

CAC MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Doris Brevoort, Ray Bock, BJ Carol, Robin Gosney, Madeline Handzlik, Chris and Judy Jones, Dan Kihangu, Monette Partin, Dick Phillips, Irene Prokuski, and Dave Stevens.

There were no guests or public commenters.

The motion was brought forward by Dick, seconded by Ray, to approve July's minutes, motion carried.

Stevie reported on the current and next steps for the Long-Range Transit Development Plan, and says her reporting will take this form in the coming months.

The consulting team has completed the report of existing conditions, and is in the process of merging those with the current community feedback received. The next step is to put that content into change recommendations, with the goal of October for presenting to the CAC. She hopes next month to give a preliminary review.

Regarding the CCA (Climate Commitment Act), Stevie gave an overview of what has been done in the year of its operation from July, 2023, to the end of June. For the zero emissions fleet transition plan, Hydrogen buses are being investigated as a replacement to diesel buses. During the past year, there have been several route increases and an aspect has been added to the Long-Range Transit Plan, specific to making regional connections. The funding has also assisted in the operation of fixed route and para transit services. It has also funded the Youth Ride Free program, with a total of 70958 free rides, roughly 15% of overall ridership.

On Transit Development Plan (TDP) highlights, as per public participation policy, the TDP is posted for a month, public feedback is filed and draft edited, then submitted and goes to the board for approval. It is the foundation of what Skagit Transit plans to accomplish, feedback and

information from the LRTP is incorporated, and submitted to the state for funding toward desired county transit accomplishment.

Skagit Transit has updated their rider alert system with a new program called Simplified Transit. You can now go online to the link provided on the Skagit Transit page and sign up by either text or e-mail for the types of alerts you wish to receive.

Stevie also showed a picture of the MOA2, with planned completion in two years.

Ridership Report: As of July, 2024, 41339 rides were taken on fixed routes, roughly 11% more than last year to date, with para transit coming in at 5612, 12% more than last year to date. We are not yet back to the pre-Covid numbers, but slowly moving in that direction.

Cheryl and Rogelio reported on the Youth Touch-A-Truck, presentation to the Markwood Community, Concrete Youth Activity Day, Summer Migrant Middle School Club, and Skagit County Fair's youth events, throughout the month of July.

An upcoming event is Senior Day In The Park, August 15, starting at 9:00 AM.

Transit Is Why: This is a new statewide campaign on social media, promoting how transit enriches lives, adding value to communities and residents. Make sure to sign up on the link provided on the Skagit Transit page.

Information was given on how to sign up to both the Transit Is Why page and the Skagit Transit Facebook page.

There is a Community Transit schedule change to take place September 14. It is hoped the changes will positively affect routes linking to the light rail and connectors to adjacent counties. As results develop from the ongoing plans, we are all looking forward to coming changes.

Further discussion took place on other connectors through Community transit, plus the independent service going into Concrete.

For the Connector Committee section, discussion continued, pointing out the need for area micro transit service to fill current service times and route gaps.

Judy announced the upcoming National Week Without Driving event to take place from September 30 - October 4. Stevie will have more information for us at the September meeting.

It was also suggested we plan for another field trip as routes develop.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair