

DRAFT MINUTES

July 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Doris Brevoort, Ray Bock, Louise Edens, Robin Gosney, Chris and Judy Jones, Daniel Kihangu, John Norman, Dick Phillips, Irene Prokuski, and Dave Stevens.

There were no guests or public comments.

It was then moved and seconded the June meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The motion carried.

The committee officially welcomed Irene Prokuski, whose member application was approved by the Skagit Transit Board at their June meeting.

The IT staff has been diligently working to upgrade the Skagit Transit site, bringing it up to ADA and WCAG compliance. From time to time, Judy has been asked to navigate certain pages to check for screen reader accessibility. They hope to soon get someone on staff trained in the design knowledge to activate certain form elements.

As a spin-off discussion, CAC members are recommending adding park and ride and connector name labels to the overview map, or to publish an online park and ride guide and their locations, plus secondary points of interest that may make them easy to find. Currently, unless one plugs in the exact name information, a location cannot be accessed. Also, as an example, in Stanwood, unless one knows the area, Park And Rides One and Two do not make sense without knowing their locations. CAC Members should be considered a resource for helping Skagit Transit in future web testing for the agency.

In light of improving member communications, Robin put forward the suggestion of members sharing phone numbers. Judy will double-check with everyone for their permission before publishing a phone list, which is NOT to be shared outside the committee without prior authorization of members involved.

Cheryl reported both WTA and Skagit Transit connector buses are now accepting our member passes. All other connectors also accept these passes as well. Fixed route and paratransit rides are not included in this regional agreement between WTA and Skagit Transit.

As Stevie was not present at this meeting, Cheryl reported on notes submitted, regarding the development plan to be submitted to the board this month for approval. Once approved, Stevie will be presenting to the CAC. This plan is required yearly by the state and covers agency plans over the next six years. Stevie has revised the plan to make it more relevant to the desired overall outcome.

Under staff reporting, the ridership report shows a steady approximate 12 percent increase in passengers since June 2023, and youth ridership has been quite prominent with a 17 percent demographic. The routes experiencing the highest number of riders in June were routes 208, 205, and the 90x. Paratransit saw a similar increase.

Data gathering for the long-range transit plan continues toward completion by the consultants on the existing conditions report. Continuing analyses will include recommendations for service improvements, potential areas where Skagit Transit might have pilots for micro transit studies, and how to form and grow regional collaborations.

Next, as the Climate Commitment Act is the mechanism allowing youth eighteen and under to ride free, Stevie reports that, for the month of June, Skagit Transit enjoyed 6837 youth riders, comprising seventeen percent of the month's passengers, as mentioned above..

Members are also requesting an update on the status of Initiative 2117 at the August CAC meeting. Apparently, if it gets on the November ballot and passes, it would do away with some of the statewide transit funding.

Cheryl and Rogelio reported on the various county functions in which Skagit Transit took part. At this time, members have expressed an interest in coming alongside agency employees in support of Skagit Transit in these events.

During the round table session, Judy advised everyone to watch for information to come regarding the Week Without Driving Challenge this fall.

Doris would like to know if there is any discussion on adding route changes, once the light rail station opens the end of August. People need to be able to travel there in a stream-lined way. She is suggesting a route 512 link be added to the Skagit Transit site so people can plan and see how their trip to Everett will connect with the bus that goes to Lynnwood.

David asked about the timeliness of alert announcements to the agency web site, citing decrease in routes and times when not enough staff is available on a given day, as an example. Cheryl stated that announcements are placed on the site as early as possible.

With no further information, a motion was brought forward to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair