

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF October 07, 2025

Board of Commissioners Present:

Driskell, Robert, Teamsters Local No. 589, *non-voting member - Absent*
Erickson, Becky, Mayor, City of Poulsbo - *Absent*
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
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; 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
Dylan Doty, KT Lobbyist

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/BuJK4V41hT8vaQX1cJmaIrihkR0ui7QQcFTYzGsoryQ93JFE1_uNcZtX-XIM7Pd7.TC3QvxQTINGiLn-T Passcode: **1zj#80\$q**

BKAT Recording

<https://bremerton.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=a9eb77c5-545c-4cad-b6e4-cdcd858d3779&nav=search%2FKitsap%20Transit>

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

None.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

0:00:48, Executive Director Clauson reported that in September, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) convened to discuss preliminary ideas for the 2026 Goals. Members reached consensus on continuing the signage update initiative into 2026. The committee also reviewed the on-time performance of the fast ferry service, emphasizing the need for improved communication regarding schedule changes and delays.

Concerns were raised about the challenges passengers face when boarding and disembarking on the Kingston route during winter months. One proposed solution involved repositioning the float to minimize wind exposure on the vessels. Additionally, members discussed the potential for increased flexibility in the Kingston ferry schedule on the Seattle side to accommodate refueling needs. The committee also addressed Kitsap Transit's planning efforts in anticipation of the 2026 World Cup.

CAC member JR Kinnison, representing the visually impaired community, was featured in a video shared on Kitsap Transit's social media pages that highlights the accessibility challenges faced by riders with visual impairments.

5. CONSENT / ACTION ITEM:

- a. Warrants for August 2025
 - o Warrant numbers transit fund 173848 to 174344 of \$2,452,258
 - o Warrant numbers ferry fund 609474 to 609577 of \$2,789,633
 - o Payroll Account disbursements of \$3,645,579
 - o ACH clearing account payments of \$29,888
 - o Travel Account Disbursements of \$12,192
 - o Purchasing Card Disbursements of \$41,234
- b. Minutes of November 19, 2024
- c. Minutes of September 02, 2025
- d. Resolution No. 25-66, Approve Appointment of New CAC Member
- e. Resolution No. 25-67, Approve 4th Quarter Procurements 2025

0:07:33, **Commissioner Root moved and Mayor Wheeler seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Discussion:

None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 25-68, Approve C/O 4, KT 22-758 for CAD Project

0:08:08, Executive Director Clauson provided clarification on several key acronyms: CAD refers to Computer-Aided Dispatch, AVL stands for Automated Vehicle Location, APC denotes Automated Passenger Counting, AVA represents Automated Voice Announcement, and RTPI refers to the Real-Time Passenger Information system.

He noted that while progress continues on the project, delays have been encountered. To ensure continuity and successful completion through certification, the existing agreement with the consultant requires an extension. Change Order 4 has been proposed to retain the consultant's services and support the project through its final phases.

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Councilmember Mockler seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-68, authorizing staff to approve contract KT 22-728 Change Order 4, in the amount of ninety-four thousand eight hundred forty dollars (\$94,840), reauthorizing the Executive Director's authority in accordance with Kitsap Transit's Procurement Policy.

Discussion:

0:11:24, Board discussion included an inquiry into potential coordination with other municipalities experiencing similar software challenges, and whether Madison, WI or any related agencies have initiated contact with Kitsap Transit.

0:12:12, Executive Director Clauson confirmed that no outreach has been made. He noted that while the technology challenges may be comparable across agencies, the specific components involved differ. He further emphasized that efforts are currently focused on ensuring the purchased systems are functioning as intended prior to final approval.

0:14:27, Service and Capital Development Director Steffani Lillie clarified that there has been no communication between Madison, WI and Kitsap Transit regarding the software, noting that each transit agency's implementation is distinct. She affirmed the reliability and responsiveness of the product developer and emphasized that the current challenges are specific to Kitsap Transit's operational structure. The developer is undertaking specialized work to ensure the system aligns with the unique requirements of Kitsap Transit's services.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution No. 25-69, Approve Disposal of Surplus

0:16:42, Executive Director Clauson explained that the resolution seeks authorization to declare certain inventory parts as surplus, as they are no longer required for fleet operations.

Councilmember Mockler moved and Councilmember Rosapepe seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-69, authorizing staff to surplus Kitsap Transit vehicles, equipment, and parts shown in Exhibit A, in the best interest of the Agency.

Discussion:

0:17:47, Board discussion included a question regarding the method of disposal for the surplus items.

0:17:58, Executive Director Clauson explained that all surplus items are subject to a formal process designed to ensure Kitsap Transit obtains the best possible value. For example, surplus vehicles are first offered to local nonprofit organizations. If there is no interest, the vehicles may be sold through an auction service or transferred to another agency in need of vehicles or parts.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

0:23:50, Executive Director Clauson informed the Board that recent changes to state toll policies have removed the exemption previously granted to vanpools. He noted that he is actively exploring potential responses for Kitsap Transit, including engaging in discussions with other transit agencies across Washington State to assess possible approaches.

0:25:14, Executive Director Clauson reported that he met with Operations Director Michael Bozarth and representatives from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) to discuss the anticipated impacts of PSNS's upcoming expansion and improvement program on the community, its workforce, and Kitsap Transit. He noted that additional information will be provided as the initiative progresses.

0:26:18, Executive Director Clauson reported that the Week Without Driving campaign commenced the previous Monday. In support of the initiative, four Board members left their personal vehicles at their respective work locations and utilized public transit to travel to Olympic College for a scheduled luncheon. The event was attended by the Acting President of Olympic College, key college staff, Kitsap Transit Board members, Marketing Director Sanjay Bhatt, and Executive Director Clauson. Discussions during the luncheon focused on the Week Without Driving initiative, the Kitsap Transit system, and a student pass program currently being developed by Mr. Bhatt for Olympic College.

Board members documented their experiences utilizing public transportation, including transit and ferry services. However, due to technical difficulties, the recording was not available for viewing.

0:30:23, Commissioner Rolfes noted that she was unable to attend the luncheon with fellow Board members; however, she utilized public transportation throughout the day to travel from her residence to meetings in Port Orchard, Poulsbo, and Bremerton, before returning home.

0:33:16, Councilmember Mockler noted that the discussion surrounding costs and the rise in student ridership is helping to engage a new generation of public transit users. She emphasized the importance of continuing to explore and support this emerging trend.

8. STAFF RECOGNITION / PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Recognizing Drivers of the Month for August 2025 (10:45am)

0:19:50, Jeff Vinecourt, ACCESS Manager, recognized the ACCESS Driver of the Month for August 2025, Curtis Emel.

0:22:05, Thomas Gilbert, Routed Manager, recognized the Routed Driver of the Month for August 2025, Marvin Jackson.

0:22:59, Thomas Gilbert, Routed Manager, recognized the Worker/Driver of the Month for August 2025, Chris Burke.

b. October 2025 Report from KT Lobbyist

0:36:38, Kitsap Transit's Lobbyist, Dylan Doty, provided a legislative update from Olympia. His report included insights on the Operating Budget forecast, the Transportation Budget forecast, and the implementation of Senate Bill 5814 concerning sales tax on services, which is scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2025. Mr. Doty invited feedback and suggestions in preparation for the upcoming 60-day legislative session commencing in January 2026.

0:43:00, Councilmember Moriwaki requested clarification on how the sales tax changes might affect Kitsap Transit's overall financial outlook.

0:43:11, Mr. Doty responded that the estimated annual cost associated with the security component is approximately \$85,000. He noted that while the bill may also affect areas such as temporary staffing and other contracted services, the primary financial impact on transit agencies is related to security operations.

0:45:54, Councilmember Moriwaki inquired about the proportion of funding derived from federal grants or federal pass-through sources.

0:46:09, Mr. Doty noted that many capital grants are federally funded, though some federal grant disbursements may be slow or subject to delays. As projects are identified where matching federal funds are causing postponements, it may be necessary to consider carrying those projects forward into the next biennium or fiscal year.

0:51:23, Executive Director Clauson expressed interest in initiating discussions with the Board regarding the level of service and associated costs that Kitsap Transit may need to plan for in support of the upcoming World Cup.

0:53:09, Commissioner Rolfes emphasized the importance of engaging with the legislature not only to advocate for ferry service coverage under FIFA-related funding, but also to address transit needs during the six-week period in counties affected by World Cup activities. She proposed offering free transit during that time for both tourists and local residents, with funding support potentially available through the Climate Commitment Act.

0:54:08, Executive Director Clauson noted that this topic is currently under discussion throughout the Puget Sound Region. He acknowledged that managing security during periods of large crowds presents a significant concern but suggested that implementing fare-free transit could help mitigate passenger confusion regarding fare amounts and payment timing. He expressed interest in continuing dialogue with the Board to further explore this approach.

- c. Draft Financial Reports through August 2025
- d. Capital Work in Progress August 2025
- e. Fuel Costs Report through the end of September 2025
- f. 2nd Quarter Financial Reports 2025

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:57:17, Jane Rebelowski addressed the need for safe parking options for working individuals and families residing in their vehicles. She requested that Kitsap Transit consider allocating designated spaces within Park & Ride lots to support a proposed safe parking pilot program.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

11. ADJOURN: At 11:30 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 4th day of November, 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

Received by the Clerk of the Board

**Presented at the Kitsap Transit Board of
Commissioners Meeting October 07, 2025**

Public Comment to Kitsap Transit Board of Directors

Topic: Safe Parking at Publicly Owned Park & Ride Lots

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Board —

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I've worked in collaboration with Marwan Cameron, Executive Director of Gather Together Grow Together, and Anton Pressinger, Executive Direction, Northwest Hospitality, to address a pressing need in our community: the creation of **safe parking spaces for working individuals and families** who are living in their vehicles.

Across Kitsap County, there are people — including **employed parents and women with children** — who have no safe place to sleep at night. They are working, their kids are in school, and yet they are forced to park in unsafe areas or move constantly just to avoid being cited. This is not sustainable or humane.

Kitsap Transit is in a unique position to help in a way that is both **practical and cost-effective**. Throughout the county, we have **publicly owned and leased park-and-ride lots** that are well lit, well maintained, and underutilized overnight.

We are asking Kitsap Transit to consider designating **three to four parking spaces** in each of these lots as part of a **Safe Parking Pilot Program**. These spaces would allow registered, working individuals and families to park legally and safely overnight, providing stability while they continue working toward permanent housing.

This approach does **not require new infrastructure or major investment** — it simply uses existing public property more effectively. Volunteers, including **Anton Pressinger**, who are ready to help coordinate the program, ensuring it is orderly, clean, and respectful of both participants and the surrounding neighborhoods.

When implemented thoughtfully, programs like this build momentum. A pilot program could offer 3-4 safe parking spots per Park-n-Ride. We would create criteria to be eligible for the spaces, such as demonstrating employment, school enrollment, and/or families with children. Once the framework is in place, we can expect **nonprofits, churches, and even private property owners** to follow Kitsap Transit's lead — expanding safe parking options across the county.

This is not a permanent housing solution. It's a **bridge solution** — one that recognizes the reality that people are already sleeping in cars and gives them a safer, more dignified option while longer-term housing is developed.

Every community in Kitsap County is facing this issue. By designating just a few spaces in each of your park-and-ride lots, you could immediately create a meaningful, countywide impact on them, helping dozens of working families find stability.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your consideration of this compassionate, common-sense step forward.

Jane Rebelowski