

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF June 18, 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
Moriwaki, Clarence, Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island
Putansuu, Robert, Mayor, City of Port Orchard, **Vice Chair** - *Absent*
Rolfes, Christine, Kitsap County Commissioner
Stern, Ed, Councilmember, City of Poulsbo - *Absent*
Walters, Katie, Kitsap County Commissioner
Wheeler, Greg, Mayor, City of Bremerton, **Chair**

Staff Present:

Sanjay Bhatt, Marketing & Public Information Director; Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board, Public Records Officer; Michael Bozarth, Operations Director; Crystal Culbertson; Steffani Lillie, Service and Capital Development Director; Mary Pauly, Human Resources Director; Raymond Scott, Marine Services Director; Paul Shinnars, Finance Director

Also Present: David Weibel, Legal Counsel

Select the video Zoom address below or copy and paste into your browser address field to hear the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners discussion of a specific topic, or the complete meeting. Note the video time stamp beside the topic.

https://kitsaptransit.zoom.us/rec/share/if6qCYtrYLZszqnx31X1OCCN-b3S9ouVBFVaBDNIc09WCZf5p-sv6Wh5iQfiuuFe.xmb_t056VrtY0Q8e?startTime=1718724555000

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wheeler called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 8:30 AM.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

0:01:11, Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

No Chair comments.

4. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 24-37, W/D Wages

0:01:56, Operations Director Michael Bozarth briefed the Board on the Worker/Driver wage

reopener by and between Kitsap Transit and Teamsters, Local 589. Kitsap Transit and Teamsters, Local 589, reached a tentative agreement of a four percent (4%) wage increase adjustment.

Commissioner Rolfes moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-37, approving the Kitsap Transit Worker/Driver wage increase effective May 16, 2024.

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution No. 24-38, Request to Issue RFQ for Intra-County Ferry Feasibility Study, Costs & Business Plan

0:04:31, Service and Capital Development Director Steffani Lillie stated that this resolution is to authorize staff to award a contract to issue a Request for Qualifications for the Intra-County Ferry Feasibility Study in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000).

Commissioner Walters moved and Commissioner Mockler seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-38, authorizing staff to award a contract to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit a qualified consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive intra-county passenger-only ferry feasibility study, costs, and business plan.

Discussion:

0:07:17, Board discussion included questions on what would be included in the study, information as to requirements, infrastructure, business plan, implementation, location, routes, and overall cost. The proposed cost includes the feasibility study, business plan, and cost of operations. Board members discussed the Scope of Work and expectations of what would be included.

Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Title VI Equity Analysis

0:19:33, Steffani Lillie explained to the Board that Title VI Equity Analysis is new to Kitsap Transit because of becoming a large agency. She further explained that when Kitsap Transit implements a fare change or service change that is anticipated to be over twenty-five percent (25%), a Title VI Equity Analysis is a requirement.

0:20:20, Edward Coviello presented the results of the Title VI Equity Analysis. The analysis included a baseline review of minority, low-income and all-equity areas of Kitsap County. Overall findings revealed the proposed fare change does not meet major service/fare change threshold and Fast Ferry demographics do not classify those services as equity-serving routes. There were no potential findings of adverse impacts.

Discussion:

0:28:29-0:35:10, Board discussion included reminding the public, through marketing, that the under eighteen population will still ride free; the \$2.00 increase will affect adults, senior fares and marketing to tourists.

Marketing Director Sanjay Bhatt shared that when he receives the marketing campaign that he will be focusing on the three things the public liked about the Fast Ferry: fast, reliable, and affordable. Visitor marketing is posted at the Colman Dock, in Seattle, and on WSF ferries, in addition to partnerships with the Chambers and the online digital campaign.

Board members requested a copy of the Title VI Equity Analysis. Kitsap Transit will disseminate to Board members.

Steffani Lillie stated that the fare increase resolution will be presented to the Board at the next scheduled meeting, with a public hearing.

d. Briefing on Current Transit Services

0:35:48, Edward Coviello shared the proposed service changes related to the new Silverdale Transit Center (STC). Proposed service changes include thirteen (13) routes, with seven having major service changes. Changes are mostly realignments of the routes and longer hours, giving riders a positive impact. Routes that are eliminated include 235 and 237, but replaced by routes 265, 266, and 331. Routes that are realigned to travel to STC include 212, 217, 221, 223, 301, 332, and 333. New Sunday service routes include 8 and 332.

Discussion:

0:39:13-0:54:09, Board members asked how ridership is notified of changes in the routes and how it was determined the Sunday service route would be from the Port Orchard ferry to Port Orchard Fred Meyer.

Edward Coviello shared that notices are posted on board the buses, at bus stops, through robust marketing outreach campaigns, emails, on the Kitsap Transit website, and printed fliers.

Edward Coviello stated that the Sunday service route from the Port Orchard ferry to Port Orchard Fred Meyer is the most popular route and one of the high-capacity routes as designated in the comprehensive plan.

Mayor Erickson stated that Kitsap Transit is having the buses travel down Ridgetop Blvd. and, with all the traffic congestion; it will be hard to maintain a 30-minute route.

Steffani Lillie shared that with the new transit center on Ridgetop Blvd., Kitsap Transit performed time trials for the routes and were successful at the 30-minute route frequency during the heavy congestion times.

Edward Coviello stated that if the 30-minute route runs into issues adhering to the time, Kitsap Transit will be able to add another bus to the route to maintain the 30-minute frequency.

Steffani Lillie shared that there is no action to be taken by the Board at this time. Kitsap Transit's requirement is to present the Board with information from the Title VI Equity Analysis and route changes. She stated that this process is new and will take place anytime there is a large service change.

Commissioner Rolfes stated that she was following the discussion and accessing the Kitsap Transit website. She shared that she is impressed with the details of the routes and the ease of use.

Steffani Lillie stated that the app will be changing as it is part of the APC/AVA project that will be implemented on all buses. The app will have more detail with predictive arrival times in the future.

0:56:45, Steffani Lillie presented the current Kitsap Transit Routed Services maps. The presentation included:

- Routed service routes in Bremerton.
- Bus stops on each route in Bremerton.
- Walk shed within ¼ mile of the service area.
- Areas in Bremerton with no routed service due to no demand for service.
- Routes 212 and 217 are 30-minute frequency.
- Buses leave the yard at 4:30 AM and return to the yard at 9:00 PM.

Discussion:

1:01:32, Mayor Wheeler stated that policy discussions should include if increased routes would be during the day or extending the evening hours, and how late into the evening.

Steffani Lillie stated that she recommends looking at the trip generators in the area. If the trip generator is at the mall and it closes at 10:00 PM, buses serving that area will operate until 10:30 PM, and employees could use the bus. Kitsap Transit will need to look at the area that is served and what is generating potential trips along those corridors. She shared that the new system being installed will give detailed information about where and when people are getting on and off the bus.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

None at this time.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1:07:14, None at this time.

7. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1:07:26, Commissioner Rolfes shared comments she received from the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce. Two concerns were raised:

- Now that kids ride for free, high school students are calling Dial-a-Ride or ACCESS to get free rides home instead of taking the school bus. The Chamber's concern is that this is clogging the ability for the service to be used by the general population at the 3:00 PM time frame.
- The Wi-fi service at the ferry terminal is almost non-existent and riders are not able to use the Kitsap Transit app with no Wi-fi.

Commissioner Rolfes shared a third comment that came from a conversation related to the new 400-unit apartment building in Poulsbo. She stated that the map doesn't show a direct service between Poulsbo and Bangor and asked if Kitsap Transit is looking into a direct service.

1:12:16, Board discussion included safety of the intersections in the area and possible Worker/Driver route.

1:12:13, Councilmember Moriwaki shared that he uses the North Viking Park and Ride because of the EV chargers. He stated that the last couple of weeks, the EV chargers have not been working and that he submitted an online report. He added that there is nothing online to report facility maintenance.

1:15:00, Commissioner Walters asked for an update on logistics for the Silverdale Transit Center opening.

1:15:19, Director Sanjay Bhatt shared that Kitsap Transit is finalizing preparations for the opening and will be sending an email out to RSVP for the event. He stated that there is parking at the Sportsman's Warehouse lot with a shuttle available to the transit center. The email will have a map and other information. The event will run from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM with a networking lunch from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

1:18:16, Other topics of discussion included a circulator bus in Bremerton, Dial-a-Ride in Bremerton, and consequences of free service.

8. ADJOURN: At 10:00 AM, Mayor Wheeler adjourned the regular meeting.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 4th day of February 2025.

Signed by:

Rob Putaansuu

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Attest:

Rob Putaansuu, Chairperson

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Jackie Bidon

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Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board