

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF April 02, 2024

Board of Commissioners Present:

Driskell, Robert, Teamsters Local No. 589, *non-voting member*
Erickson, Becky, Mayor, City of Poulsbo
Garrido, Charlotte, Kitsap County Commissioner
Mockler, Anna, Councilmember, City of Bremerton
Putansuu, Robert, Mayor, City of Port Orchard – **Vice Chair**
Rolfes, Christine, Kitsap County Commissioner
Moriwaki, Clarence, Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island
Stern, Ed, Councilmember, City of Poulsbo - *Remote Attendance*
Walters, Katie, Kitsap County Commissioner
Wheeler, Greg, Mayor, City of Bremerton, **Chair**

Staff Present:

Jackie Bidon, Interim Clerk of the Board/Public Records Officer; Michael Bozarth, Operations Director-*Remote*, John Clauson, Executive Director; Cyndi Griffey, Worker/Driver Manager; Kathryn Jordan, Routed Manager, Steffani Lillie, Service and Capital Development Director; Charlotte Sampson, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board; Raymond Scott, Marine Services Director; Jeff Vinecourt, ACCESS Manager

Also Present: David Weibel, Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Wheeler called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 8:29 AM.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Mayor Wheeler asked for the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to introduce themselves to the audience.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive Director Clauson shared that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed the Board agenda and took no action. He stated that the attendance and interest from the community was good. Discussion included the current recruitment to fill the vacancies within the committee. The committee identified individuals from South Kitsap County, Poulsbo, Bainbridge Island, an Olympic College employee, a Cross Sound ferry rider, a local ferry rider, Routed service rider, ACCESS rider, PSNS employee, and a Peninsula Community Health employee. Clauson shared that

the CAC are working on filling the following vacancies; a Worker/Driver rider, a Vanpool rider, Kitsap Community Resources representative, and Kitsap Mental Health representative.

5. CONSENT / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Warrants for February 2024
- b. Minutes of March 05, 2024
- c. Resolution No. 24-21, 2nd Quarter Procurements

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 24-22, Gillig Charging Infrastructure Change Order

Executive Director Clauson stated that this resolution requests permission to issue a change order to purchase additional inductive charging units. He shared that Gillig presented their prices on the State Contract and Kitsap Transit purchased buses and chargers that support their installed inductive charging units. He stated that Kitsap Transit has received a Climate Commitment Act Grant that will provide the funding for additional inductive charging units that will be purchased from Gillig through the state contract bidding process. The change order would allow Kitsap Transit to take advantage of the Climate Commitment Act Grant, installing ten units at the Charleston Base, and two units each at the Bremerton, Bainbridge Island and Poulsbo Transit Centers.

Discussion:

Councilmember Moriwaki shared that inductive chargers are a similar technology to charging cell phones. The buses will not need to plug into an outlet; they simply pull up to the charging unit and receive the charge.

Mayor Putaansuu asked if the price of the charging units includes the installation of them as well.

Executive Director Clauson stated that the price is for charging units, not installation. He shared that there will be a subsequent resolution for the engineering design work for the installation.

Commissioner Rolfes stated that she would like clarification on the funding; the budgeted amount is \$10 million, and the expenditure amount is \$7.6 million. She shared that there is still the design, engineering and installation and is concerned that there may not be enough funding to complete the project.

Executive Director Clauson stated that the remainder of the grant funding will be used for the subsequent resolution for the engineering and design work to install. He shared that the installation will be considered at a separate time.

Commissioner Rolfes stated that she wants to know why Kitsap Transit would need to budget additional money in the upcoming budget for this project.

Service and Capital Development Director Steffani Lillie shared that there is a long lead time for the inductive charging units, so Kitsap Transit is ordering the units prior to the engineering and design completion. When that stage is completed, the next resolution will be to go out to bid for construction which will likely require additional funding in next year's budget to complete. She stated that they do not know what that additional amount will be until after the fully-engineered estimate is received and engineering work is done.

Executive Director Clauson stated that they are asking for this now because it is being funded with the Climate Commitment Act grant. He shared that the message from Olympia is that if the money is allocated to an agency and is committed, it is unlikely that the state would request the funding back. He added that Kitsap Transit is moving forward with obligating the funds to take advantage of them and not jeopardize losing them.

Mayor Putaansuu moved and Councilmember Moriwaki seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-22, authorizing staff to issue a change order to Gillig, LLC for the purchase of sixteen (16) inductive chargers at transit facilities for seven million six hundred nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$7,609,600).

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 24-23, Contract Award Engineering of Inductive Chargers

Executive Director Clauson stated that this resolution is to award a contract to WB Engineering and Consulting for the engineering and design installation of the inductive charging units at all previously mentioned locations. He shared that this is a sole source acquisition primarily because the company that develops the charging units works with this company specifically to engineer and design the installation for this brand of inductive charging unit.

Discussion:

Mayor Erickson commented on the Climate Commitment Act and the potential repeal of that act and the \$1.9 billion funding. She shared that it would be wise for Kitsap Transit to commit the funding now and get them under contract in the event the act is repealed.

Councilmember Moriwaki moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-23, authorizing staff to award a contract to WB Engineering and

Consulting for the engineering of inductive chargers at transit facilities for one million seven hundred fifteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,715,500).

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution No. 24-24, Contract Award Day Road Park & Ride Design

Executive Director Clauson shared that this resolution is seeking permission to award a contract for the Day Road Park and Ride Design Project. He stated that they have completed the RFQ process, and the recommendation is to award the contract to Parametrix.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rolfes stated that she would like a public presentation about the design and public input solicited. She shared that they would not have been able to make this improvement without the help of Kitsap Transit and Executive Director Clauson, for their innovative stormwater design allowing this project to move forward.

Mayor Erickson agreed stating that without transit, this project would not be possible. She thanked Executive Director Clauson and Kitsap Transit.

Executive Director Clauson stated his appreciation for the comments and recognized Service and Capital Development Director Steffani Lillie and her staff that worked on this project. He shared that the state D.O.T. should also be recognized because they do not deal with stormwater vaults. They sat down at the table with an open mind and were able to come up with an acceptable solution.

Councilmember Moriwaki moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-24, authorizing staff to award a contract for the Day Road Park and Ride Design Project to Parametrix in an amount of two million three hundred thirty-nine thousand four hundred eighty-one dollars (\$2,339,481).

Motion passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS (Presented after Staff Recognition/Progress Reports)

Executive Director Clauson shared that Kitsap Transit performed a recruitment for the Clerk of the Board. The process included the application, testing and interview with Executive Assistant /Deputy Clerk of the Board, Charlotte Sampson, and the City Clerk of Port Orchard. Jackie Bidon is now the Clerk of the Board at Kitsap Transit.

Executive Director Clauson stated that Kitsap Transit is getting close to cutting the ribbon on the Silverdale Transit Center. Kitsap Transit needs to reconfigure some routes in the area and is taking the opportunity to look at how they are serving the community to see what they can do better.

He shared that they have solicited the community for public comment on the proposed changes in routes and the community is responding with their opinions.

He stated that they have been working closely with the hospital for ridesharing opportunities, and management and staff have been very receptive to the rideshare program. Hospital management and Kitsap Transit were able to schedule a day for employees to meet and find out about the rideshare program and incentives their employer was able to secure for them. Clauson shared that, in developing the design of the Silverdale Transit Center, we worked with the hospital and are able to implement a route that leaves the Transit Center, stops at the front door of the hospital for drop off and pick up, continues through Silverdale and, on the return trip, stops at the hospital and then to the transit center.

Mayor Putaansuu asked the frequency of that route.

Executive Director Clauson stated that the route frequency is every thirty minutes.

Councilmember Stern stated that the vision for opening the Silverdale Transit Center was to invite the Federal Transit Administration officials and Gillig representatives with a double-decker bus. He asked if that was still the plan and requested a status as to the date of the ribbon cutting.

Executive Director Clauson shared that they are coordinating schedules for the ribbon cutting, tentatively for mid-June. He stated that they are reaching out to the FTA Administrator, the Governor, Congressman Kilmer, and the company that has the double-decker bus.

Councilmember Stern stated that he would like to be reminded if there are restroom facilities at the Silverdale Transit Center and other park and ride locations. He shared his awareness of potential problems associated with this and asked what measures are being taken.

Executive Director Clauson stated that there are restrooms at the Silverdale Transit Center. He shared that, following the Board's guidance, Kitsap Transit will continue to design the park and rides with restrooms available. He added that there has not been retrofitting of any existing park and rides with restrooms.

Executive Director Clauson shared that Kitsap Transit has a number of electric buses on order with Gillig and now has a build date. He stated that this is an opportunity for Board members that have not visited the Gillig manufacturing plant in the California Bay Area to plan a visit. The date spans for the Gillig Plant visit are June 11 – August 30 and October 11 – January 10.

8. STAFF RECOGNITION / PROGRESS REPORTS

- a. Recognizing Drivers of the Month for February 2024 (8:45am)

Worker/Driver Manager Cyndi Griffey announced the February 2024 Worker/Driver of the Month, Lindsey Skelly. She has been Worker/Driver of the month three times and was the 2019

Worker/Driver of the Year. Lindsey is a Battery Shop Supervisor for PSNS, is the Early North driver and when they are shorthanded often drives additional routes after hers. She is one of their best assets for planning route changes and combinations. Lindsey's first day driving with passengers was a snow day and says going up Sylvan from Wheaton Way was slightly nerve-wracking. Her words of wisdom are to trust your instincts.

ACCESS Manager Jeff Vinecourt announced the February 2024 ACCESS Driver of the Month Robert Pilon. He has been with ACCESS since March 2014, this is his sixth Driver of the Month Award, and he was Driver of the Year in 2021. His most memorable moment at Kitsap Transit was when one of his regular passengers, who is mostly non-communicative, looked at him and said "Oh, it's Robert". His personal goal is to not have to use any mobility aids when he is 95 years old. Robert has served on the Safety Committee and is currently a member of the ACCESS Advisory Committee.

Routed Manager Kathryn Jordan announced the February 2024 Routed Driver of the Month, Laura Moniz. She has been with Kitsap Transit since October 2021, and this is her third Driver of the Month award. Laura has been awarded 17 Way to Go Awards, has been on the Honor Roll 14 times, and earned her Two-Year Safe Driving Award in October 2023.

b. January 2024 Report from KT Lobbyist

Dylan Doty stated that he is happy to report on a very successful 60-day legislative session for Kitsap Transit. He shared that a 60-day session goes by quickly and is fast paced. Doty stated that the theme of the session this year was a lot of things being corrected, not just from the COVID years but initiatives pushed by the public. This year there were zero vetoes on the budget, which was a first for many. Doty shared that the Kitsap Transit Worker/Driver Operator PERS Exemption Bill was signed into law and will take effect 6/6/2024.

Doty reviewed the budget, highlighting the Climate Commitment Act and indicated that any new money coming out of that is paused until January 1, 2025, pending the outcome of I-2117. He stated that some of the funds are available on July 1, 2024, depending on which bucket it is drawn from in the Transportation Budget. He shared that the House and Senate reached agreement on a supplemental transportation budget and are awaiting the Governor's final signature and possible vetoes.

Doty shared that there are a few things to pay attention to. The Board Governance issue will be coming up again next year in the form of a bill. He stated that there will be a lot of turn over this year with at least half of the Ways and Means Committee not running for re-election.

Executive Director Clauson thanked Dylan Doty for all his hard work in the past years but specifically this year with the short session being pulled in many different directions and shepherding Kitsap Transit's issues through the legislative process. He included Robert Driskell in his thanks for working on the Worker/Driver Pers Exemption Bill.

Executive Director Clauson shared that he would like to recognize the Kitsap Transit staff, working as hard as they have been and continuing to do so with all the things that are going on. He acknowledged and thanked all staff at Kitsap Transit for the great job they have been doing.

- c. Draft Financial Reports through February 2023
- d. Capital Work in Progress February 2023

Commissioner Rolfes shared that she would like clarification as to whether there was a conclusion on the 104 Park and Ride design from a previous Work Study. She stated that she does not see that any money was spent on this.

Executive Director Clauson stated that it is scheduled for a future Work Study.

Councilmember Mockler requested a status update on the software that will give precise data on the ridership, the process to analyze the data compared to the current data, and a timeline for completion.

Service and Capital Director Development Steffani Lillie stated that it is a very involved project. She shared that they are making good progress with design. Starting in May, they will have the representative from Clever Devices on site with hardware doing heavy testing in network. They will be working out of the Kitsap Transit offices and expect to have the first pilot buses in late summer. She shared that they will be able to work through the pilot buses by the end of January 2025 and by the end of February 2025 be fully outfitted on the fleet. The pilot buses are not just outfitted with the APC; there is an automatic enunciator for what the people hear, and the emergency operations beacons. The system requires heavy testing to be certain all components are working as expected. Lillie stated that there is a formal process for certifying the APC system, following a federal guided system. She shared that Kitsap Transit is bringing in statisticians to look at the data and make sure they are within the federal appropriate range of accuracy. When that process has been completed, then they will start comparing data.

Executive Director Clauson stated that there are different aspects to this. The validation for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is for Kitsap Transit to be able to use the data in reporting to the National Transit Database (NTD) and FTA database. He shared that they would be able to start using that information during the certification process because it will be far more accurate than the system they have in place now.

Service and Capital Development Director Steffani Lillie stated that, during the pilot phases, they will have ride checkers out on individual buses checking where the passengers are getting on and off then comparing against the pilot information.

Councilmember Mockler asked if the data the Board will be able to use will be available in January 2026?

Lillie stated that data would be available in 2025. It would not be fully certified, but all the buses

will be outfitted and we will be able to use the data.

- e. Fuel Costs Report through the end of March 2024

Remaining Progress Reports stand as presented.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mayor Wheeler shared that John Zena from Washington State Ferries shared an email from Washington State Ferries' new Director, Steve Nieve. In the email, Steve shared that he got his love of the sea and ships when he was a young boy going down to the harbor, in Portsmouth, England, in 1982, to meet his father returning from the Falklands War. The ship was the HMS Invincible. Mayor Wheeler stated that he was in Portsmouth, England, on a deployment on the USS America at the same time. He shared that he didn't realize that Prince Andrew was a shipmate to Steve's father. Mayor Wheeler stated that this story reminded him that we live in an environment where we have a lot of military and sea-going vessels - Coast Guard, US Navy, and the ferry systems - that take us around the world and how small the world really is.

Mayor Erickson shared that at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), Secretary Millar and Mr. Nieve were present. She stated that she has maintained that the problem with the ferries is that they need more federal funding. There are 37 states that have ferry services. Some states, like Alaska, are even more dependent on ferries than Washington is. The ferry discretionary fund last year was only \$200 million dollars. She brought this up to the Secretary and he said that they still couldn't take any money from the federal government for ferries because there are still restrictions about the ferries being built or purchased in Washington State. Mayor Erickson stated that she understands the next ferries are going to be purchased outside of the state and is wondering what other restrictions would allow them to tap into the federal dollars. She shared that they are going to be discussing the Climate Commitment Act and that it will be quite impactful on transportation if it is repealed. Kitsap Transit and Washington state need to locate another source for funding as everyone switches to electricity, stops using gas, and the gas tax goes away.

Dylan Doty stated that Mayor Erickson is right to sound the alarm on this. He shared that there are going to be structural issues that will need to be addressed. One proposal that comes up every couple of years is the sales tax. There is also the road usage tax that is proposed. Doty stated that before the work session, Olympia brought in folks from all over the country that were looking at this same issue. The thing they landed on was giving drivers an option: miles traveled or road usage charge.

Mayor Erickson stated that one of the things that happened at the PSRC meeting was disclosure of \$14.4 billion dollars coming through from adjusted prices for construction projects for Sound

Transit and the highways. She shared that we are all seeing the unsteady revenues and accelerating costs for construction at the state and federal level and things might get bumpy in the next couple of years.

Dylan Doty stated that one of the studies in the budget is looking at streamlining the permitting process and other things on transportation projects and looking at more innovative product delivery systems.

Commissioner Rolfes stated that everyone is afraid of losing the gas tax but when you look at the stats, the Washington drivers drive less than the national average. She shared that, after doing the math, Washington drivers are paying \$200 in gas tax per year, per car.

Councilmember Moriwaki stated that most people do not know that individuals with electric cars also pay a tax annually. He shared that he pays \$225 dollars per year for the right to have a vehicle and feels that it is fair.

Councilmember Mockler shared that if anyone has a breakdown of what will be lost if the Climate Commitment Act is repealed, she would like to have a copy.

Executive Director Clauson shared that the issue of having access to federal funds to purchase replacement ferries is that, in the bidding process, even though they are allowing out of state bidders they still put a percentage for those that build in state. Clauson stated that you can't do that according to the rules; it must be completely open. He shared that there is a group of public ferry providers and private ferry providers that have been looking at funding for ferries. They figure the need is around \$1 billion dollars a year just for the public ferry side of the issue. He stated that he will be sharing this message when he is in Washington, DC.

Executive Director Clauson shared that the Board has always taken the month of August off, and this may be brought up in the next Work Study meeting for a vote.

Mayor Wheeler stated that he did not lose the opportunity when he had the attention of the Secretary of Transportation and the new Washington State Ferries Director to discuss the future of Washington State Ferries. He shared that we are in this together and are working at restoring the marine highway to pre-pandemic levels.

11. ADJOURN: At 9:46 AM, Chairperson Wheeler adjourned the regular meeting.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 2nd day of April, 2024.

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Greg Wheeler
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Greg Wheeler, Chairperson

Attest:

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Jackie Bidon
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Jackie Bidon, Interim Clerk of the Board