

**MINUTES
LINK TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 18, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Columbia Station 3rd Floor, 300 South Columbia Street, Wenatchee, WA

ATTENDANCE

Board members attending in person: Chair Marc Straub, Kevin Overbay, Joyce Huber, Jim Fletcher, Tiffany Gering, Paul Parmley, Rob Tidd, Kyle Steinburg, Randy Agnew, Mike Kulaas

Board members attending through ZOOM on-line internet program: Anne Hessburg, Bob Goedde

Absent/Excused: Clay Brandenburg

Link Transit Staff: Richard DeRock, Nick Covey, Ed Archer, Eric West, Brenda Lamb, Justin Brockwell, Selina Danko, Ron Hatton, Samantha Miller, Ramon Cox, Jim Therien, Jennifer Therien, Gary Robledo, Shawn Larson, Ramon Cox, Gabby Walker, Julie Shipman, Eric West

Members of the public (in person): Maria Hansen, Paul Schmidt, Juanita Ruhnke, Dominick Bonny, Jerrilea Crawford, Shon Smith, Aaron Young, Russell J. Speidel

Members of the public (online): Matthew Sutherland, Christopher Carlson, Justin Leighton

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marc Straub called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. A quorum was established with 12 board members present at that time.

2. BOARD ACTION

Chair Straub asked for approval of the agenda with the following changes:

- Move Item 5.3 (CEO's Report) to Item 7.05
- Move item 6.4 (Second Tenth Ballot Measure Repeal Discussion) to 6.05 in advance of item 6.1

Jim Fletcher moved to approve the agenda with the suggested changes
Randy Agnew seconded the motion

VOTE: Motion carried 10-1 with Rob Tidd voting against.

3. BOARD MEMBER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No board members declared a conflict with agenda items.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following community members offered comment for the record:

Juanita Ruhnke commended Link Transit for its Link Plus and other services and for the stellar work of Link Transit employees

Paul Schmidt (Chelan County) expressed interest in learning how Link Transit measures utilization of the system.

Christopher Carlson (Chelan County) expressed concerns about the potential negative consequences to a board decision that could impact Link Transit's ability to collect the second tenth sales tax increase approved by voters in 2019. Carlson also asked the board to consider options beyond Sprung Structure technology in potential capital building projects.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were submitted for approval:

4.1 Minutes of the June 20, 2023 board meeting

4.2 Accounts Payable Vouchers from June 1-30, 2023 totaling \$3,360,582.87

4.3 Payroll Vouchers from June 1-30, totaling \$706,303.78

Board Action:

Mark Kulaas noted a correction to the minutes in action item number 6.2. The board action should reference the "East Wenatchee Park & Ride Project."

Joyce Huber moved to approve all Consent Agenda business items as presented.

Kevin Overbay seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor with 11 voting board members present for this vote.

Motion Carried Unanimously

5. BOARD ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Chair Straub presented the following awards and recognitions:

a. Ramon Cox was presented with a High Five award for the actions he took to protect a guest on the system.

b. Brenda Lamb (retirement) was recognized for 29 years of service to the organization.

c. Retiring CEO Richard DeRock was recognized for 21 years of leadership at Link Transit.

d. Proclamation 2023-01 recognizing the achievements of outgoing CEO Richard DeRock was presented to the board for approval.

Board Action:

Joyce Huber moved to approve Proclamation 2023-01 honoring outgoing CEO

Richard DeRock

Kyle Steinburg seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor with 11 voting board members present for this vote.

Motion Carried Unanimously

5.2 General Board Member Jurisdictional Updates & Reports

Randy Agnew reported that Link Transit's shuttle service from city parking areas to the Rock Island Rockfest activities at the Rock Island Golf Course was a success and applauded the Link Transit staff involved in providing the shuttle service.

ROADEO maintenance team recognition: The Link Transit Roadeo Maintenance team of Gary Robledo, John Therien and Humberto Espinoza were recognized for achieving

third place at the recent regional maintenance Rodeo competition which qualifies them to advance to the state level. Operations Supervisor Jennifer Therien was recognized for her organization of Link Transit's Rodeo competition and teams. Maintenance Trainer Jeff Belauro was recognized for his role as coach for the team.

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

6.05 Second tenth ballot measure repeal discussion

Chair Straub indicated he added the agenda item after hearing interest from other board members to discuss the issue. He noted that the deadline to have a ballot measure presented to the voters for the November 2023 general election is Aug. 1.

Public comment was received from several community members:

Maria Hansen (Chelan County) expressed her support for public transportation and how it has helped her family get to work and school activities. She noted the increased cost of living in the Wenatchee Valley makes having access to public transportation essential.

Paul Schmidt (Chelan County) said he would like to see more people riding the system and supports the idea of putting the question back to the voters.

Aaron Young (Chelan County) said he felt that it was reasonable to ask the public if it continues to support the vision brought to the voters in the 2019 sales tax measure.

Juanita Ruhnke complimented staff for their professionalism and encouraged collaboration with other agencies to provide access to services.

Matthew Sutherland (King County), Advocacy Director for the Transportation Choices Coalition, a statewide advocacy group working to advocate for safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation in Washington, urged the board to consider the consequences of a potential sales tax repeal including ineligibility for certain state grants. He also urged the board to revisit staff reporting on the impact of a repeal on the long-term financial health of the agency.

Christopher Carlson (Chelan County) offered his expertise as an architect to support Link Transit projects.

Justin Leighton, Washington State Transit Association Executive Director, urged the board to keep in mind the consequences of losing eligibility for state grants. He cautioned the board that financial windfalls related to Covid funding were one-time funding sources that will not continue. He also asked the board to consider the potential market fluctuations in sales tax revenue as a funding source.

Mr. Russell Speidel (Chelan County, and the chair of the 2019 Link Transit sales tax increase campaign to increase Link Transit service) asked the board to consider the significant support for the initiative in Chelan County and that the initiative passed in both Chelan and Douglas County. He said that while Link Transit ridership has room to improve, it was important for the board to consider investment in public transportation in the long term as an important community asset. He urged the board to retain the past initiative passed by the voters in 2019.

Jerrilea Crawford (Douglas County & East Wenatchee mayor) commended the outreach that was done before the vote in 2019 and complimented the board on their efforts to gather feedback from the community and put forth something on the ballot that the community said it wanted. She urged the board to continue the work of finding ways to accomplish the goals set forth in the initiative.

Following the public comment period, members of the board discussed the idea of taking the repeal of the second tenth to the voters as a way for citizens to evaluate the performance of Link Transit service related to the sales tax increase. Concerns were raised regarding the timing of the agenda item and the ability of staff and legal to answer important questions and prepare documents necessary for a November ballot measure.

Board Action:

Kyle Steinburg moved to table the second tenth ballot measure repeal discussion until March 2024 at which time the board will evaluate whether Link has met its benchmarks and determine at that point whether the Link Transit Board of Directors wants to bring a ballot initiative to the November 2024 general election and further moved there shall be no bond tied to the second tenth of percent during that table period.

Randy Agnew seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Motion Carried with seven board members in favor and three opposed.

<i>Votes in Favor</i>	<i>Opposed</i>
<i>Joyce Huber</i>	<i>Rob Tidd</i>
<i>Rand Agnew</i>	<i>Mark Kulaas</i>
<i>Bob Goedde</i>	<i>Anne Hessburg</i>
<i>Jim Fletcher</i>	
<i>Tiffany Gering</i>	
<i>Kevin Overbay</i>	
<i>Kyle Steinburg</i>	

6.1 Items a-d Resolutions 2023-16 through 2023-19 are updates to existing Link Transit resolutions related to the transfer of authority to the new Link Transit CEO. Nick Covey's assumption of the CEO duties requires formal transfer and delegation of specific authorities.

Board Action:

Mark Kulaas moved to adopt Resolution 2023-16, transferring authority to the new Chief Executive Officer; Resolution 2023-17, designating a voting representative and an alternate to the Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council; Resolution 2023-18, authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration; and Resolution 2023-19, authorizing and establishing Link Transit bank account staff signature authorities.

Joyce Huber seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor with 10 voting board members present for this vote.

Motion Carried Unanimously

6.2 Leavenworth Roundabout Bid Award

Staff recommended the board authorize the award of the Leavenworth Roundabout construction at the intersection of US Highway 2 and Icicle Road to the lowest

responsive and responsible bidder (KRCI, LLC) in an amount not to exceed \$3,072,701.62.

Board Action:

Kyle Steinburg moved to authorize staff to award the construction of the Leavenworth Roundabout to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (KRCI, LLC) in an amount not to exceed \$3,072,701.62.

Randy Agnew seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor with 10 voting board members present for this vote.

Motion Carried Unanimously

6.3 Interlocal with the City of Seattle (Resolution 2023-20)

Authorizing Link Transit's CEO to sign an interlocal agreement with the City of Seattle allows Link Transit to procure items off City of Seattle-approved contracts. Link Transit's Information Technology department has identified a contract offered through the City of Seattle for the procurement of new cameras at Link Transit's Columbia Station facility, an item included in the 2023 Capital Budget.

Board Action:

Randy Agnew moved to approve the interlocal with the City of Seattle (Resolution 2023-20).

Tiffany Gering seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor with 10 voting board members present for this vote.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion Carried

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.05 CEO Nick Covey reported the following:

October APTA Conference & Expo: Board members planning to attend are Anne Hessburg, Rob Tidd, Randy Agnew, Tiffany Gering & Marc Straub.

30 under 35 award: Link Transit Transportation Options Specialist Jessica Huerta is a 2023 recipient. She was nominated by Link Transit coworkers.

New CEO 100-Day plan: Nick is working with facilitator Gene Sharratt to develop a plan for his first 100 days as CEO. Part of the plan includes meeting one-on-one with each board member and developing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis of the agency. A board retreat is planned for November.

Outgoing CEO Richard DeRock's plan for last month of service: Richard announced that with the transfer of authority to the new CEO he will be stepping away from day-to-day management of the agency and primarily working from home.

7.1 WSTIP Annual Risk Profile

This report, provided by Link Transit safety officer Shawn Larson, compares Link Transit's risk profile to other member agencies in the Washington State Transit

Insurance Pool. Link has the third-best profile ranking in its member group with a favorable loss trend.

7.2 Monthly Financial Report

The board was provided with the agency's financial activity for June of 2023.

7.3 Human Resources Report

Link staff complete this report monthly to inform the Board of Directors on hiring status, open positions and hiring and retention strategies employed by the Administrative Services Department.

7.4 Scorecards/System Performance Report

This report provides an overview of how the system performed during the past month, which is reflective of how the agency is meeting the annual performance goals that were developed through the budgeting process and formally adopted by the board.

7.5 Complaints/Commendations


This summary of complaints and commendations received from Link guests each month provides a tool for Link management and members of the board to gauge how Link services are viewed by those depending on the system for their transportation needs.

8. Public Comment

Aaron Young (Chelan County): Said that it was prudent for the elected officials to consider asking members of the public to weigh in regarding the second tenth sales tax collection as a way to gauge current support for the sales tax increase as those serving in elected positions change and public opinions shift over time.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

All business listed on the agenda had been addressed and with no further business to conduct, Chair Straub adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by 
Selina Danko, Clerk of the Board