

MINUTES LINK TRANSIT BOARD COMPOSITION REVIEW

September 15, 2026

3 pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Board members attending in person: Chelan County Commissioners Shon Smith, Brad Hawkins & Kevin Overbay; Douglas County Commissioners Dan Sutton, Marc Straub & Randy Agnew; Wenatchee Councilman Travis Hornby; East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford; Rock Island Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Andonaegui; Town of Waterville Mayor Loyd Smith; City of Chelan Mayor Erin McCardle; City of Cashmere Mayor Jim Fletcher.

Board members attending through ZOOM on-line internet program: City of Entiat Mayor Renee Swearingen; City of Leavenworth Mayor Pro Tem Anne Hessburg.

Link Transit staff: Don Billen, Ed Archer, Justin Brockwell, Samantha Miller, Selina Danko, Gabby Walker, Felicity Lape, Julie Shipman, Jennifer Dolge, Andy Farias, Timothy Lape

Link Transit Legal Counsel: Erin McCool

Members of the Public: Beth Stipe, Ken Johannessen, Mike Poirier (City of Wenatchee Mayor)

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Link Transit Board Clerk Selina Danko called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was established with 14 jurisdictional members present at that time.

The regular business meeting of the Link Transit Board of Directors was effectively "continued" until the conclusion of the special multi-jurisdictional meeting. Upon completion and adjournment of this special meeting to review the structure of the local Public Transportation Benefit Area Board, the Link Transit Board meeting would be reconvened to address the regular business matters of the transit agency.

2. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

In accordance with RCW 36.57A.055, both Douglas and Chelan counties along with each of the cities within the service district of the Chelan-Douglas Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) d.b.a. Link Transit had been advised of the special meeting to review the structure of the local PTBA Board. The mayor of each city had been invited to attend or to designate their respective representative for this special

multi-jurisdictional meeting. Out of the group of 14 jurisdictional participants, a total of 14 were present.

3. SELECTION OF A PRESIDING OFFICER

Because the Board composition review body does not have a standing chair, the Board Clerk facilitated the selection of a presiding officer for the meeting.

Board Action:

Travis Hornby moved to appoint Erin McCardle as presiding officer for the Link Transit Board Composition Review meeting.

Randy Agnew seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor with 14 voting board composition review members present for this vote.

Motion Carried

4. MEETING PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE

Presiding Officer McCardle reviewed the purpose and procedure for the meeting, noting that the body was convened to conduct the required periodic review of the composition of the Link Transit governing board and that any decisions regarding Board structure would be made by the participating jurisdictional representatives. Legal counsel Erin McCool explained the statutory framework governing the review, including the authority and responsibilities of the review body, applicable quorum and voting requirements, and the parameters within which the Board may consider whether changes to the current governing structure are appropriate.

5. DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES

Discussion was held focusing on the proportional representation requirements of RCW 36.57A.050 and need to reconsider the structure of the Board.

The following Board composition structures were discussed:

- Current structure – no change: 12 voting elected officials consisting of two representatives from Chelan County, two from Douglas County, and one from each of the eight component cities.
- Current structure plus one rider/user representative: Keep the existing 12 elected positions and add a transit user. Both a voting and a non-voting rider were discussed.

- Current structure plus two public transit user representatives: Statute allows for two voting Board members from the public – one that regularly relies on public transit and another associated with a community-based organization that uses transit with the possibility that both would be voting members of the Board.
- Current structure plus one additional representative from each of the cities of East Wenatchee and Wenatchee for a total of 14 voting members.
- Reduce county representation to one commissioner from each county: This would change the elected composition from four county seats and eight city seats to two county seats and eight city seats.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wenatchee resident Beth Stipe spoke in support of adding a transit rider to the Link Transit Board with full voting rights. She said meaningful participation requires giving a community representative an equal voice and noted that one rider vote would not outweigh the elected members but could bring an important user perspective to Board decisions.

7. VOTE ON PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Board Action:

Marc Straub moved to retain the existing structure of the Board and add one rider representative with voting rights except on budget.

Dan Sutton seconded the motion.

The motion and second were subsequently withdrawn.

Board Action:

Dan Sutton moved to retain the existing structure of the Board.

Randy Agnew seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion carried by a vote of 9-5, as shown in the roll-call table below:

Jurisdiction	Attendee	Present (Y/N)
Chelan County	Shon Smith	Yes
	Brad Hawkins	Yes
	Kevin Overbay	Yes
Douglas County	Dan Sutton	Yes
	Marc Straub	Yes
	Randy Agnew	Yes
City of Wenatchee	Councilman Travis Hornby	No
City of East Wenatchee	Mayor Jerrilea Crawford	No

City of Rock Island	Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Andonaegui	No
Town of Waterville	Mayor Loyd Smith	Yes
City of Chelan	Mayor Erin McCardle	Yes
City of Entiat	Mayor Renee Swearingen	No
City of Cashmere	Mayor Jim Fletcher	Yes
City of Leavenworth	Mayor Pro Tem Anne Hessburg	No

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The business of the Special Meeting to review the structure of the Chelan-Douglas PTBA Board has been completed. Presiding Officer McCardle thanked all the jurisdictional representatives for their participation and adjourned the special PTBA Board review meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: 
Selina Danko, Clerk of the Board