

## **KITSAP TRANSIT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES OF September 17, 2024**

### **Board of Commissioners Present:**

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

Erickson, Becky, Mayor, City of Poulsbo- *Virtual*

Garrido, Charlotte, Kitsap County Commissioner

Mockler, Anna, Councilmember, City of Bremerton - *Absent*

Moriwaki, Clarence, Councilmember, City of Bainbridge Island

Putansuu, Robert, Mayor, City of Port Orchard, **Vice Chair**

Rolfes, Christine, Kitsap County Commissioner

Stern, Ed, Councilmember, City of Poulsbo - *Virtual*

Walters, Katie, Kitsap County Commissioner

Wheeler, Greg, Mayor, City of Bremerton, **Chair**

### **Staff Present:**

Sanjay Bhatt, Marketing & Public Information Director; Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board, Public Records Officer; John Clauson, Executive Director; Dennis Griffey, Vehicle and Facilities Maintenance Director; Steffani Lillie, Service and Capital Development Director; Mary Pauly, Human Resources Director; Raymond Scott, Marine Services Director; Crystal Culbertson, Admin. Associate 3

**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/ubyHQxLYC6vmO9iy\\_T1W3WeOK7nTa0gLFowO9b71aouQNIX3bZK9OCVA-VGUgK5g.PPu4KYzEyihMeI7I?startTime=1726586468000](https://kitsaptransit.zoom.us/rec/share/ubyHQxLYC6vmO9iy_T1W3WeOK7nTa0gLFowO9b71aouQNIX3bZK9OCVA-VGUgK5g.PPu4KYzEyihMeI7I?startTime=1726586468000) Passcode: 1r48@86n

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Wheeler called the meeting of the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners to order at 8:30 AM.

### **2. AGENDA REVIEW**

Upon review by the Board, the agenda remained unchanged.

### **3. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

0:01:32, Mayor Wheeler shared that he would like to maintain focus during this meeting as there is a state transportation meeting that Board members may be attending following this meeting.

### **4. FULL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

a. Resolution 24-62, Approve to Delegate Authority for KT 24-925

0:02:02, Executive Director Clauson noted a correction to the resolution number, clarifying that the appropriate designation is Resolution No. 24-62, which serves to rectify a prior error. He reported that both the MV Enetai and MV Commander vessels are currently out of service due to the need for significant component replacements. While the initial repair estimate was below \$500,000, actual costs have since surpassed that amount.

Executive Director Clauson requested Board approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the necessary repairs and to delegate contract award authority to him, contingent upon concurrence from the Board Chair. The intent is to finalize the contract and commence repairs prior to the October 22nd Board meeting.

**Discussion:**

0:05:42, Board members engaged in discussion regarding the anticipated price range for the vessel repairs and considered whether a financial cap should be established. It was agreed that the Executive Director would notify the Board if the final cost exceeds the budgeted amount, ensuring transparency and oversight throughout the procurement process.

0:10:27, **Mayor Putansuu moved and Commissioner Rolfes seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-62, acknowledging the approval of the issuing of IFB KT 24-925, M/V Commander Repairs, and approving the delegation of authority to Kitsap Transit's Executive Director to award IFB KT 24-925 with consultation and concurrence from the Kitsap Transit Board of Commissioners Chairperson.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

b. Bremerton Yacht Club 2024 Santa Cruise December 07, 2024

0:13:21, Executive Director Clauson announced that the Bremerton Yacht Club's 2024 Santa Cruise is scheduled for December 7, 2024. He provided a brief overview of the event's history, noting its strong community participation and long-standing tradition, and informed the Board that Kitsap Transit is slated to operate the ferry service for this year's cruise. He noted that in previous years, other contractors had generously donated their services for the event. Accordingly, he requested that the Board consider whether Kitsap Transit should similarly donate its services for the 2024 Santa Cruise.

**Discussion:**

0:15:26, Board members discussed the implications of continuing to offer ferry service for the Santa Cruise at no cost. Concerns were raised that doing so could set a precedent, potentially encouraging other non-profit organizations to request and expect similar complimentary services.

The Board reviewed the number of years the Santa Cruise has operated with donated service, acknowledging its status as a long-standing community tradition. Members considered existing policy criteria, the cost of providing services, and whether the event should be grandfathered into current policy guidelines. The discussion also included a review of the history and cost of other chartered events, to provide context for evaluating consistency and fairness in service donations.

*0:15:46*, Executive Director Clauson stated that this service has been donated for at least 10 years, since Kitsap Transit assumed the operation.

*0:25:10*, Board members agreed to Kitsap Transit donating its services for the 2024 Santa Cruise on December 07, 2024.

c. Kitsap Transit Training Facility

*0:25:17*, Executive Director Clauson shared that Kitsap Transit is in the first phase of identifying where the facility site location will be.

*0:26:01*, Peter Battuello of Perteet shared the ongoing process of identifying a suitable site for a new training facility. The Perteet team of Peter Battuello, Kern McGee and Nicholas Mira presented their findings from the alternative analysis and site selection process. They discussed the criteria used to narrow down potential sites, including size, zoning, and developability. They presented a detailed analysis of the top 10 sites, ranking them based on various factors such as acquisition time, functionality, and development risks. Two preferred locations were identified for further consideration; site one is location 28, Puget Sound Industrial Center and site two is location 8, Elks Lodge Property on Pine Road, Bremerton.

The Perteet team shared their public outreach plans in seeking feedback on the selection process, an online open house and survey September 17<sup>th</sup> to October 18<sup>th</sup>, promotion via mailed postcard and Kitsap Transit email and social media.

**Discussion:**

Board discussion included zoning, locations, property owner outreach, utilities, concern about the Elks Lodge listed as a preferred property, Federal funding, NEPA, Federal process, hours of training at the facility, public outreach, and redevelopment of empty parcels in Silverdale.

d. Energy Resilience Policy Discussion

*1:00:18*, Executive Director Clauson stated the Board's interest in development of an energy resiliency policy for the acquisition of vehicles. He acknowledged the challenges of transitioning to 100% zero emission vehicles due to current industry limitations and the need for service restructuring. He spoke to the other vehicles that Kitsap Transit uses, and the ongoing conversion of the fleet to propane. The remaining diesel vehicles are using 100% renewable diesel and the ferries are using renewable diesel. He mentioned that they are exploring the feasibility of a portion

of the fleet being powered by a hydrogen fuel cell. Clauson shared that he is seeking the Board's ideas and thoughts as they develop this policy.

**Discussion:**

*1:07:39*, Board discussion included premature adaptation of new technologies vs. proven technology, energy efficient facilities, solar power, power grid challenges and backup plans and emergency preparedness.

*1:11:00*, Executive Director Clauson shared that the agency has had success with purchasing the Gillig electric buses, but there are challenges in implementing the high-speed battery electric hydrofoil technology. He stated that the agency is exploring solar power and battery farms as potential solutions in the event of primary energy source loss.

e. Scope of Work, Intra-County Ferry Feasibility Study

*1:16:28*, Executive Director Clauson updated the Board on the status of the Intra-County Ferry Feasibility Study. Kitsap Transit is working on the scope of work with the consultant to start the study and to get the funds obligated as soon as possible.

**Discussion:**

*1:17:45*, Board discussion included counties the study would involve, reliability of ferry service, and a shift from fast ferries to slower foot ferries.

Executive Director Clauson shared that the Intra-County Ferry Feasibility Study includes Kitsap County. He agreed to have slower foot ferries considered in the scope of work for the study.

**5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS**

*1:25:55*, Executive Director Clauson shared the concept of hiring a resource to expedite project reviews with NOAA and the National Marine Fishery Service. He requested each jurisdiction to reach out to staff for a resource that might be shared.

He stated that Kitsap Transit has secured a grant in the amount of \$13.5 million as funding for a new vessel and for electrical infrastructure. With this grant, \$4 million will be needed for the local match.

Executive Director Clauson shared a copy of the mailer that addresses local impacts of I-2117 and will be mailed out to the community.

In closing, he reported that Kitsap Transit has continued to hold the certification of ISO 14001. These are international standards for dealing with environmental sustainability.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Email received from Robert Swan regarding driver union contract. Distributed to Board members at the meeting.

**7. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None at this time.

**8. ADJOURN:** At 10:02 AM, Chairperson Wheeler adjourned the regular meeting.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Kitsap Transit at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2025.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:  
*Jackie Bidon*  
4EE72EA9B81F4B1...  
Jackie Bidon, Clerk of the Board

Signed by:  
*Rob Putaansuu*  
3B96492E3F5847D...  
Rob Putaansuu, Chairperson

# **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**September 17, 2024**

## Jackie Bidon

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**From:** Robert swan <robertswan468@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 5:15 PM  
**To:** Jackie Bidon  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Questions for board meeting 9-17-2024.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Why are you not dealing with the drivers raises again your playing with the lives of the people who are doing the job. Kitsap transit screws the drivers over on their raises all the time. Management , office workers and you politicians all receive your overinflated pay raises on time, and waste our tax dollars in many ways. Why do drivers have to deal with the games you play with their lives. It's bad enough the work environment is lacking big time very poor work environment. WHERE ARE THE DRIVERS RAISES? THE DRIVERS NEED THEM NOW WITH BACK PAY NOW. Also we all know you hide questions or round file the ones you don't want to deal with. The reason you can't keep drivers is your continually messing with pay and bonuses.

PLEASE DEAL WITH THIS NOW.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ HOPEFULLY YOU WILL LISTEN FINELY.