



**C-TRAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**April 15, 2022**

The C-TRAN Board of Directors Workshop was held Friday, April 15, 2022 at The Heathman Lodge, Chinook/Klickitat Rooms, 7801 NE Greenwood Drive, Vancouver, WA 98662. The meeting was also available via WebEx.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Temple Lentz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Greg Anderson – City of Camas, Jim Bennett - Labor Representative, Karen Bowerman – Clark County Council (WebEx), Molly Coston – City of Washougal, Bart Hansen – City of Vancouver, Kim Harless – City of Vancouver, Philip Johnson – City of Battle Ground, Temple Lentz – Clark County Council, Ron Onslow (joined at 9:01 a.m.) – Cities of La Center and Ridgefield and Town of Yacolt (WebEx), Ty Stober – City of Vancouver

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chief Executive Officer Shawn Donaghy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Monica Tellez-Fowler, Chief Capital Projects & Planning Officer Scott Patterson, Chief Human Resources & Safety Officer Laura Merry, Chief Operations Officer Inessa Vitko, Legal Counsel Aaron Millstein, IT Specialist Mauricio Lopez, Executive Office Manager/Clerk of the Board Debbie Jermann

**WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF AGENDA**

Chair Lentz welcomed the participants and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shawn Donaghy reviewed the workshop agenda.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO) Monica Tellez-Fowler, presented the update as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation, attached to these minutes as **Exhibit A**.

Board Member Ty Stober how the range of sales tax analysis is determined.

DCEO Tellez-Fowler said a safe number that will reflect a long-term trend is used.

Board Member Philip Johnson said given the current sales tax revenue vs. operating expense trends, will staff change their projections for future budgets.

CEO Donaghy, said no, as staff believes the sales tax revenue will normalize.

DCEO Tellez-Fowler added that while staff anticipates sales tax revenue will level off, it is not anticipated it will dip to recession rates.

Board Member Anne McEnery-Ogle asked if staff can provide ridership data and expense cost for providing free passes for youth, veterans, and refugees.

CEO Donaghy said the benefits of the free passes outweigh the cost to provide the service.

Board Member Bart Hansen said the recipients of free passes are riding on current routes, so no additional service was necessary

DCEO Tellez-Fowler said she will prepare some data for the Board regarding the free pass programs.

*Ron Onslow joined the meeting at 9:01 a.m.*

Board Member Johnson asked how much stimulus funding was granted to C-TRAN.

DCEO Tellez-Fowler said \$37 million.

Board Member Johnson asked how much fare evasion occurs on The Vine.

DCEO Tellez-Fowler said during the pandemic, rear door boarding resulted in free fares; however, many riders chose to still pay the fare.

Board Member Jim Bennett said he would estimate 95 percent of riders pay the fare, and noted that fare enforcement is a usual presence on The Vine.

Chair Lentz said staff will prepare additional information for the Board on the impacts and benefits of the free pass programs, and encouraged C-TRAN to continue growing the communications to the public on the programs.

Board Member Hansen asked if C-TRAN has adequate reserves.

DCEO Tellez-Fowler said C-TRAN's minimum reserves are set by Board Policy, and the agency is well equipped and positioned in a manner that allows changes based on economic outlook.

### **MILL PLAIN/99<sup>TH</sup> STREET BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) PROJECTS UPDATE**

Chief Capital Projects & Planning Officer Scott Patterson, provided the update as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation, attached to these minutes as **Exhibit B**.

Board Member Stober questioned the use of a “bulb-out” on Washington Street without policy maker input, and questioned how difficult it would be to remove the bulb-out.

Chief Officer Patterson said it could be removed with minimal impact.

CEO Donaghy agreed the impact was minimal and apologized for the miscommunication with policy makers.

Board Member Greg Anderson asked if the Board will be provided ridership gains estimates and on time performance data for Highway 99 prior to selecting the locally preferred alternative (LPA).

Chief Officer Patterson said yes, adding that staff will also be able to share ridership gain data from The Vine on Fourth Plain and will have some initial Mill Plain BRT data available.

Board Member Johnson said Highway 99 is not very pedestrian friendly, and asked if C-TRAN will partner with other entities on access to transit.

Chief Officer Patterson noted Clark County has made some significant improvement to the corridor, and will work with the County on additional improvements for walkability.

CEO Donaghy said it was not anticipated that a BRT route on Highway 99 would be feasible prior to 2030; however, it is important to address how to link North County to the rest of the transit grid.

Board Member Hansen said it will be important to provide transit to the affordable housing and density located on the Highway 99 corridor.

CEO Donaghy said connectivity to all three college campuses, plus east/west service for Battle Ground is also important.

Regarding the expansion of the Fourth Plain BRT line, Board Member Stober asked why the service will not route to the Fisher’s Landing Transit Center (FLTC).

CEO Donaghy said a loop to FLTC is an option.

*Chair Lentz called a 10 minute recess at 9:56 a.m.*

*Chair Lentz reconvened the Workshop at 10:08 a.m.*

**INTERSTATE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (IBR) UPDATE**

CEO Donaghy provided the update as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation, attached to these minutes as **Exhibit C**.

Board Member Stober said Oregon’s match cannot be congestion pricing.

Board Member Hansen said as a transit rider, he needs convenient transfer points rather than a place to park his car.

CEO Donaghy said park and rides need to be located on the periphery, allowing riders to get to the transfer points.

Chair Lentz thanked C-TRAN staff for being in all of the IBR conversations and feels that C-TRAN has a handle on what SW Washington wants and needs.

Board Member Stober said the attempt to place a park and ride in downtown Vancouver is an attempt to make Vancouver a suburban city.

### **2030 PLAN REVIEW**

CEO Donaghy provided the review, as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation, attached to these minutes as **Exhibit D**.

Board Member Johnson asked what the capacity is for electric vehicles.

CEO Donaghy said C-TRAN is trying to determine the capacity based on current transformers.

DCEO Tellez-Fowler added that the recent Board approval for an alternative fuels analysis will answer many questions, and it could be that a mix of alternative fuel vehicles is recommended. The analysis will also set parameters to satisfy the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grant requirements.

The Board Members provided input on what they would like to see considered for the future of C-TRAN:

#### **Infrastructure:**

- Electronic Vehicle charging stations at park and rides
  - Fee based on complimentary?
  - Use of bus pass to activate charging station?
- Pedestrian access to transit; ease of loading bikes on buses
- Bus Stops
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
- Traffic Signal Priority (TSP)
- No Smart Parks

#### **Service:**

- BRT North; BRT Service to Battle Ground
- Better West Side Service

- Connections to tourism; circulator
  - River Cruise
  - Lake Access
  - Downtown circulator
  - Parks & Recreation
- Outreach/Education of service and viability/ease; emphasis that service is for everybody
- More service to Camas, Washougal, and North County
- Fixed Route connections to BRT
- More Aggressive recruitment outreach; skill center and technical school visits; need a stronger workforce to support service expansion

**Miscellaneous:**

- Emergency plan; in final review stage
- City of Vancouver Climate Plan w/C-TRAN; make sure it does not take longer to walk to transit than it does to get in your car and drive to a destination
- Rethinking intermodal (i.e. bike loading)
- Wi-Fi on buses
- Multi-fuel options
- Interconnectivity between service
  - Electric scooter, bike, etc.
  - Multimodal lanes
- Mobile crisis plans
- Mental Health Training for employees
- In-reach for workforce/internships
- Board Workshop to take in-depth look at stakeholder survey results

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Prepared By: Clerk of the Board Debbie Jermann, MMC