

Spokane Transit Authority  
1230 West Boone Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99201-2686  
(509) 325-6000

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 2, 2022, Meeting  
Via Virtual WebEx

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Haley, City of Spokane Valley\*  
Josh Kerns, Spokane County  
Lori Kinnear, City of Spokane  
Zack Zappone, City of Spokane  
Veronica Messing, City of Cheney (*Ex-Officio*)  
Rhonda Bowers, Labor Representative (*non-voting*)  
E. Susan Meyer, CEO (*Ex-Officio*)

### MEMBERS ABSENT

\**Committee Chairwoman*

### STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Rapez-Betty, Chief Operations Officer/  
Interim Director of Communications & Customer  
Service  
Karl Otterstrom, Director of Planning and  
Development  
Monique Liard, Chief Financial Officer  
Nancy Williams, Director of Human Resources &  
Labor Relations  
Molly Fricano, Executive Assistant to the COO

### PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL

Laura McAloon, McAloon Law PLLC

### GUESTS

Emily Arneson, Ombudsman & Accessibility Officer  
(*Staff liaison to Citizen Advisory Committee*)

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Haley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and the Clerk conducted roll call.

#### 2. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Chair Haley had no report at this time.

#### 3. COMMITTEE APPROVAL

##### A. Minutes of the December 1, 2021, Committee Meeting

**Mr. Kerns moved to approve the December 1, 2021, Committee meeting minutes. Ms. Kinnear seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. COMMITTEE ACTION

##### A. Board Consent Agenda

##### 1. Fall Protection Contract: Final Acceptance

Mr. Rapez-Betty provided background on the Fall Protection contract. He advised the work was part of the Fall Protection capital project with an original budget of \$65,000. He noted costs associated with the project included but were not limited to A&E services, contingency funds, equipment purchases and sales tax. The project closed out at \$2,238 over its revised budget.

Staff recommended the Committee review and recommend the Board approve a motion to accept the contract with Walker Construction, Inc. for the Fall Protection project as complete, and authorize release of retainage security subject to receipt of such certificates and releases as are required by law.

**Ms. Kinnear moved to approve as presented. Mr. Kerns seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

B. Board Discussion Agenda (*no items were presented this month*)

5. REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

6. CEO REPORT

- Ms. Meyer reported on the January 2021 voter approved Sales Tax, which represents sales tax collected on sales two months prior. She explained the trend from 2021 continues where sales tax revenue of \$9M was received against a budget of \$7.7M. This is \$1.3M higher than budget or just under 17%.
- Ms. Meyer participated in a meeting with Governor Inslee about electrification of vehicles. In attendance were Transit General Managers, CEOs, Mayors, Council Members, and Council President Beggs from the City of Spokane.

Ms. Meyer reiterated STA's commitment to fleet electrification and noted STA can only replace clean diesel buses with electric if the funding to do so is available. It was discussed that battery technology continues to evolve. Since buses have not been operating on the road for several years yet, staff are watching bus performance and how the technology improves. Ms. Meyer also noted that while STA is not actively pursuing hydrogen fuel cell buses, staff are closely watching the development. One advantage of hydrogen buses is they require less physical space. Staff have planned, with Board approval, for forty battery electric buses to be received by the end of 2024. Currently, ten sixty-foot battery electric buses have been received for the City Line service. In 2023 there will be four additional battery electric buses, two from Proterra and two from New Flyer. The others will be purchased between now and 2024. Once those forty buses are received, STA will have maxed out the 68,000 square foot garage specifically built for battery electric buses.

- Ms. Meyer provided a State Legislature Update which included a discussion regarding a potential transportation revenue package. She noted there is hope that this package will include the Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Ms. Meyer reminded the committee members that last year when the House and Senate Transportation Committees developed project lists for a significant package that would have included a gas tax increase and required bonding, the Division BRT Project was included for \$50M on both lists. This list might not require any bonding and could be smaller than the considered packages in 2021. She noted staff are hopeful there will be additional special needs funding.
- After scaling back service by approximately 10% and suspending Express Service three days last week and this entire week due to Covid related absences, staff expect to be able to restore full service on Monday, February 7, 2022. We will be able to return to normal service levels since the number of Covid-related absences has decreased.

Ms. Meyer offered to answer any questions or comments.

Mr. Kerns inquired if we have any information on other communities with similar climates and weather patterns which have had electric buses in use for a lengthy period of time to evaluate how they hold up. Ms. Meyer responded that she does not believe any communities have had electric

buses for a long period of time since many are at the at the same stage as STA with phasing them in, but staff will investigate it and follow up with our findings.

7. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- A. January 2022 Sales Tax Revenue Information
- B. December 2021 Operating Indicators
- C. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021 Service Planning Public Input Report

8. MARCH 2, 2022 - COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW

The March 2, 2022, Performance Monitoring and External Relations Committee Meeting draft agenda was reviewed. There were no changes at this time.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPRESSIONS

None

11. ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Haley adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,

*Molly Fricano*

Molly Fricano  
Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer