

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF October 21, 2025

Board of Commissioners Present:

Driskell, Robert, Teamsters Local No. 589, *non-voting member – Virtual, 8:50 AM*
Erickson, Becky, Mayor, City of Poulsbo - *Absent*
Mockler, Anna, Councilmember, City of Bremerton
Moriwaki, Clarence, Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island – *Arrived 9:05 AM*
Put aansuu, Robert, Mayor, City of Port Orchard, **Chair**
Rolfes, Christine, Kitsap County Commissioner – *Arrived 8:35 AM*
Root, Oran, Kitsap County Commissioner – *Virtual, 9:00 AM*
Rosapepe, Jay, Councilmember, City of Port Orchard
Walters, Katie, Kitsap County Commissioner, **Vice Chair** - *Absent*
Wheeler, Greg, Mayor, City of Bremerton

Staff Present:

Sanjay Bhatt, Marketing & Public Information Director; Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board, Public Records Officer; Michael Bozarth, Operations Director; John Clauson, Executive Director; Dennis Griffey, Vehicle and Facilities Maintenance Director; Ellen Gustafson, Acting Marine Services Director; Steffani Lillie, Service and Capital Development Director; Mary Pauly, Human Resources Director; Charlotte Sampson, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board

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/lghmG-YW_S-Lm6ZGKJfuv8smWDFOTI9HOa614OxhED4gdDEQME1-u8v7YSdKWQfB.xpHnLA89VLTjaTHy Passcode: \$cxA%N5D

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Put aansuu called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 8:31 AM.

0:4:37, Quorum was established.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

No Chair comments.

4. CONSENT / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 25-70, Acknowledge Approved C/O 4, KT 25-967, M/V Commander USCG Inspection and Repairs
- b. Resolution No. 25-71, Approve Title VI Program

0:10:21, Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Discussion:

None.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 25-72, Approve Increased Security Hours Port Orchard

0:10:50, Executive Director Clauson addressed the necessity of extending security coverage at the Port Orchard and Bremerton ferry terminals to better safeguard personnel and property.

0:13:13, Board members emphasized the importance of enhancing security measures, including the strategic placement of surveillance cameras.

0:13:29, Executive Director Clauson further noted a recent uptick in security breaches, specifically incidents involving individuals climbing over float gates after operational hours to access vessels. In response, Kitsap Transit is actively working to upgrade the area's closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems.

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Mayor Wheeler seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-72, authorizing staff to increase security hours at the Port Orchard ferry dock from seventy-six (76) hours per week to one hundred thirty-four (134) hours per week, with an annual increased expenditure of one hundred one thousand dollars (\$101,000), including estimated sales tax.

Discussion:

0:19:20, The Board continued its review of safety measures, including the potential expansion of overnight security to ensure enhanced protection of the vessels.

0:19:47, Executive Director Clauson reported that Kitsap Transit is currently soliciting estimates for implementing stricter access controls and making adjustments to the existing 24/7 security protocol.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion - 2026 World Cup

0:21:26, Executive Director Clauson provided an update on Kitsap Transit's planning efforts for the 2026 World Cup. He noted that the agency is eligible to apply for \$315,780 in State Grant Funding, with the application deadline set for December 1. To support the anticipated increase in activity during the six-week event, Kitsap Transit intends to bolster service levels—particularly in Bremerton—including implementing enhanced security protocols and deploying on-site ambassadors to assist with crowd management.

0:25:58, Councilmember Mockler inquired about any restrictions associated with the allocated funding and asked which organization is responsible for providing the Megatron TV for the Fan Zone.

0:26:00, Executive Director Clauson clarified that the funding may be used for any World Cup-related initiatives. He added that the City of Bremerton is overseeing the Fan Zone and would be the appropriate entity to confirm details regarding the Megatron TV.

0:26:46, Councilmember Rosapepe asked whether fast ferry service would be offered on game days from Kingston, Southworth, and Bremerton, or if the focus would be solely on Bremerton.

0:26:56, Executive Director Clauson responded that the enhanced service would primarily be concentrated in Bremerton.

0:27:08, Executive Director Clauson outlined Kitsap Transit's plans to enhance service during the six-week 2026 World Cup event, with a primary focus on Bremerton. The agency intends to implement additional security measures and deploy on-site ambassadors to support crowd management efforts.

0:31:47, Clauson noted that Washington State Ferries (WSF) will be responsible for managing the bulk of passenger traffic. However, Kitsap Transit is preparing contingency plans in case WSF experiences vessel outages. As part of these preparations, the team is evaluating vessel reallocation strategies and exploring the possibility of introducing a larger vessel to increase capacity on the Bremerton–Seattle route, pending WSF approval. He emphasized that this option remains under consideration and would only be pursued if all other alternatives are exhausted.

0:34:45, Clauson reviewed both the current and proposed ferry schedules, which include extended service hours on game days. While the exact timing of matches is still unknown, he expressed confidence that the proposed schedule could be supported by existing crews, though it would place additional strain on operations.

0:36:42, Councilmember Rosapepe inquired whether the proposed schedule is contingent upon evening game times, or if extended service would still be provided in the event of afternoon

matches. He raised the question of operational flexibility and whether the schedule could be adjusted based on the timing of individual games.

0:36:55, Executive Director Clauson confirmed that Kitsap Transit intends to operate the proposed schedule on all game days, regardless of whether matches occur in the afternoon or evening. Given that both Seattle and Bremerton will host Fan Zone activities with scheduled events, he emphasized that implementing a variable schedule would present significant operational challenges.

0:39:33, Marketing Director Sanjay Bhatt reported that the Seattle FIFA World Cup Organization has scheduled December 5 as the date for finalizing team assignments and identifying any potential travel restrictions.

0:41:16, Executive Director Clauson added information on extending service on the Port Orchard–Bremerton route to support late-night sailings. The estimated cost for ferry operations, marine security agents (MSAs), and additional maintenance is \$233,000.

0:43:26, Councilmember Rosapepe sought clarification that the \$233,000 estimate pertains solely to Port Orchard and Bremerton services. He noted that including Southworth or Kingston would likely triple the cost. Given parking limitations and infrastructure strain, he expressed support for prioritizing service in areas with the highest anticipated travel demand.

0:45:09, Executive Director Clauson transitioned the discussion to expanding bus service during game days, with a focus on hotel access and parking availability along the 212 route on the Bremerton–Silverdale corridor. The proposal includes increased frequency, with buses departing every 30 minutes from Silverdale and the final departure is scheduled for 12:03 AM.

0:47:17, Commissioner Rolfes expressed concerns regarding parking capacity during the event and suggested the fairgrounds as a potential overflow option, noting that it is not currently included in the transit planning framework.

0:50:11, Executive Director Clauson introduced a proposal for an on-demand bus service in Bremerton and Port Orchard to assist residents and hotel guests with transportation after standard service hours. The plan includes two dedicated buses serving each side of Bremerton and one serving Port Orchard. Service would be restricted to ferry terminal departures and operate within designated zones, with the potential for additional stops based on safety and operational feasibility. Clauson also requested that the City of Bremerton allocate three parking spaces on Washington Avenue, near the ferry terminal, for ride-share and Uber pick-ups.

0:53:10, Board members engaged in a discussion regarding the proposed schedules, flag stops, and routing details for the expanded on-demand transit services in Bremerton and Port Orchard.

0:57:54, Executive Director Clauson discussed Route 390 connecting Bainbridge Island to Poulsbo, which will continue after normal service stops. They also plan to operate on-demand service for the whole island (BI Ride) after hours to connect with WSF.

0:59:48, Clauson provided an overview of the projected costs associated with additional Routed, and ACCESS. These costs encompass staffing, training, vehicle maintenance, and other operational expenses. He noted that the current 2026 Budget does not account for expenditures related to the World Cup.

1:01:07, Clauson introduced concepts for wayfinding enhancements funded by the \$315,000 grant, emphasizing their potential long-term value to the community. Examples included cost-effective pop-up signage, cellular-enabled displays, and solar-powered reader boards.

1:03:34, The Board discussed signage strategies aimed at improving navigation for both visitors and residents. Recommendations included multilingual signs, visual illustrations, QR codes, and maps guiding attendees to transit hubs and Fan Zone locations. It was also noted that Kitsap Transit has been actively coordinating with local agencies to support these efforts.

1:05:54, Mr. Bhatt reported that Kitsap Transit had been awaiting formal approval from FIFA to advance its World Cup preparations. FIFA has now released its official standards, which include specific language requirements for wayfinding signage and maps that must be adhered to.

1:13:42, Executive Director Clauson stated that as additional guidance becomes available, Kitsap Transit will continue to refine its plans to align with event requirements. He emphasized that the purpose of this discussion was to update the Board on the agency's progress in preparing for the 2026 World Cup and to solicit feedback.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

0:01:49, Executive Director Clauson shared follow-up information on the topic of permitting individuals to reside in their vehicles, utilizing designated Park & Ride lots. He noted that implementation would require navigating several challenges, including securing approval from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for state-owned properties. Additionally, he highlighted that some Park & Ride facilities operate as cooperative or shared-use lots, such as those located

on church properties, which would necessitate outreach and coordination with respective stakeholders.

Clauson reported that the Poulsbo Park & Ride has been serving as a sort of pilot site for this initiative. Key concerns identified include site maintenance responsibilities, security provisions, participant screening, insurance requirements, and other logistical considerations.

0:05:00, During Board discussion, it was noted that Fishline, the City of Poulsbo, and Harper Church are actively collaborating to support the Poulsbo Park & Ride pilot program.

0:05:16, Mayor Putaansuu expressed support for the proposed model but emphasized that Kitsap Transit should not be the entity responsible for its ongoing management and maintenance. He suggested exploring partnerships with nonprofit organizations to oversee operations, provide services, and ensure the initiative remains transitional rather than becoming a permanent living arrangement.

0:06:10, Executive Director Clauson reiterated that the Poulsbo Park & Ride initiative is currently a pilot program designed to assess feasibility. He noted that pursuing a long-term implementation would require engagement with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to secure necessary approvals. Clauson acknowledged that multiple steps and considerations must be addressed before the program could be fully realized.

0:09:42, The Board reached consensus to proceed with preliminary actions to evaluate the viability of the proposal. Legal counsel emphasized the need for proper vetting of participants and insurance requirements.

1:23:40, Executive Director Clauson requested Board authorization to temporarily waive transit fares for federal employees upon presentation of a valid federal ID. He proposed that the Board also grant him the authority to reinstate fares at an appropriate date. Clauson explained that, due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, affected employees are required to report to work without pay and are facing financial hardship in covering transportation costs, including parking, fuel, and transit fares.

Executive Director Clauson reported that he has had multiple discussions with the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) and, depending on forthcoming Congressional action, funding may become available as early as December. With the support of the PSNS Executive Director, Clauson has also engaged with Mason Transit, which plans to present the proposal to its Board later this month. Pierce Transit has already received Board approval to waive fares for federal employees. Clauson noted that, should the Kitsap Transit Board approve a similar measure, he would work collaboratively with Mason Transit, Pierce Transit, and PSNS to coordinate a unified regional response.

1:28:30,

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Councilmember Mockler seconded the motion to remove fares for any federal employees on Kitsap Transit services with an unspecified date that will be brought back by the Executive Director.

1:28:54, **Amended Motion**

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Councilmember Mockler seconded the motion giving the Executive Director authority to waive fares for federal employees on Kitsap Transit services and the authority to reimpose said fares at a time that is deemed appropriate.

Discussion:

1:29:35, Mayor Wheeler requested that, upon reconvening in mid-November, the Board assess the status of the federal government shutdown and determine the extent to which a resolution appears imminent.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

8. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None at this time.

9. ADJOURN: At 10:01 AM, Chairperson Putaansuu adjourned the regular meeting.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 4th day of November, 2025.

Attest:

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Jackie Bidon
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Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board

Signed by:
Rob Putaansuu
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Rob Putaansuu, Chairperson