

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF April 01,2025

Board of Commissioners Present:

Driskell, Robert, Teamsters Local No. 589, *non-voting member*
Erickson, Becky, Mayor, City of Poulsbo
Mockler, Anna, Councilmember, City of Bremerton
Moriwaki, Clarence, Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island
Putansuu, Robert, Mayor, City of Port Orchard, **Chair**
Rolfes, Christine, Kitsap County Commissioner
Root, Oran, Kitsap County Commissioner – *10:34 AM*
Rosapepe, Jay, Councilmember, City of Port Orchard
Walters, Katie, Kitsap County Commissioner, **Vice Chair**
Wheeler, Greg, Mayor, City of Bremerton

Staff Present:

Sanjay Bhatt, Marketing & Public Information Director; Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board, Public Records Officer; John Clauson, Executive Director; Dennis Griffey, Vehicle and Facilities Maintenance Director; Steffani Lillie, Service and Capital Development Director; Mary Pauly, Human Resources Director; Charlotte Sampson, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board; Raymond Scott, Marine Services Director; Paul Shinnors, Finance Director

Also Present: David Weibel, Legal Counsel

Select the video Zoom address below or copy and paste into your browser address field to hear the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners discussion of a specific topic, or the complete meeting. Note the video time stamp beside the topic.

<https://kitsaptransit.zoom.us/rec/share/arY6tgwtyV160zsKlvaHYnZgjriXJAudXWFBLAHrwFUHs-ldiERa4oPCUqX0QEbi.MV7YV7T-eiuHa2lx> Passcode: p6+z*C7y

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Mayor Putansuu called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 10:30 AM.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

No Chair comments.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

0:00:47, Executive Director Clauson reported that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed the safety of boarding and alighting the ferry at the Kingston Ferry terminal during weather challenges. Kitsap Transit understands this but does not own the terminal and does not have a solution currently.

At a past CAC meeting, discussion included the issue of buses leaving the terminal late, causing connectivity problems. Reports from CAC members say that this is improving.

They discussed the rider alert system's timing issues and the impact of ferry cancellations on passengers. Executive Director Clauson shared that there are challenges when a vessel has a breakdown; crews need to identify the problem and determine if the problem can be fixed within an allotted time. If not, they cancel the run and notify the community. He stated that Kitsap Transit will be looking at the suggestion of communicating to the community as to when sailings will resume normal operations.

CAC members talked about the tentative plans for WSF returning to a two-boat ferry operation, and how that will affect the passenger only ferry operation. Clauson shared that the supplemental operation is dependent on the legislature approving funding beyond the end of June 2025. Kitsap Transit will not know until legislature decides the budget.

The Community Advisory Committee welcomed a new member prospect from the Kitsap County Health District.

5. CONSENT / ACTION ITEM:

- a. Warrants for February 2025
 - Warrant numbers transit fund 171879 to 172190 of \$2,734,224
 - Warrant numbers ferry fund 608792 to 608891 of \$1,753,208
 - Payroll Account disbursements of \$3,539,685
 - ACH clearing account payments of \$9,052
 - Travel Account Disbursements of \$3,255
 - Purchasing Card Disbursements of \$63,223
- b. Minutes of March 04, 2025
- c. Resolution No. 25-25, 2nd Quarter Procurements 2025

0:05:10, **Mayor Erickson moved and Commissioner Walters seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution No. 25-26, Authorization to Add Administrative Staff Positions

0:05:38, Executive Director Clauson shared that the two administrative positions are an additional planner and an administrative assistant. The planner position, which is partially funded by the PRTPO budget, will replace a retiring consultant and assist with 2026 World Cup preparations. The administrative assistant will split time between supporting the training department and helping with public records requests. He added that the additions are outside the normal budget cycle due to current opportunities and needs.

Discussion:

0:11:23, Board discussion followed with questions about the value of PRTPO to Kitsap Transit, planning and fast ferry funding for the 2026 World Cup, cost of the PRTPO departing consultant, and Fan Zone for the World Cup,

0:11:58, Executive Director Clauson stated that the PRTPO has value to all four counties that are involved in the organization: Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason. He shared that they don't ask a lot of PRTPO because it would be the equivalent of competing against Metro or Sound Transit. Kitsap Transit does request funding once every three to four years for vehicles. He added that this is a no-cost issue for Kitsap Transit and explained why PRTPO is funding this position and expenses.

Councilmember Mockler moved and Councilmember Rosapepe seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-26, authorizing staff to add two administrative positions to support the Service and Capital Development Department and the Human Resources and Executive Departments at a cost of two hundred sixteen thousand, nine hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$216,929) for both positions.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution No. 25-27, Award KT 25-949 Janitorial Services Contract

0:32:43, Executive Director Clauson shared that this resolution is asking permission to award a two-year contract for janitorial services.

Mayor Erickson moved and Commissioner Root seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-27, authorizing staff to award KT 25-949, Janitorial Services two-year contract to Seal X of Seattle, Washington, in the amount of two hundred eighty-one thousand seven hundred thirty-four dollars (\$281,734).

Discussion:

0:34:42, Board discussion followed.

Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Resolution No. 25-28, Award KT 25-957 RP1 Engine Replacements

0:38:29, Executive Director Clauson stated that the repair work on M/V Rich Passage 1 involves replacing the remaining three engines on a scheduled basis. Kitsap Transit went out to bid and Platypus Marine Inc. was selected as the successful bidder.

Discussion:

0:39:43, Board discussion included impact to the ferry schedule with the vessel in for repairs and getting it back in service.

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Councilmember Moriwaki seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-28, authorizing staff to award KT 25-957, M/V Rich Passage 1 Engine Replacements and Repairs to Platypus Marine in the amount of two hundred seventy-one thousand seven hundred sixty-five dollars (\$271,765).

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Resolution No. 25-29, Approve C/O 38, KT 21-734 Silverdale Transit Center

0:43:09, Director Steffani Lillie shared that Change Order 38 is a "cleanup" change order. When doing a major project and construction is moving a lot of earth, asphalt, grass seed, etc., estimates on quantities are given for these amounts. During the project, overages and changes to the quantities are recorded and kept as a running total. When the project is completed, an audit is performed on all invoices, quantities and changes. Change Order 38 is the final cleanup on the official contract to get all the items aligned and make sure the contractor is paid in full.

Director Lillie stated that a future Change Order will likely be to authorize the device that communicates between the inductive charging units and the natural gas generators when the system switches over. These units are the first ones in the nation being tied into generators, which means there is a learning curve with the engineering that was done. She shared that they have gone through the process of getting the trainers trained and will begin training the drivers on how to use the chargers and line the buses up to the charging pads.

Discussion:

0:45:43, Board discussion included questions about the generators' ability to charge the buses.

0:45:48, Director Lillie explained that there is one generator per each of the four charging units. The four generators on site can charge the buses.

Commissioner Walters moved and Commissioner Root seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-29, authorizing staff to approve contract KT 21-734, Change Order 38, in the amount of ninety-three thousand two hundred forty-three dollars (\$93,243), increasing the contract total to fifteen million seven hundred sixty-nine thousand five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$15,769,525).

Motion passed unanimously

- e. Resolution No. 25-30, Approve Kitsap Transit Marine Charter Policy

0:47:52, Executive Director Clauson introduced the Kitsap Transit Marine Charter Policy. The policy would codify rules for chartering vessels for community events, with provisions for advance notice and potential cancellations. Clauson shared that there is no provision in the current policy that would allow for the annual event that occurs during the holiday season and that the Board could modify the policy to allow for this event to continue. He stated that the advance notice required if a group were to cancel is outlined in the policy. Should Kitsap Transit cancel the charter because the vessel is needed to provide service, a full refund would be granted to the group.

Discussion:

0:50:35, Board discussion included adding provisions or exemptions to the policy for the free charters or requiring Board approval to allow for annual sailing. Concerns raised regarding the policy being incomplete, not addressing issues of insurance, alcohol or duration of charters. Board members agreed to postpone the decision on the resolution to the April 15, 2025, Work Study meeting to address the concerns brought forth.

Councilmember Moriwaki moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to postpone Resolution No. 25-30, to further discuss the Kitsap Transit Marine Charter Policy to April 15, 2025, Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners Work Study meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

- f. Resolution No. 25-31, Authorize Southworth O&M Payment

1:03:58, Executive Director Clauson shared that Kitsap Transit and Washington State Ferries have been funding a joint use agreement for the Southworth Ferry Terminal. This includes shared expenses and responsibilities. The agreement was approved by Executive Director Clauson under the emergency declaration resolution the Board granted during COVID. This resolution is to pay the shared expenses for 2024 – 2025.

Discussion:

1:06:05, Commissioner Root asked for clarification as to what is involved in the shared cost.

1:06:11, Executive Director Clauson stated that the amount is Kitsap Transit's portion of the total cost of operating at Southworth Ferry Terminal. Kitsap Transit's share includes paying the equivalent of one FTE on their staff to monitor and operate the transfer span, and wear and tear on their facilities.

1:07:15, Councilmember Rosapepe noted a difference between the budgeted amount and the expenditure required amount and asked why there is this difference.

1:07:33, Executive Director Clauson shared that they are in discussions about whether to agree to the same flat amount for the next year or have WSF go through an analysis to determine the share. Since the decision has not been made, Kitsap Transit added the higher amount to the budget, ensuring there was adequate funding to cover the cost.

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Commissioner Root seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-31, authorizing staff to pay Washington State Ferries two hundred six thousand four hundred dollars (\$206,400), for the period July 2024 through June 2025.

Motion passed unanimously

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

No items presented.

8. STAFF RECOGNITION / PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Recognizing Drivers of the Year 2024 (10:45 am)

0:20:29, Jeff Vinecourt, ACCESS Manager, recognized the ACCESS Driver of the Year for 2024, Danny Hoyt.

0:23:12, Cyndi Griffey, Worker/Driver Manager, recognized the Routed Driver of the Year for 2024, Elexi Shipp.

0:25:06, Cyndi Griffey, Worker/Driver Manager, recognized the Worker/Driver of the Year for 2024, Hans Gehlhaar.

b. Recognizing Drivers of the Month for February 2025

0:28:45, Jeff Vinecourt, ACCESS Manager, recognized the ACCESS Driver of the Month for February 2025, Joann Langwith.

0:30:40, Cyndi Griffey, Worker/Driver Manager, recognized the Routed Driver of the Month for February 2025, Tyson Stewart.

0:31:53, Cyndi Griffey, Worker/Driver Manager, recognized the Worker/Driver of the Month for February 2025, Brock Benson.

c. April 2025 Report from KT Lobbyist

1:09:53, Kitsap Transit Lobbyist Dylan Doty joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Doty shared that there are discrepancies between the House and Senate budget, transit funding mechanisms, and regional mobility grants. He stated that the Seattle-Bremerton fast ferry service funding was discussed, with the House propose more funding than the Senate. He added that the final budget will be balanced through reconciliation of various revenue sources and project delays.

1:11:52, Board discussion followed.

- d. Draft Financial Reports through February 2025
- e. Capital Work in Progress February 2025
- f. Fuel Costs Report through the end of March 2025

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1:15:35, Kitsap Transit Routed Operator John Eckert spoke to the contract between Kitsap Transit and ATU 587 not being finalized. He included concerns of driver safety, PPE, driver restrooms, overtime, and Management appreciation of drivers.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1:18:56, Councilmember Mockler stated that three people have mentioned to her that the park and rides seem to be mostly empty. She questioned whether there is any type of monitoring done to determine if they are needed.

1:19:35, Executive Director Clauson shared that the park and rides are monitored to determine the average occupancy and that there was a shift in demand with COVID. He stated that Kitsap Transit is not only building for today but for the future and that we want to have the ability to provide parking in strategic locations.

11. ADJOURN: At 11:53 AM, Chairperson Mayor Putaansuu adjourned the regular meeting.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 6th day of May, 2025.

Attest:

Signed by:

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Rob Putaansuu, Chairperson

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Jackie Bidon

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Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS

April 01, 2025

Received by the Clerk of the Board

**Presented at the Kitsap Transit Board of
Commissioners Meeting**

Good morning Commissioners,

April 1, 2025

Again, I must be here because the contract between Kitsap Transit and ATU 587 has not been finalized.

We cannot see what the problem is. Our negotiation team cannot tell us why things put forth are not acceptable by management.

After an agreement is reached it must be approved by Mr. Clauson. It is not right that Mr. Clauson isn't there to say if it is okay and can be voted on by the Union members or that if it is not what might be changed to make it acceptable to management. It would save time and effort on both sides if the change could be accomplished at that same time of that meeting.

Thank you for the appreciation last month for operators, but we need the pay increase and back pay that we haven't been able to receive. It takes about 7 years to reach top pay unless you have been with the company 15, 20, or 25 years. Operators who have given so much of their life to you Get a little more.

Can you imagine being a new hire and looking at how long it takes to get to full pay just for the 7 years.

You offered a \$7000.00 bonus, but it is not easy to get. The smallest misstep can and does take it away. All but the signing bonus very often.

There are things that make me very upset. It is hard to talk about in a civil way.

Being assaulted and still not having a meeting about it.

Having an operator without proper PPE operating a bus back to base. She wasn't even told the bus operator could not operate the bus because of the infectious waste on it. I was asked once to do the same thing and 3 layers of masks didn't stop me from gagging with windows open back to base. That needs to change. A properly PPE Vehicle maintenance working is someone ready to operate the bus. The routed service operator can quickly get the Bus to the other operator and then stand by for a relief vehicle.

We were asked what we wanted at the new WWTC and we said two bathrooms. We got one with enough to put three in. We asked for two bathrooms at STC we got one. Try closing one bathroom and limiting the other to one stall. You have time to wait. We very often don't.

Management is cutting all they can from EVERYWHERE else to fund pet projects. They FORGET or just don't care enough for the Operators, Dispatchers, Vehicle maintenance and others.

Haven't you wondered how there was over 5 million dollars Routed "couldn't use" and you made it possible to move it to Fast ferries? Do you remember taking money that was to be used by infrastructure and operators and buying electric motors for fast ferries and being told operators were compensated and they were not after suffering through Covid 19?

Pressuring operators into unsafe driving.

Now you want to increase work for overworked operators with no compensation even to make it something operators will try to do.

We are Forced into overtime! If the World Cup happens, it will cause more burning out and drivers that are unable to continue. I have talked to driver who couldn't take the pressure and been unable to get enough sleep to drive the hours assigned them. They had to leave.

There is so much but as a timed routed operator who cares for other even those very hard to care for time is not available.

I ask for a good contract that does focus on Managements appreciation of us.

I have used up over 16 hours of my vacation time to be here and I hope it was worth while because it is very difficult and I don't have enough time.

Please be safe. Please stay healthy. It's a good thing to be.....

Kindest regards,

John Eckert

Routed operator 1681