

**MINUTES
LINK TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**

May 4, 2026

4:30 pm

Columbia Station 3rd Floor, 300 S. Columbia Street, Wenatchee, WA

ATTENDANCE

Board members attending in person: Chair Erin McCardle, Marc Straub, Randy Agnew (arrived at 5:35 p.m.), Jim Fletcher, Travis Hornby, Carmen Andonaegui, Shon Smith, Renee Swearingen, Kevin Overbay

Board members attending through ZOOM on-line internet program: Ettore Castellente, Anne Hessburg, Loyd Smith

Board members excused/absent: Paul Parmley

Members of the Public: Rachel Evey, Caroline Rinsel, Jefferson Robbins (media), Andrew Simpson (media), Patrick Preusser (CEO candidate), Gary Buchanan (hiring consultant from Prothman)

Link Transit staff: Nick Covey, Don Billen, Ed Archer, Justin Brockwell, Samantha Miller, Selina Danko, Gabby Walker, Julie Shipman, Jennifer Dolge, Andy Farias, Jason Sandberg, Jose Cuevas.

Legal Counsel: Erin McCool

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Erin McCardle called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. A quorum was established with 11 board members present at that time.

Board Action:

Kevin Overbay moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Jim Fletcher seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION: RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment.

Mark Straub moved to move into executive session for a period of 45 minutes for the purpose of evaluating an applicant for public employment.

Jim Fletcher seconded the motion

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

Motion Carried

Board Chair Erin McCardle announced that the Board would convene into executive session for a period of 45 minutes, returning at 5:17 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 5:17 p.m. No action was taken.

3. Link Transit CEO Meet-and-Greet

Board Chair Erin McCardle invited members of the public, staff and the Board to participate in an informal meet-and-greet session with Don Billen and Patrick Preusser, the two finalists for the Link Transit CEO position.

Don Billen currently serves as Planning Manager for Link Transit and has extensive experience in transit planning, capital project development, and regional coordination. His background includes leadership roles at Sound Transit, where he contributed to major system expansions and long-term planning initiatives. His work focused on service design, capital planning, and securing grant funding, with an emphasis on data-driven decision-making and collaboration with local, state, and federal partners.

Patrick Preusser is a highly experienced, operations-focused executive with nearly three decades in transit leadership across large, complex systems. He has led multimodal operations – including bus, rail, and paratransit – with substantial budget and staff oversight and has a strong track record in improving service reliability, safety and customer satisfaction. Preusser’s profile highlights strengths in organizational leadership, stakeholder engagement, and system-wide performance management, with extensive experience working directly with boards, elected officials, and major capital and operational initiatives.

4. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCardle requested a motion from the Board to adjourn the meeting after the meet-and-greet session.

Jim Fletcher moved to adjourn the meeting.

Kevin Overbay seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: *Selina Danko*
Selina Danko, Clerk of the Board