



Minutes

Agenda

Cowlitz Transit Authority

*Dennis Weber (Chair), Mike Wallin (Vice Chair),
Lisa Alexander, Kim LeFebvre, MaryAlice Wallis
Anthony Harris (Nonvoting), Spencer Boudreau (Alternate),
Mike Karnofski (Alternate), Arne Mortensen (Alternate)*

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

4:00 PM

Zoom/Hybrid
Longview Council Chambers
1525 Broadway St, Longview

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, the Cowlitz Transit Authority will conduct a regular board meeting on Wednesday April 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1525 Broadway St, Longview. The meeting is also available by Zoom.

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86009746558>

Telephone options (you may need to try more than one number if you receive a busy signal):

Dial any of the following numbers:

1 253 215 8782
1 669 900 6833
1 346 248 7799
1 408 638 0968
1 646 876 9923
1 301 715 8592
1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 860 0974 6558

For information about Zoom accessibility, please contact the Board Clerk at (360) 442-5663. Longview City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Offices at (360) 442-5004 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting.

Agendas are made available the Friday before the meeting at www.mylongview.com under "Agendas & Minutes".

Next meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

4:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-chair Mike Wallin; Member Lisa Alexander; Member MaryAlice Wallis; Member (Alternate) Arne Mortensen; Member (Non-Voting) Anthony Harris;

Absent: Chair Dennis Weber; Member Kim LeFebvre; Member (Alternate) Spencer Boudreau, Member (Alternate) Mike Karnofski

Staff Present: James Seek, Transit Manager; Tabitha Hayden, Transit Supervisor; Elizabeth Halili, Clerk of the Board

Others Present: Morrie Christensen, Paratransit Manager; Ken Pearrow, CWCOG

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 9, 2022 MEETING

A motion was made by Wallis, seconded by Alexander, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022, CTA Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

22-000209 March 9, 2022, CTA Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Wallis, to approve the Consent Calendar in its entirety. The motion carried unanimously.

22-000210 INV #2022-05 - City of Longview \$375,401.00

22-000211 INV #2022-24 - CWCOG 2022 Member Dues \$593.00

22-000212 INV #2022-25 - CWCOG EDA Grant Match 2022 \$250.00

22-000213 CWCOG Sept 2021 Letter - 2022 Membership Dues & Program Grant Match

22-000214 2022 March County Treasurer's Report

22-000215 2022 February CTA Fund Balance Report

6. REPORTS

22-000216 2022 Annual Fixed Route Ridership

22-000217 2022 March Monthly Fixed Route Ridership

22-000228 2022 March Fixed Route Ridership by Hour

22-000229 2022 March Fixed Route Average Passengers per Trip**22-000218 2022 March LIFT Ridership****22-000219 2022 Five Year Ridership Graph****22-000220 PTBA Sales Tax Data 2022 vs 2021****7. REPORT ON ELECTRIC BUSES*****Presented by James Seeks***

James Seeks gave a brief PowerPoint presentation and report:

Key Points:

- Battery-powered buses can reduce the environmental and health risks associated with diesel buses;
- Advances in electric bus technology and a decline in battery costs have made E-buses a more attractive option. There are also potential maintenance cost savings;
- E-Buses are still an emerging technology. Reliability is inconsistent. Concerns include the battery charging systems and the buses themselves;
- The range is limited on E-Buses unless they are periodically recharged during the day;
- Fuel cost savings depend on transit agencies' favorable utility rate structures, including reduced off-peak energy rates and limited demand charges;
- Climate change funding is linked to Federal and State transit grants.

Next Steps:

- Eliminate the current diesel-only policy and shift future bus purchases from bio-diesel powered to hybrid diesel-electric powered;
- Continue to learn from the experience of other agencies with electric battery and hydrogen fuel cell buses;
- Work with the Fleet Manager on determining the infrastructure requirements to install plug-in chargers and wave induction chargers;
- Begin discussions with Cowlitz PUD on how to fuel an electric fleet economically;
- Look for grant and earmark opportunities to help fund the buses and infrastructure;
- Develop a transition plan leading to a 100% zero-emission fleet within 20 years.

**22-000221 SUMMARY STATEMENT:
Report on Electric Buses****RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information only - no action required****22-000222 PowerPoint Presentation - Report on E-Buses****8. ELIMINATING REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE ONLY DIESEL BUSES*****Presented by James Seeks***

A motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Wallis, to eliminate the diesel-only purchase policy. The board discussed the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

22-000223 SUMMARY STATEMENT:

In reviewing the presentation on electric-powered buses, staff discovered that the CTA Board had adopted a diesel-only bus purchase policy as part of the December 2010 Transit Enhancement Plan. An exception was included for purchases made with federally earmarked funds.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review excerpted Minutes of December 2010 CTA Board meeting and determine to remove the diesel-powered bus only purchasing policy.

THEN:

Motion to eliminate the diesel-only purchase policy so as to allow for consideration of alternatively-fueled buses.

22-000224 Excerpt of Minutes from Dec 2010 CTA Board Meeting**9. MANAGER'S REPORT*****Presented by James Seek*s**

James Seek

s gave a brief report:

- The CDC and TSA extended the mask requirements for public transportation through May 3, 2022;
- Mr. Seeks stated that he was informed by Legal Counsel for the Transit Authority, Frank Randolph, of rule changes to the OPMA. Elizabeth Halili, Clerk of the CTA Board, is coordinating with the Longview City Clerk to ensure that the board remains in compliance;
- Despite major challenges to the insurance market, which have resulted in significant price increases, the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool remains on firm ground, with adequate reserves and excellent management and risk management practices;
- Mr. Seeks has been meeting with members of the Washington State Transit Association and WSDOT staff on new requirements in state transportation funding. The new transportation funding package includes developing a zero-fare policy for riders 18 and under and measuring the benefit of transit on overburdened communities within the climate transit programs account. Mr. Seeks will provide a more thorough update on the new package at the May 2022 meeting;
- A meeting will be held at Lexington School on April 20 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to share the proposed Lexington Service Plan with the public and receive comments. The Lexington service will begin on Monday, May 2, 2022, and will be numbered Route 411;
- RiverCities Transit will be offering the public two fare-free days:
 - April 22, 2022 - Earth Day
 - May 2, 2022 - to celebrate the new Lexington Service

Morrie Christensen, Paratransit Services Manager, gave a brief report:

- Ridership has increased steadily over the past three months;
- Paratransit Services is hiring drivers. Flyers have been posted on buses, local websites, and the Paratransit Services website in Bremerton, WA.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Vice-chair Wallin adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Elizabeth Halili, Clerk of the Board

Dennis Weber, Chairman