

BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the May 12, 2021 Meeting
Via Webex Video Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pamela Haley, City of Spokane Valley, Chair
Chris Grover, Small Cities Representative (Airway Heights), *Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee Chair*, Chair Pro Tempore
Al French, Spokane County, *Planning & Development Committee Chair*
Karen Stratton, City of Spokane
E. Susan Meyer, Chief Executive Officer, *Ex-officio*

STAFF PRESENT

Emily Arneson, *Ombudsman & Accessibility Officer*
Dana Infalt, *Clerk of the Authority*
Monique Liard, *Chief Financial Officer*
Fred Nelson, *Interim Chief Operations Officer*
Karl Otterstrom, *Director of Planning & Development*
Brandon Rapez-Betty, *Director of Communications & Customer Service*
Nancy Williams, *Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations*

MEMBERS ABSENT

PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL

Laura McAloon, McAloon Law PLLC

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

2. APPROVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mr. Grover moved to approve the agenda as presented, Mr. French seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

No comments.

4. COMMITTEE ACTION/DISCUSSION

a. April 7, 2021 Committee Minutes

Mr. Grover moved to approve the April 7, 2021, committee meeting minutes as submitted, Mr. French seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

a. Al French, Chair, Planning & Development (P&D)

The Committee forwarded to the Board consent agenda recommendations to approve the Division Bus Rapid Transit Acceptance of Corridor Development Plan and an Award of Contract for City Line Wall Street Reconstruction and Station 28. The Committee received reports on the draft 2022-2027 Transit Development Plan that is scheduled for adoption by the Board of Directors in July.

b. Chris Grover, Chair, Performance Monitoring & External Relations (PMER)

The Committee forwarded a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the May 2022 Service Revisions. The Committee forwarded to the Board consent agenda recommendations to approve the Spokane Regional Transportation Council Interlocal Agreement, an Award of Contract for the Non-Diesel Underground Storage Tank Replacement Project, and an Award of Contract for WEX Fuel Card Conversion.

Mr. Nelson presented a report to the Committee on the 2021 Van Grant recipients.

Adult & Teen Challenge Pacific Northwest	New Horizon Care Centers/Isabella House
Armstrong Adult Family Home	Peak 7 Adventures
Excelsior	Transitions
Liberty Baptist Church	Veterans First Organization
Mid-City Concerns, Inc	Youth Build Spokane/NEWESD 101

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA MAY 20, 2021

Mr. Grover moved to approve the Board of Directors agenda as presented, Mr. French seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE DRAFT AGENDA JUNE 9, 2021

Mr. Grover moved to approve the draft Board Operations Committee agenda as presented, Ms. Stratton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8. CEO REPORT

In support of a recent request by the Washington State Department of Health, STA is offering Free Rides to Vaccines using paratransit vans. Starting today through June 12, residents in the STA service area can schedule a free door-to-door ride to and from their COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Customers who sign up for a free ride during the one-month program are eligible for a second free ride if a follow-up appointment is required for the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. Board members thanked staff for providing this important service to the community.

Since mid-April, ridership has increased dramatically in Paratransit service. There have been days with 800 or more rides. Ridership is still less than one year ago, but it is a significant increase over the 500 rides a day at the beginning of the pandemic. In order to meet the demand, Paratransit is once again providing socially distanced, shared ride service. Van operators and customers are required to wear masks.

The 2021 Regular Session of the Washington State Legislature adjourned on April 25, 2021. All the grants STA was awarded through the Regional Mobility Grant program and carried over to the new biennium were approved. Additionally, the new Regional Mobility Grants STA applied for were awarded and approved. There is an increase in funding for special needs transportation that STA uses for Paratransit service. There is also an increase in the funds available for the Green Transportation Capital Grant program. The Legislature did not pass a transportation revenue package.

The Federal Transit Administration held a Triennial Review Exit Conference with staff on May 6, 2021. Ms. Meyer will provide a report of the results at the May Board of Directors meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Haley adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Roberson
Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer