- New hires for the agency:
 - Customer Service – Angel B.
 - Finance Manager – Rick H.
- SR 536 Bridge Project – Mount Vernon Westside Bridge
 - Routes 40X & Routes 615 are on a detour – information on detours can be found on the Skagit Transit website.
- Events:
 - June 20 – Berry Dairy Days Parade
 - June 25th – FAE Community Resource Fair
 - July 4th – Fourth of July Parade

4. Transit Advertising and Bus Wrap Discussion (00:34:43 – 00:43:14)

Staff provided an update regarding the exploration of transit advertising opportunities, including the potential use of bus wraps for agency self-promotion.

Key Points

- Advertising on buses involves:

- Vendor contracts that may include exclusivity clauses.
- Lack of in-house equipment for printing/installing ads.
- High costs (e.g., full bus wrap ≈ \$10,000).
- Liability considerations (e.g., damage, insurance responsibility).
- Complexity exists in:
 - Contract negotiations
 - Insurance coverage
 - Operational logistics

Additional Notes

- Advertising tied to **Climate Commitment Act (CCA)** funding requirements:
 - Certain advertisements were mandatory as part of grant agreements.
 - Funding included cost-sharing provisions.

Committee Sentiment

- General support and enthusiasm for pursuing advertising.
- Acknowledgment of complexity and need for further planning.
- Staff committed to providing updates and involving CAC in future brainstorming.

5. CAC Membership Applications and Voting (00:43:21 – 00:51:34)

The Committee reviewed three applications for two available CAC positions:

- Kirk Kennedy
- Joe Kunzler
- Joe Macdonald

Process Notes:

- Some members had not reviewed applications in advance.
- Due to time constraints, the Committee proceeded with a vote.

Voting Results:

- Kirk Kennedy - Approved

- Joe Kunzler - Not approved
- Joe Macdonald - Approved

Outcome:

Kirk Kennedy and Joe Macdonald were selected to fill CAC vacancies and will be invited to join beginning in July.

6. National Week Without Driving Initiative (00:51:41 – 01:01:37)

The Committee discussed participation in the National Week Without Driving initiative as a collaborative effort with transit staff.

Purpose:

- Promote transit awareness and accessibility
- Highlight rider experiences
- Foster collaboration between CAC and the agency

Proposed Activities:

1. Board Meeting Kickoff and Commitment
2. Leadership Participation, Contracts, and Route Support
3. Lunch Without Driving Event
4. Transit Rider and CAC Storytelling Initiative
5. Paratransit Ride-Along

Discussion:

- Emphasis on ensuring alignment with recommendations prior to submission.
- Discussion of the need for formal motion to proceed.
- Coordination roles and participation expectations outlined.

Action Items:

- Confirm CAC approval via formal motion
- Finalize coordinators and support roles
- Submit recommendations to agency leadership/Board
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5. Additional Business

Due to time constraints (noted around 5:20 PM), remaining agenda items were abbreviated or deferred to next meeting, July's CAC Meeting.

Adjournment – 5:32 PM

Next CAC Meeting – July 14, 2026

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**Location: Skagit Station Community Room (in-person)/ Microsoft Teams
(Online)**