

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

The Skagit Transit Board of Directors met in a regular meeting in Burlington, WA. Commissioner Peter Browning, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Members Present

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner (Chair)
 Lisa Janicki, Skagit County Commissioner (Vice Chair)
 Assessor Danny Hagen as a representative for Ron Wesen, Skagit County Commissioner
 Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon, Mayor
 Julia Johnson, City of Sedro Woolley, Mayor
 Matt Miller, City of Anacortes, Mayor
 Bill Aslett, City of Burlington, Mayor
 Carolyn Moulton, City of Anacortes, Councilmember (Joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.)
 Tracy Cook, Labor Representative (non-voting member) (Joined the meeting at 11:12 a.m.)

Members Present via Teleconference

Members Absent:

Joe Burns, City of Sedro-Woolley, Councilmember
 Judy Jones, Community Advisory Committee (Chair, non-voting member)

Providing Legal Counsel:

Staff Present

Chris Arkle, Manager of Finance and Accounting
 Crystle Stidham, Chief Executive Officer
 Eric Esparza, Capital Projects Manager
 Eric Gambill, Security Supervisor
 Greg Latham, Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities
 Joe Stewart, Director of Finance
 Larissa Farrell, Clerk of the Board
 Maleah Kuzminsky, Planning and Outreach Manager

Staff Present via Teleconference:

Eric Esparza, Capital Projects Manager
 Kaitlin West, Rideshare Administrator
 Les O'Neil, Operations Supervisor
 Rebekah Tuno, Grants Manager
 Rogelio Conejo, Community Engagement Coordinator
 Taylor Patti, Financial Analyst
 Wayne Simmons, Facilities Supervisor

Members of Public Present

Jason Kelley; Rosie Ventura;

Members of the Public Present via Teleconference:

0000; 208-308-8876; Jane H; Joe for CEO; Milo's Notetaker; Milo Whitman; Read.AI Meeting; Ron Swanson; Skagit

1 Public Comment

Public comment was made, and the written submission is attached to these minutes.

2 Consent / Action Items

- a) Approval of September Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of September Special Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of Claims and Payroll
 - August Payroll Direct Deposit and Checks
 - August Direct Federal withholding transfer
 - August Claims Checks and ACH #4383-4533
- d) Approve August Budget Update
- e) Approve Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Mr. Donovan moved to approve all Consent/Action items. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3 Full Discussion/Action Items:

- a) Approve Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom Transit Authority
 Ms. Stidham summarized the report as presented in the board packet.

Ms. Janicki moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom Transit Authority. Mr. Aslett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4 Information Items

- a) 2026 Preliminary Budget Update
- b) CEO Update
- c) Grants Update
- d) August Productivity and Ridership

Peter Browning adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Bill Aslett

59345BC70A8A4EC

Bill Aslett, Mayor of Burlington

Signed by:

Larissa Farrell

52442EE5EA0E474...

Larissa Farrell, Clerk of Skagit Transit Board

11 October 2025

RE: SHB 1418 and Skagit Transit Board Representation

Dear Skagit Transit Board;

Joe A. Kunzler here, concerned rider of Skagit Transit and 2nd generation resident of Skagit County. I am writing you mostly asking that you please place on your November Board agenda how you intend to address [SHB 1418](#) implementation. SHB 1418 allows transit boards like Skagit Transit to have two voting members who are regular, enthusiastic transit users – and considering Skagit Transit’s grant dependency, I submit please having these seats filled by active transit users can only help in improving Skagit Transit.

Granted and honestly, I fully intend to apply for one of these positions. But I do want to point out some things:

- a) The legislation states, “Transit-using voting members may not be employees of the transit agency operating under the public transportation benefit area authority”. Please seek clarification if Community Advisory Committee members fall under this.
- b) As a former Community Advisory Committee member, I feel I was unable to have the CAC give input in that framework in certain circumstances, such as service planning decisions. There was one decision made several years ago where a proposed route was withdrawn and we did not know until I inquired what the plan was. Considering that Skagit Transit is entering a financially difficult time and the recent long-range plan’s suggested routes were rejected by the community, these times require active *rider* input.

c) I would hope that you have applicants to this position share their plan to connect both Skagit Transit and the Board to the community Skagit Transit serves. My plan includes planning a monthly meetup in a different community, plus online outreach.

I would also add that Senator Liz Lovelett (40th LD) spoke on the State Senate floor for this legislation. Senator Lovelett shared,

“Having representation on local boards [from people] that have lived experience are crucial in providing these resources and services to the community. A couple of years ago, I participated in Disability Rights Washington ‘Week Without A Car’. Now, unfortunately, in my area, that was exceedingly difficult, considering I have kids to get here and there, and kind of the limited nature of transportation services in rural areas, which speaks volumes in and of itself.”

I believe the Skagit Transit Board should include those perspectives at the decision-making table. It is worth noting that there will be no Community Advisory Committee report on the agenda this month. I ask that you please amend your agenda to accommodate, please.

Please consider my letter at 447 words as my public comment for the Skagit Transit October 15, 2025 Board Meeting. Many thanks!

Very respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe A. Kunzler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being the most prominent.

Joe A. Kunzler
growlernoise@gmail.com