

CAC MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Ray Bock, Doris Brevoort, BJ Carol, Robin Gosney, Madeline Handzlik, Chris and Judy Jones, Daniel Kihangu, Monette Partin, Dick Phillips, David Stevens, and transit Rep. Cheryl Willis.

It is long-overdue to note that Rogelio Conejo-Castro, who works alongside Cheryl, attends as often as he can, and is a proven friend of the CAC.

Guest David Thomas stopped by for the first time later in the meeting. In conversation with him afterward, Judy discovered he works in the political science field and is very interested in community involvement. The nature and function of the CAC attracted him to our meeting. He was encouraged to enter his contact information on the sign-in sheet, and was cordially invited to return as a friend of the CAC.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Dick and seconded by Dave the December minutes be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

Next, our guest Speaker, Jo Pemant, Eligibility Specialist with Skagit Transit, spoke to us, giving an overview of the eligibility department and paratransit services. She fielded several questions from the members, and encouraged anyone either using paratransit, or associated with someone using that service to explore the additional option of scheduling their trips through the agency's online portal.

The transition to the Microsoft Teams platform by the agency was announced by Rogelio.

The consultants working on the LRTP will be featured next month, to update us on their progress and take questions and suggestions. Members have been asked to be prepared.

It is noted that 1) while the agency offices will be closed on January 20 for the holiday, buses will still be running, and 2) As our November 2025 meeting date falls on Veteran's Day, our meeting will be Wednesday, November 12.

Judy also made mention that a board retreat, open to the public, is in process of being scheduled for the fall of 2025.

For the ridership report, Cheryl states the agency shows December fixed route ridership at 3,750, up from 3,600 in December of 2023. Paratransit is also showing an upward trend from 5,350 to 5575 for the month of December.

She also mentioned that in the state of Washington, the youth ride free program has enjoyed a ridership of 15 million, with the additional ferry ridership bringing that number to 16.5 million.

A new operator class of eight drivers begins January 16.

At last month's board meeting, the 2025 slate of CAC officers was officially approved.

The date of June 10 for the committee's educational excursion has been put forward by Cascade Job Corps, who will also be hosting a lunch for us, along with a historical tour. It is to be determined whether or not we will conduct our meeting that day, or change to another day.

Cheryl then gave an overview of the current events attended by Skagit Transit.

As there was nothing to report for the connector buses, we discussed the effectiveness of the reader boards on the fixed route buses, as they change route numbers to match up on the interline routes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair