

KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF March 3, 2026

Board of Commissioners Present:

Driskell, Robert, Teamsters Local No. 589, *non-voting member*
Mockler, Anna, Councilmember, City of Bremerton
Moriwaki, Clarence, Mayor, City of Bainbridge Island, **Vice Chair**
Putansuu, 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

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; Mary Pauly, Human Resources Director; Charlotte Sampson, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board; Paul Shinnars, Finance Director; Nick Zylstra, Marine Services 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/Y5ZA-M-U6biyJHDdsQVnKdbTI1u8WraDCJv7rxBJD46W49Qiq45YJCyMKfNm9vMX.OS_93gjLt1OuXO8U

Passcode: YivC@4*F

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Walters called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 10:31 AM. Kitsap Transit Board members introduced themselves.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

0:01:23, Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

0:01:24, Commissioner Walters shared updates from the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference, highlighting the emphasis on transit as an economic driver and the Federal Highway Administration's efforts to simplify grant applications.

0:02:34, Executive Director Clauson announced the successful award of a \$15 million construction grant from Senator Murray's office for a new training facility, with funding approved for property acquisition and environmental studies underway.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

0:04:46, Executive Director Clauson briefed the Board on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) discussion of several operational matters including video monitor adjustments in coaches, bike rack wheel securement systems, potential assistance with ferry collection processes, and the Seattle Passenger Only Ferry Pier. Operations Director Michael Bozarth gave a presentation on proposed changes in the no-show policy within the ACCESS program and removing some of the sanctions in the current policy. He stated that there was discussion regarding the Board composition review process, and how that works in relation to the law that gives the Board the option to add two additional non-elected positions.

5. CONSENT / ACTION ITEM:

- a. Warrants for January 2026
 - Warrant numbers transit fund 175603 to 175939 of \$4,124,107
 - Warrant numbers ferry fund 609941 to 610035 of \$2,066,147
 - Payroll Account disbursements of \$3,630,314
 - ACH clearing account payments of \$90,542
 - Travel Account Disbursements of \$2,982
 - Purchasing Card Disbursements of \$46,342
- b. Minutes of February 3, 2026

0:08:13, **Mayor Moriwaki moved and Mayor Stern seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Discussion:

None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Resolution No. 26-15, Approve CBA, IAM Local 160 & Teamsters Local 589

0:08:52, Executive Director Clauson presented a resolution requesting authorization to sign the collective bargaining agreement negotiated between Kitsap Transit, Machinists Local 160, and Teamsters Local 589, which represent the majority of the agency's maintenance and inventory control staff. He noted that the three-year agreement aligns wages with market levels and maintains consistency with other represented groups.

Commissioner Root moved and Mayor Moriwaki seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-15, authorizing staff to accept the IAM Local 160 and Teamsters Local 589 Collective Bargaining Agreement for Maintenance Staff effective November 1, 2025.

Discussion:

0:10:43, Teamsters Local 589 representative Robert Driskell reported that negotiations went well. He noted that combining different groups made the process longer, but the parties ultimately reached a fair agreement for both sides.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution No. 26-16, Award KT 25-11 Enetai Hull Fitting

0:12:01, Executive Director Clauson presented a resolution requesting authorization to sign an awarded bid for hull work on the MV *Enetai*. He explained that the project primarily involves replacing a bracket that connects the hull to the water jets. A similar component on another vessel has caused issues, and the necessary replacement part has already been acquired. The *Enetai* has been largely unusable pending this repair, and staff are eager to move it into the yard for completion. The project was put out to bid, and one bid was received from Nichols Brothers on Whidbey Island.

Discussion:

Board discussion involved length of time for the repairs to be completed.

0:13:13, Executive Director Clauson noted that while the exact timeline is difficult to predict, repairs are generally expected to take about thirty days.

Mayor Moriwaki moved and Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-16, authorizing staff to award KT 25-011 M/V Enetai Hull Fitting Replacement to Nichols Brothers Boat Builders in the amount of three hundred fifty-seven thousand eight hundred sixty-nine dollars (\$357,869).

Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Resolution No. 26-17, Approve Bremerton Police Off Duty Services

0:20:05, Executive Director Clauson explained that the resolution authorizes a 13-month intergovernmental agreement with the City of Bremerton for off-duty police services at the Bremerton ferry terminal. The contract, estimated at \$130,438, provides approximately 1,230 hours of service at \$106 per hour and primarily supports maintaining order on the transit deck during afternoon commutes.

Discussion:

0:21:19, Board members discussed whether the officers would be stationed on the dock or on the ferry, whether they would be utilized during World Cup events and if other contracts would be brought before the Board.

0:21:31, Executive Director Clauson stated that officers will primarily be stationed on the dock but may board the ferry when circumstances require it. He added that Kitsap Transit is evaluating additional security measures for the World Cup, including the possibility of deputizing officers from other jurisdictions. Executive Director Clauson shared that this resolution is an annual contract and that he would report to the Board any additional contracts and expenditures that may be required for the FIFA World Cup.

Commissioner Root moved and Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-17, authorizing staff to renew the special services agreement with the City of Bremerton Police Department for a period of one-year (1-year) and one-month (1-month) for after-hours police services at the Bremerton Transportation Center and for other services requested. The contract rate is one hundred six dollars (\$106) an hour for 1,232 (one thousand two hundred thirty-two) police service hours in 2026.

Motion passed unanimously.

- d. Resolution No. 26-18, Approve Rideshare (Vanpool) Vehicle Purchase

0:24:41, Executive Director Clauson presented the resolution authorizing the purchase of up to seven all-wheel drive rideshare vehicles at a total cost of \$321,300.

Councilmember Rosapepe moved and Mayor Stern seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-18, authorizing staff to purchase up to seven (7) all-wheel drive rideshare vehicles at the estimated total cost of three hundred twenty-one thousand three hundred dollars (\$321,300).

Discussion:

None.

Motion passed unanimously.

- e. Resolution No. 26-19, Approve Fuel Monitoring System

0:26:17, Executive Director Clauson requested authorization to proceed with acquiring a new fuel storage management system. He explained that the system will serve the above ground tanks at North Base in Poulsbo and at the Bremerton waterfront, which are used to fuel ferry vessels. The

replacement monitoring system totals \$38,000 and staff is seeking approval to award the contract.

Commissioner Rolfes moved and Commissioner Root seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-19, authorizing staff to purchase a new OPW fuel tank monitoring system for the North Base facility and BTC locations in the amount of thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$38,000).

Discussion:

None.

Motion passed unanimously.

- f. Resolution No. 26-20, Approve Transit Driver Appreciation Day

0:2:09, Executive Director Clauson presented the annual resolution recognizing the official start of public transit, historically recorded as March 18, 1662, in Paris, France. He noted that the proclamation provides an opportunity to honor transit operators, with a particular focus on driver appreciation. Adoption of the proclamation will help raise community awareness and encourage the public to thank their bus drivers for the important work they do every day, especially during this week in March.

Commissioner Root moved and Mayor Moriwaki seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-20, proclaiming March 18th, 2026, as Transit Driver Appreciation Day in Kitsap County.

Discussion:

0:29:52, Commissioner Rolfes encouraged Board members to find the driver on the route nearest their home on March 18, thank them, and report back to the Board.

0:30:21, Board members noted the consistently high number of different drivers recognized for safety and performance awards, reflecting both strong internal mentoring and the overall quality of the operator workforce. They remarked on the competitive nature of these honors and expressed appreciation for the drivers' ongoing service to the community. One member added that a single day of recognition hardly seems sufficient given their contributions and accepted the challenge to thank a driver on March 18.

Motion passed unanimously.

- g. Resolution No. 26-21, Approve Kitsap Transit Surplus 2026

0:32:29, Executive Director Clauson requested authorization to surplus several older vehicles,

parts, and miscellaneous equipment no longer needed by the agency. He noted that outdated ticket-vending machines will be transferred to King County Metro for parts. He added that some cutaway vehicles may be retained temporarily to ensure sufficient fleet capacity during the World Cup. Clauson explained that many of the surplus vehicles include older MCI buses previously used in the Worker/Driver program. These have been replaced through a combination of new electric buses and refurbished routed buses that Kitsap Transit's maintenance team has successfully repurposed for commuter service. This combination of new and rehabilitated vehicles has created the current surplus.

Discussion:

0:34:33, Mayor Moriwaki asked whether there was an estimate of the revenue that might be generated from vehicle and equipment sales, noting that some items would be auctioned while others could be sold to government agencies or nonprofits.

0:34:46, Executive Director Clauson explained that the revenue from surplus vehicles varies depending on the type, size, and mileage of each unit. For nonprofit transfers, Kitsap Transit uses the vehicle's low Blue Book value as the sale price. He estimated that larger buses typically bring in approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000, while vans—given their broader market—may generate somewhat higher amounts.

Mayor Moriwaki moved and Councilmember Rosapepe seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-21, authorizing staff to surplus Kitsap Transit vehicles, equipment, and parts shown in Exhibit A, in the best interest of the Agency.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

0:37:04, Executive Director Clauson updated the Board on operator recruitment, reporting that the agency currently has 137 operators and is working toward a goal of 152 to support World Cup service.

He also briefed the Board on potential IRS credits related to electric bus acquisitions, noting that legal counsel has indicated Kitsap Transit may be eligible to claim credits for the full cost of the buses rather than only the unfunded portion. Staff are conducting due diligence on this opportunity, and the attorney has offered to work on a contingency basis.

Executive Director Clauson reported that staff have begun moving into the newly available Harborside third-floor office space, with IT successfully integrating the area into the agency's network and phone system.

0:41:39, Mayor Wheeler noted the recent launch of the West Bremerton Express Route 238 and requested a future report on its performance. He emphasized that the route is a key strategy for

reducing congestion and parking challenges in downtown Bremerton and expressed interest in learning more about its current frequency and potential for future expansion.

0:42:35, Executive Director Clauson reported that the route primarily operates during commute hours due to its design. Beginning at 6th and Montgomery, the service shifts to Burwell to allow stops at the State Street Gate, the Park Street Tunnel, the west end of the shipyard, and the ferry terminal. The current schedule is focused on moving commuters from outlying parking areas into the downtown core, helping reduce congestion during peak travel times.

0:43:30, Mayor Wheeler followed up, stating the infrastructure is now in place to move people who are not commuters into the downtown area for the Fan Zone.

0:44:05, Executive Director Clauson shared that during the Seahawks parade, staff anticipated unusually high demand and prepared an additional route to support access to downtown. The route originated at the McWilliams Park & Ride on Bremerton's east side, continued to the East Bremerton Park & Ride and transit center, and then proceeded into downtown. This approach was intended to give attendees the option to park at remote lots and use transit to reach the event area during peak demand periods.

0:44:59, Executive Director Clauson Kitsap updated the Board on a legislative effort regarding free transportation for community college and technical school students, noting that while the bill died, a proviso was included in the House Transportation Budget to provide funding for a pilot program, with Kitsap Transit receiving \$200,000-\$250,000.

0:47:11, Board discussion included collecting data and discussing a potential student transit pass program, similar to the UPass system, which would allow Olympic College students to access local bus and ferry services at no additional cost, with funding details to be determined after the current state demonstration project ends.

8. STAFF RECOGNITION / PROGRESS REPORTS

a. Recognize Drivers of the Month for January 2026 (10:45 AM)

0:14:45, Jeff Vinecourt, *ACCESS* Manager, recognized the *ACCESS* Driver of the Month for January 2026, Alex Van Ausdall.

0:16:29, Jeff Vinecourt, *ACCESS* Manager, recognized the Routed Driver of the Month for January 2026, Jeff Cushnyr.

0:19:14, Jeff Vinecourt, *ACCESS* Manager, recognized the Worker/Driver of the Month for January 2026, Rachele Westcott.

b. 4th Quarter 2025 System Performance Reports

0:52:43, Mayor Moriwaki acknowledged the increase in ridership reflected in the System

Performance Reports, noting it as a positive indication that more community members are utilizing transit services.

- c. 4th Quarter 2025 Financial Report Transit and Ferry
- d. Draft Financial Reports through January 2026
- e. Report from Kitsap Transit State Lobbyist February 2026
- f. Capital Work in Progress January 2026
- g. Fuel Costs Report through the end of February 2026

0:53:37, Commissioner Rolfes observed that fuel cost reports show the budgeted amount exceeding actual expenditures at the start of the year, providing some flexibility to absorb the recent price increase.

0:53:47, Executive Director Clauson confirmed that the fuel budget includes a cushion, noting that fuel stabilization funds are available if costs exceed the budgeted amount. He added that the agency may not need to draw from that account, but it is reassuring to have it in place. He further explained that the importance of fuel stabilization became clear several years ago when fuel prices rose sharply. Although higher fuel costs typically lead to increased ridership as more people turn to transit, the agency was unable to expand service at that time because its own fuel expenses increased simultaneously, resulting instead in service reductions. He stated that this experience underscored the need for a stabilization fund, ensuring that when fuel prices rise and community demand for transit grows, the agency is able to respond effectively.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:55:09, Clerk of the Board Jackie Bidon read an email submitted by Hansville resident Larry Carbaugh. His comments addressed the limited availability of transit service in the Hansville area and included a request for expanded service beyond the current level.

0:56:19, Discussion addressed concerns regarding transportation access in the Hansville area. Executive Director Clauson noted that while limited service is available, it is primarily designed to serve ADA eligible passengers, and is over and above what is required under the ADA law, which is three quarters of a mile on either side of a fixed route. He added that commuter service is available as well.

10. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

0:57:56, Mayor Stern requested an update on the construction of the new facility in North Kitsap.

0:58:17, Executive Director Clauson provided updates on the North Kitsap Transit Center and Maintenance Facility construction project, noting that design documents are complete and ready for bidding, pending FDA funding approval.

11. ADJOURN: At 11:33 AM, Chairperson Walters adjourned the regular meeting.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 5th day of May, 2026.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
Jackie Bidon
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Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board

Signed by:
Katherine T. Walters
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Katherine T. Walters, Chairperson

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Received by the Clerk of the Board

**Presented at the Kitsap Transit Board of
Commissioners Meeting March 3, 2026**

John Clauson

From: Christine Rolfes <CRolfes@kitsap.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 5:43 PM
To: John Clauson
Cc: Charlotte Sampson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Transportation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

John - another request from Hansville. Could someone send Mr. Carbaugh the information about Access, and could his email be included as public comment? He approved that in a separate exchange.

From: Larry Carbaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 2:05 PM
To: Christine Rolfes <CRolfes@kitsap.gov>
Subject: Transportation

I recently found out my health is failing, and I may need transportation to and from a kidney center 3 times a week.

I drove Kitsap Transit buses for 27 years and picked up many Hansville residents during that time. To my dismay Kitsap Transit does not service the Hansville area, yet we all pay taxes for the transit agency.

Not sure what we can do to get those folks transportation when needed.

Access to Hansville is available on a limited basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays during limited hours. I pray you can help restore service for those of us in need.

--

Larry Carbaugh - [REDACTED]
Hansville, WA 98340