

Spokane Transit Authority
1230 West Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201

PERFORMANCE MONITORING & EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the January 31, 2024, Meeting
STA Northside Conference Room
1230 W Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA

In person meeting with optional virtual link

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Josh Kerns, Spokane County *
Tim Hattenburg, City of Spokane Valley
Betsy Wilkerson, City of Spokane
Paul Dillon, City of Spokane
Hank Bynaker, City of Airway Heights (*Ex-Officio*)
Lance Speirs, City of Medical Lake (*Ex-Officio*)
E. Susan Meyer, CEO (*Ex-Officio*)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

**Committee Chairman*

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Rapez-Betty, Chief Operations Officer
Karl Otterstrom, Chief Planning and Development Officer
Monique Liard, Chief Financial Officer
Nancy Williams, Chief Human Resources Officer
Carly Cortright, Chief Communications and Customer Service Officer
Molly Fricano, Executive Assistant to the COO

PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL

Megan Clark, Etter, McMahon, Lamberson, Van Wert & Oreskovich, P.C.

STAFF MEMBERS ABSENT

-
1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
Chair Kerns called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and roll call was conducted.
 2. **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**
Chair Kerns had no report at this time.
 3. **COMMITTEE APPROVAL**
 - A. **Minutes of the December 6, 2023, Committee Meeting**
Ms. Wilkerson moved to approve the December 6, 2023, Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Hattenburg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 4. **COMMITTEE ACTION**
 - A. Board Consent Agenda
 1. **2024 Service Revisions: Final Recommendation**
Mr. Otterstrom provided information on a timeline for public outreach and implementation, public outreach activities, specific changes to affected routes, and added Paratransit service areas. There was discussion about two options for the North Bank / Downtown Shuttles which are being evaluated with community stakeholders.

Mr. Hattenburg moved to recommend the Board approve the 2024 Service Revisions Final Recommendation as presented. Ms. Wilkerson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

A. Draft 2024 Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee Work Program

Mr. Rapez-Betty presented an overview of the 2024 Performance Monitoring & External Relations (PMER) Committee work program and explained this is the first work program the PMER Committee has created. This work program is made up of annual reports, surveys, procurement timelines, and other items as needed. Items and timelines are subject to change, and new items will be added as they arise. The next step is to finalize and approve in March and share with the Board of Directors as information.

B. Community Access Pass Program Survey Update

Dr. Cortright provided background on the Community Access Pass (CAP) program and presented the 2023 CAP program pass sales and usage. STA will be launching a survey in March to help better understand how participants are using the program. Dr. Cortright shared proposed survey questions. Discussion ensued about other possible questions to add to the survey. Survey results will be shared at a future meeting.

6. CEO REPORT

Ms. Meyer stated the Board established a Legislative Task Force with the following appointees: Mayor Grover, Small Cities, Council Member Dillon, City of Spokane, Commissioner Kerns, Spokane County, and Rhonda Bowers, Labor Representative. There has not been an appointment for the City of Spokane Valley yet. The first meeting will be scheduled soon, with 24-hours' notice, and when all are available.

Ms. Meyer reported she and Mr. Rapez-Betty were recently in Olympia for the Washington State Transit Association (WSTA) Board of Directors quarterly meeting. She explained there were several legislators in attendance who discussed Initiative 2117 which is the Citizen Initiative to repeal the Climate Commitment Act. At this meeting further discussion ensued about possible impacts if the Climate Commitment Act is repealed and funding is lost. The Climate Commitment Act revenue funds \$3.5B in transit projects and services over 15 years in the Move Ahead Washington package. For STA, this will affect funding for Zero-Fare for Youth, special needs transportation, and the Division BRT project.

Ms. Meyer stated the Governor has introduced a requirement about communication and signage of services and projects funded by the Climate Commitment Act to create awareness about how funding is used.

Ms. Meyer provided information on House Bill 2191 and Senate Bill 6185 and explained the purpose is to allow PTBA boards to add two voting members to the Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) Board. One member must be a rider dependent on transit, and the other an advocate for people who are dependent on transit. This topic will be discussed at the first Legislative Task Force meeting.

Ms. Meyer also discussed House Bill 2160, which promotes community and transit-oriented development and the Middle Housing Bill (HB 1110), which makes certain changes to the bill passed last year and how both will impact development close to transit stops.

Ms. Meyer also reported on a Senate Bill relating to pedestrian crossing.

Ms. Meyer further reported as of January 22, 2024, STA now offers 7.5 minute frequency on City Line during peak hours. STA is excited to have enough operators to be able to offer this service. The challenge has been bus bunching due to traffic delays. It's sometimes necessary to take one bus temporarily out of service to get back on schedule.

7. MARCH 6, 2024 – COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW

The March 6, 2024, Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee Meeting draft agenda was reviewed and there were no changes.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' EXPRESSIONS

There was discussion about whether future meetings would be in person or virtual. Committee members are encouraged to attend in person, but there will be a virtual option if necessary.

10. ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Kerns adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in person with a WebEx option.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Fricano

Molly Fricano

Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer