

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF January 06, 2026

Board of Commissioners Present:

Driskell, Robert, Teamsters Local No. 589, *non-voting member*

Mockler, Anna, Councilmember, City of Bremerton

Moriwaki, Clarence, Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island, **Vice Chair**

Putaansuu, Robert, Mayor, City of Port Orchard, *Virtual*

Rolfes, Christine, Kitsap County Commissioner

Root, Oran, Kitsap County Commissioner

Rosapepe, Jay, Councilmember, City of Port Orchard

Stern, Ed Mayor, City of Poulsbo

Walters, Katie, Kitsap County Commissioner, **Chair**

Wheeler, Greg, Mayor, City of Bremerton, *Arrived 11:07 AM*

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; Charlotte Sampson, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board; Paul Shinners, Finance Director

Also Present:

David Weibel, Legal Counsel

Dylan Doty, Legislative 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/slz0op5k4TIS6-RW0EZfk4w6Y5WY37oI1fOTNIEiFo6zGNELqrldWN4Jzt3fJ9PK.RYQv6d6zH7-xmeT6>

Passcode: &3L5m2W&

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Walters called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 10:30 AM. Chairperson Walters called for Board member support staff introductions.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

Councilmember Moriwaki moved and Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Discussion:

None

Motion passed unanimously.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Walters stated that she was honored to chair the committee and underscored the importance of keeping ridership at the forefront of the Board's work.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

0:02:44, Executive Director Clauson noted that the November and December Community Advisory Committee meetings were consolidated in observance of the holiday season. He then provided an update on the committee's recent discussions, including member renewals, a review of board composition, and the timeliness of service disruption notifications.

5. CONSENT / ACTION ITEM:

- a. Warrants for November 2025
 - Warrant numbers transit fund 175001 to 175300 of \$2,604,972
 - Warrant numbers ferry fund 609764 to 609864 of \$2,583,832
 - Payroll Account disbursements of \$3,550,762
 - ACH clearing account payments of \$40,919
 - Travel Account Disbursements of \$562
 - Purchasing Card Disbursements of \$30,477
- b. Minutes of December 2, 2025
- c. Resolution No. 26-01, 1st Quarter 2026 Procurements
- d. Resolution No. 26-02, Approve 2026 Liability Insurance WSTIP
- e. Resolution No. 26-03, Approve Kitsap Transit 2026 Goals
- f. Resolution No. 26-04, Adopting 2026 Legislative Priorities

Discussion:

0:04:09, Councilmember Mockler recommended removing agenda item 5e for additional discussion, suggesting it be deferred to a study session to allow for a comprehensive review of the 2026 goals. She further proposed that agenda item 5f be moved to General Business.

0:6:02, The Clerk of the Board requested clarification regarding the reassignment of item 5f. Councilmember Mockler confirmed that agenda item 5f should be moved to section 6, Full Discussion / Action Items.

0:06:16, Commissioner Walters asked whether Councilmember Mockler would like to move approval of the consent agenda, amended to relocate Item 5e, Approval of the Kitsap Transit Goals, to a study session and to move Item 5f to section 6b for full discussion. Mayor Stern seconded the motion.

0:06:38, Mayor Putaansuu raised a point of order, asking whether it would be more appropriate to make a motion to remove the items in question rather than to approve the consent agenda without them. He clarified that, if the intent is to withdraw an item from the Consent Agenda, the proper procedure is to make a motion to remove it and then seek a second.

0:07:21, Board discussion addressing the proper procedure for moving and removing items from the Consent Agenda.

0:09:00, Councilmember Mockler withdrew her motion. Mayor Stern withdrew the second.

Clerk's Notation: Upon review of the meeting video, it was determined that Councilmember Mockler did not make a motion at or near the 0:06:16 timestamp. Commissioner Walters clarified Councilmember Mockler's recommendation, and Mayor Stern issued a second in error. The motion withdrawn at the 0:09:00 timestamp is therefore null.

Councilmember Mockler moved and Mayor Stern seconded the motion to bring both agenda items 5e and 5f into agenda item 6. Full Discussion/Action Items.

Commissioner Rolfe moved and Councilmember Mockler seconded the motion to approve Consent Action Items A through D.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 26-05, Approve Purchase of Wheelchair Lift Vans

0:10:17, Executive Director Clauson explained that the resolution seeks authorization to purchase eight wheelchair-lift minivans and three full-size wheelchair-lift vans for use in the VanLink program, with potential deployment in the ACCESS program as well.

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Councilmember Moriwaki seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-05, authorizing staff to purchase up to eight (8) wheelchair-lift equipped mini-vans and up to three (3) wheelchair-lift equipped full-size vans at the estimated cost of nine hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred dollars (\$925,400).

Discussion:

0:11:30, Board discussion addressed the anticipated delivery timeline for the vans and the operational considerations for deploying wheelchair-accessible vans versus ACCESS vehicles.

Motion passed with seven (7) yays and one (1) opposed (Councilmember Mockler).

- b. Resolution No. 26-03, Approve Kitsap Transit 2026 Goals

0:21:58, Executive Director Clauson explained that the resolution represents a continuation of unfinished 2025 goals, emphasizing the agency's focus on ridership and community service. He noted that he welcomes further Board-level discussion and had sought Board input on goal development throughout the year. In the absence of such input, staff proceeded with drafting the 2026 Goals.

Councilmember Mockler moved and Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion to defer Resolution No. 26-03, to the next study session.

Discussion:

0:23:23, Councilmember Rosapepe stated that he was not opposed to deferring the item. He emphasized the need for the Board to be more responsive when the Executive Director requests input and observed that the goals presented are neither new nor unique within the transit industry.

Motion passed with seven (7) yays and one (1) opposed (Councilmember Rosapepe).

- C. Resolution No. 26-04, Adopting 2026 Legislative Priorities

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Councilmember Mockler seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-04, adopting the 2026 Legislative Priorities for Kitsap Transit.

0:26:34, Executive Director Clauson noted that one item had been added since the list was presented to the Board in December. He explained that the new provision calls for supporting and collaborating with the legislature to secure funding for Washington State Ferries (WSF) to remove Pier 48. He further clarified that although WSF had planned the pier's removal for environmental cleanup and demolition, the agency has not yet obtained the necessary legislative funding, which may affect the scope of the project.

Discussion:

Board discussion addressed the potential inclusion of a funding request for bus shelters, the challenges posed by the current budget year, and the importance of prioritizing strategic legislative initiatives.

Motion passed unanimously.

0:33:17, Mayor Putaansuu sought clarification, confirming that the reference to supporting the Bremerton service pertains to Kitsap Transit's fast ferry service.

0:33:28, Executive Director Clauson clarified that the intent is not only to support the fast ferry and its continued operation, but also to provide general support for Washington State Ferries' service between Bremerton and Seattle.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

0:33:54, Executive Director Clauson announced the appointment of Nicholas Zylstra as the new Marine Services Director. He noted that Mr. Zylstra brings extensive experience in the marine industry and will begin his role at Kitsap Transit on January 12, 2026.

Executive Director Clauson shared upcoming events with the Board.

- The American Public Transit Association's meeting and expo will be taking place in October 2026. He encouraged Board members to attend if their schedule allows.
- The Board Composition Review will take place this year. Kitsap Transit will request that each jurisdiction represented on the Transit Board designate a member to participate in the review and make recommendations regarding Board composition. Formal letters will be distributed in the coming months.

8. STAFF RECOGNITION / PROGRESS REPORTS

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

0:14:40, Thomas Gilbert, Routed Manager, recognized the Routed Driver of the Month for November 2025, Justin Vandermost.

0:17:12, Jeff Vinecourt, ACCESS Manager, recognized the ACCESS Driver of the Month for November 2025, Dawson Krohn.

0:19:34, Cyndi Griffey, Worker/Driver Manager recognized the Worker/Driver of the Month for November 2025, Lindsay Skelly.

- b. January 2026 Report from KT Lobbyist

0:39:47, Kitsap Transit Lobbyist Dylan Doty provided an update on the legislative session, highlighting potential challenges related to transportation funding and the possible need to reallocate or redefine certain project funds.

Board discussion covered the Connecting Washington Plan, a potential sales tax increase, the overall transportation budget, the removal of Pier 48, the Climate Commitment Act, and the Washington Highway Users Federation and its meeting attendance link.

- c. Draft Financial Reports through November 2025
- d. Capital Work in Progress November 2025
- e. Fuel Costs Report through the end of December 2025

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

0:51:12, Councilmember Mockler encouraged Board members to attend a Project Connect event on January 29 to better understand the needs of homeless individuals in the community.

11. ADJOURN: At 11:24 AM, Chairperson Walters adjourned the regular meeting.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 3rd day of February, 2026.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Jackie Bidon

4EE72EA9B81F4B1...
Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board

Signed by:

Katherine T. Walters

300F5805AC21489...

Katherine T. Walters, Chairperson