

**MINUTES  
LINK TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**March 19, 2024**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Columbia Station 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 300 South Columbia Street, Wenatchee, WA**

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Board members attending in person:** Chair Tiffany Gering, Marc Straub, Randy Agnew, Rob Tidd, Loyd Smith, Jim Fletcher, Erin McCardle, Renee Swearingen, Kevin Overbay, Travis Hornby, Kyle Steinburg

**Board members attending through ZOOM on-line internet program:** Anne Hessburg

**Link Transit Staff:** Nick Covey, Lynn Bourton, Ed Archer, Justin Brockwell, Cristina Barone, Ron Hatton, Selina Danko, Gabby Walker, Paden Osterlund, Eric West, Julie Shipman, Andy Farias, Dylan Fiorini

**Legal Counsel:** Erin McCool

**Absent / Excused:** Paul Parmley

**Members of the public:**

**Wenatchee:** Ben Green, Richard DeRock, Paula Grieb, Beth Stipe, Merry Roy, Maria Hansen, Kris Cameron, Rufus Woods, Bruce Phillips, Ryan Graig, Heather Ostenson, Russ Speidel, Jean Speidel, Brett McDonald, Dominick Bonny. **East Wenatchee:** Sue Kane, Ken Johannessen, Shelda Winschell, Natalie Williams, Jerrilea Crawford, Garren Melton, Matthew Hepner. **Waterville:** Joyce Huber **Peshastin:** Mat Lyons **Cashmere:** Robert Kirk **Others:** Jefferson Robbins (NCW Life), Catherine Houser **Online via Zoom:** Juanita Ruhnke, Cami Ostrom, Sam Miller, Rigoberto Guzman, Omar Ambrocio, Albaro Melendrez, Graham Stansbery, Molly Jennings, Deborah Paine

**1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Chair Gering asked the board to consider amending the agenda to move Item 4.4 (6<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Sales Tax Repeal Discussion/Action) ahead of consent agenda.

Kevin Overbay made a motion to move Item 4.4 to before the consent agenda. Marc Straub seconded the motion.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board of Directors heard public comment from 20 citizens and received more than 30 letters, all but one opposed to the Board asking the voters to reduce Link Transit's sales tax collection authority.

**4.4 6<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Sales Tax Repeal Discussion/Action**

Link Transit CEO Nick Covey recommended that the board not place a sixth-tenth sales tax repeal question on the November ballot, explaining that the agency had completed

74 percent of its Vision 2020 objectives. Voters approved Vision 2020 and a two tenths sales tax increase in 2019. A repeal of the sixth tenth could cost Link Transit as much as \$8 million per year, would impact the agency's ability to deliver the services promised voters in Vision 2020 and could result in service reductions and the postponement and/or shelving of planned capital projects.

**Board Action:**

**Kevin Overbay moved to maintain Link Transit's sales and use taxing authority as approved by the voters in 2019, currently at 6/10ths of 1%, and not revisit the issue until June 30, 2026 or until Vision 2020 is complete, whichever occurs later. Travis Hornby seconded the motion.**

VOTE: All in favor with 12 voting board members present for this vote.  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*  
*Kevin Overbay left the meeting after this vote*

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were submitted for approval:

- 3.1 Minutes** of the **February 20, 2024** board meeting.
- 3.2 Accounts Payable Vouchers** from **February 1-29**, totaling \$826,092.73.
- 3.3 Payroll Vouchers** from **February 1-29**, totaling \$874,943.34.

**Board Action:**

There were no requests for corrections or changes to any of the Consent Agenda items.

**Erin McCardle moved to approve all Consent Agenda business items as presented.**

**Marc Straub seconded the motion.**

VOTE: All in favor with 11 voting board members present for this vote.  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**4.1 Chargers for new bus garage charging infrastructure**

Facilities and Maintenance Manager Ed Archer recommended the Board authorize the purchase of three HVC300 ABB DC chargers, including 12 dispensers through RIDE off the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) contract. The purchase price for this charging infrastructure is \$585,900.

**Board Action:**

**Randy Agnew moved to authorize staff to purchase three HVC300 ABB DC chargers, including 12 dispensers, from RIDE off the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services contract.**

**Loyd Smith seconded the motion.**

VOTE: All in favor with 11 voting board members present for this vote.  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

**4.2 Purchase of new E Transit Vehicles**

Staff recommended the Board authorize staff to purchase four E-Transit vehicles through the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) contract for an amount not to exceed \$125,089 each or a total not to exceed \$500,356 from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles.

**Board Action:**

Erin McCardle moved to authorize staff to purchase four E-Transit vehicles through the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services contract for an amount not to exceed \$125,089 each or a total not to exceed \$500,356 from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles.

Renee Swearingen seconded the motion.

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

*Motion Carried Unanimously*

**4.3 Surplus Van Grant Program (Res. 2024-07)**

Staff are recommending the board approve the Surplus Van Grant Program that allows Link Transit to grant vehicles to local nonprofits within the Chelan Douglas Public Transportation Benefit Area through a competitive grant process. Granted vehicles have been determined to be beyond the useful life of the vehicle for transit services.

**Board Action:**

Marc Straub moved to approve Resolution 2024-07, authorizing the establishment of a Link Transit Surplus Van Grant Program.

Kyle Steinburg seconded the motion.

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

*Motion Carried Unanimously*

**5. STAFF REPORTS, DISCUSSION**

Chair Gering announced that, in the interest of time, there would be no formal staff reports given. Board members were invited to ask questions based on the staff reports received in their packets. There were no questions or discussion on these items.

**6. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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

Minutes Submitted by Selina Danko  
Selina Danko, Clerk of the Board