

CAC MINUTES

September 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

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

There were no guests or public comments made.

Dick moved and Robin seconded the August minutes be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

As our CEO, Crystle Stidham, was unable to make the meeting, as hoped, due to a prior commitment, Stevie filled in by giving the ridership report and fielding questions regarding the CCA (Climate Commitment Act). The CCA funding is what is allowing free youth ridership on fixed route and on para transit. Should this funding go away as a result of the November ballot vote, funding will stay in place through June of next summer.

Ridership for the month of August was roughly that same level as it was in 2023, but ridership is growing. Year to date, there are roughly 8% more riders than there were at this point in 2023, with youth ridership accounting for 14% of the rides taken in the month of August.

All transit vehicles now proudly carry CCA stickers. Stevie is diligently tracking all ride categories, which are available and a matter of record.

Stevie reports that a preliminary phase 2 engagement schedule is to begin in September with stakeholders, then introduced to the public through November. Dates and times to come, although there will be two virtual public sessions October 15 – one at 12:00 to 1:00 PM, the other from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. These will present hypothetical ideas for route and service improvements. A couple areas under discussion will be improving services to Anacortes through a combination of transit services and routing, accessing the ferries. The other idea is to streamline the route 300 and 101 loops.

Another promising idea is adding a stop at the casino for the 80X, and transit officials are in dialogue with the Upper Skagit tribe in finding best ways to provide service to that area.

Regarding on-demand service to the northern part of the Anacortes area, this might be done in conjunction with the already-in-place para transit service. Again, all hypothetical ideas to bring before stakeholders and the public.

Cheryl then gave an overview of some of the August events, plus upcoming events, to include a Mexican Independence night event September 15, and the Concrete Outdoor Disaster Night, September 21.

The National Week Without Driving Challenge is coming up September 30 – October 6. Three ride-alongs are proposed for September 30, October 1, and October 5. Cheryl will need to know who can participate by Friday, September 20.

Judy reminded the committee that officer nominations for 2025 will open in October, and for consideration of whom to nominate.

Madeline mentioned that recent temporary route changes in the 205 and 305 were not advertised in a timely manner to accommodate ridership. Stevie states the notifications system is in process of being remedied.

With no further business, it was moved by Valerie and seconded by Dick and Daniel the meeting be adjourned

Next meeting, October 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair