



# City of Longview

Cowlitz Transit Authority  
Agenda  
RiverCities Transit

## Minutes Cowlitz Transit Authority

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Wednesday, November 18, 2015

4:00 PM

Longview Council Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair McDaniel at approximately 4:00 pm in the Longview Council Chambers.

### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Chairman Todd McDaniel, Rick Roberson, Anthony Harris (nonvoting member), Don Jensen and Michael Karnofski

**Excused:** 3 - Mary Jane Melink, Gary Schimmel and Dennis Weber

#### Staff Present

Amy Asher, City of Longview  
Jeff Cameron, City of Longview  
Brad Windler, City of Longview  
Ben Nolen, City of Longview  
Tabitha Hayden, City of Longview

#### Others Present

Betsy DeSpain, Paratransit Services  
Judith Donovan, CWOOG

### 3. Constituent Comments

None.

### 4. Consideration of Minutes

On a motion from Jensen, seconded by Roberson, the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 14, 2015, were unanimously approved.

### 5. Consent Calendar

On a motion from Roberson, seconded by Jensen, the items on the consent calendar were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

2015 Annual Ridership

2015 October Fixed Route Ridership

2015 October Paratransit Ridership

September 2015 County Treasurer's Report

September 2015 CTA Fund Balance Report

**6. Consideration of Invoices**

On a motion from Jensen, seconded by Roberson all invoices were approved for payment. The motion carried unanimously.

Invoice - City of Kelso \$578.88

Invoice - City of Longview \$280,289.92

Invoice - Columbia Security \$520

Invoice - TCF Architecture \$4052.50

**7. Establish Public Hearing - 2016 Cowlitz Transit Authority Budget**

A motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Karnofski, to hold a public hearing at the December 9th Cowlitz Transit Authority Board meeting to receive citizen comment on the 2016 Cowlitz Transit Authority Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Establish Public Hearing for 2016 Cowlitz Transit Authority Budget

**8. Presentation on Fare Increase Proposal**

Windler provided a presentation on current RiverCities Transit fares with a comparison to similarly sized agencies. He concluded with a revised fare increase proposal based on citizen input received during the public outreach process.

RiverCities Transit Revised Fare Proposal Presentation

## 9. Public Hearing - Multi Year Fare Increase

McDaniel opened the Public Hearing for citizen comment on the proposed fare increase at 4:32 pm.

David Hammond of Longview asked to board to consider a monthly pass of \$12, which would be comparable with other agencies.

Mary Ferrera of Longview stated she is on a fixed income and that the punch card option would not go far enough. She recognized the need for a fare increase; however there is also a need for a monthly pass.

Ulah Sloane of Longview would like to continue to be able to buy quarterly and annual passes. She asked the board to please have consideration of those on low fixed incomes.

Kathy Dixon of Kelso said that she understands the need for a fare increase and likes the idea of a punch card. She is worried that it will not meet all her transportation needs and that she would have to choose between appointments.

Dean Linn of Longview spoke to the board saying that he accepts that we need to stay up with the times. The punch card is a good idea however a monthly or a quarterly pass should be offered to those who ride paratransit.

Lori Piper of Longview said her main concern is how Medical Transport would purchase her transportation for Paratransit if there is no pass offered. She feels forced to use Medical Transport which takes 30 minutes or more to arrange a ride. She agrees that there is a need for an increase, taking the passes away is a hardship.

Cynthia Blanchard of Longview told the board that the part that concerns her is she will have to choose between rides. She thinks that the monthly pass is a better option and she is willing to pay a little more.

Lucy Meyer of Longview works with Developmental Disabilities Administration and represents a lot of folks that earn \$733 a month. It is important that they stay involved in their communities. A dollar a ride is really going to limit their ability to be involved. She asked the board to consider a sliding scale fee.

Connie Bartold of Longview thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. She said that she is grateful for the LIFT transportation option. She says that paying fares with a punch card or with money would be an added stress and burden therefore discouraging people from getting out. She is also worried about persons with disabilities becoming stranded running about of punches or money for trips. She brought up that the population we serve are a target for criminals and that having a monthly pass reduces the need to carry money avoiding the criminal element.

With no other citizens wanting to address the board, McDaniel closed the hearing at 4:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Roberson to accept the fare

increase as proposed by staff. Karnofski moved to amend the motion to include a monthly pass of \$15 for RiverCities LIFT, Roberson seconded the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously. The Board then voted on the motion, which passed unanimously.

## 10. Manger's Report

October sales tax is down slightly compared to October of 2014 however for the year we are still up 4.5%. Ridership on fix route is up 7.5%. RiverCities had a service change on October 19th and folks tend to like to get out and look at the service changes. We have seen an increase in ridership on the Route 57 which goes between Kelso and Longview similar to the very popular Route 45.

RiverCities has two new staff members. Ben Nolen started Monday, as the Mobility Supervisor. His first focus will be the Van Pool program. He will also be managing our ADA eligibility program, mobility management program and doing marketing and community outreach.

Michael Richards started with RiverCities on the first of November as the Transit Facility Technichian/Customer Service Technician. His responsibilities include maintaining the shelters, and customer service at the Transit Center. He will start working at the Transit Center on Saturdays so that we have customer service over the weekend.

## 11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

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Tabitha Hayden, Clerk of the Authority

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Todd McDaniel, Chairman