Spokane Transit Authority 1230 West Boone Avenue Spokane, Washington 99201-2686 (509) 325-6000

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Northside Conference Room Spokane Transit Authority 1230 W. Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA

w/Virtual Public Viewing Option Link Below

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call (Chair Brown)
- 2. Committee Chair Report (Chair Brown) (5 minutes)
- 3. Committee Action (5 minutes)
 - A. Minutes February 12, 2025 Corrections/Approval
 - B. Minutes March 12, 2025 Corrections/Approval
- 4. Committee Reports (60 minutes)
 - A. Facilities Master Plan Phase 1 Update (Rapez-Betty/Kelch)
 - B. 2024 Year-End Performance Measures (*Rapez-Betty*)
 - C. Division Bus Rapid Transit: Implementation Strategy Update (Otterstrom/Wells/Skillingstad)
 - D. 2026-2031 Transit Development Plan: Overview (Otterstrom/Arredondo)
- 5. CEO Report (Otterstrom/Rapez-Betty) (15 minutes)
- 7. Committee Member Expressions (Chair Brown) (3 minutes)
- 8. Review DRAFT Agenda Items for May 7, 2025, Meeting (2 minutes)
- 9. Adjourn

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Optional Virtual Link: JOIN HERE
Call-in Number: 253 205 0468
Meeting ID: 858 8034 0446

Agendas of regular Committee and Board meetings are posted the Friday afternoon preceding each meeting at the STA website: www.spokanetransit.com. Spokane Transit assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information, see www.spokanetransit.com. Upon request, alternative formats of this information will be produced for people who are disabled. The meeting facility is accessible for people using wheelchairs. For other accommodation, please call 325-6094 (TTY Relay 711) at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 2: COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Dianne Peach, Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications &

Customer Service Officer

<u>SUMMARY</u>: At this time, the Committee Chair will have an opportunity to comment on various topics of interest regarding Spokane Transit.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE: N/A

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: **3A**: MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2025, AND MARCH 12, 2025

COMMITTEE MEETING-CORRECTIONS AND/OR APPROVAL

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Dianne Peach, Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications &

Customer Service Officer

SUMMARY: Attached for your information, corrections, and/or approval are the minutes of the February 12, 2025 and March 12, 2025, Citizen Advisory Committee meetings.

Spokane Transit Authority 1230 W Boone Ave Spokane, WA 99201-2686 509-325-6000

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of February 12, 2025, Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

DRAFT

STA Northside Conference Room 1230 W Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA

In person w/ Virtual Public Viewing Option

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Brown, Chair Andrew Tse Tino Andrade Linda Carroll Caleb McDougall Perry Crandall Julie Corpuz Kinzie Michael John Lemus Tyler Salyer Chris Fortensky

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Karl Otterstrom, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer
Brandon Rapez-Betty, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer
Carly Cortright, Chief Communications & Customer
Service Officer
Kade Peterson, Chief Information Officer
Tampus Johnston, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Tammy Johnston, Interim Chief Financial Officer Dianne Peach, Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications & Customer Service Officer

Guests

Michelle Trotchie, Customer Service Manager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jackson Deese Susan Gray

Konrad Capeller Rhonda Young

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Dan Brown, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and roll call was conducted.

2. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Chair Brown stated he has attended community council meetings in the North Hill, Audubon, Downriver, Hilliard, Bemiss, Logan, and Whitman neighborhoods. He has been sharing information on the new double-decker buses and helping them figure out how to get to their selected destinations. He will continue to attend the surrounding neighborhood meetings.

3. COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Minutes of December 11, 2024, Committee Meeting

Ms. Carroll moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Fortensky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. 2024 Fixed Route Rider Survey Results Summary

Dr. Cortright reported the 2024 Rider Survey was conducted in October 2024 by the ETC Institute. The survey interviewers spoke to participants riding the buses as well as provided the option of a QR code to be able to conduct the survey virtually, if preferred. This survey was used to collect feedback from riders regarding their perception of the services provided by STA. Dr. Cortright reviewed several indicators but most notably the demographics of the riders, including race, employment status, gender, and household income. Dr. Cortright reported that 86% of respondents said they were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with Spokane Transit bus service, and 32% reported that not having a car was one of their main reasons for riding the bus. Riders primarily either purchased their bus pass at the Plaza or they were provided through their school, with only 15% purchasing online. Respondents were asked to rate certain aspects of STA's bus service, including Driver Courtesy at 79% satisfaction, Driver Driving Safely at 81% satisfaction, and Bus Operators Are Helpful at 81% satisfaction. In 2024 the riders were asked about Connect 2035 projects with 48% most interested in improvements to existing routes and bus stops and 22% interested in late night service.

B. Update from CAC Members on Activities

Dr. Cortright reported that per the Charter, one of the purposes of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) is to "act as an educational arm of the organization to reach out to the public." To meet this purpose, from time to time, the CAC will be asking for an update from each CAC member asking what organizations or groups they have recently met with or what information they have shared about Spokane Transit. This will help Spokane Transit gauge what groups are missing in overall outreach efforts.

- Tino Andrade Educated his workplace on how to ride the bus so their parking issues will decrease.
- Dan Brown See committee chair report.
- Linda Carroll Talked to 350 Spokane, on transit-oriented development along the north side of Division St. She also talks to everyone she knows on how to ride the bus.
- Julie Corpuz Has been talking to fellow nurses on how to ride the bus to work.
- Perry Crandall Working with Ferris High School news network to get information and safety tips regarding STA in their newsletter that goes out to the student body.
- Chris Fortensky Worked with blind veterans and veterans at the VA hospital on how to ride the bus and where the bus stops are located.
- John Lemus Educated Spokane County Development Disability with Delana Combs on how to ride Paratransit buses and how the whole system works.
- Caleb McDougall Received a copy of STA Rider Survey and is working with the Whitworth
 President to revise a similar survey for their student body. The survey will be sent out in
 approximately two weeks.
- Kinzie Michael Working with her union on the opportunities on riding STA buses for shift workers.
- Tyler Salyer Working with the Gonzaga Law School students to educate them on the Safety
 and Security initiatives that STA has in place and that it is an affordable and affective option
 for travel. He has also been working with families at Family Promise to help them ride the
 bus.
- Andrew Tse Now that 60-foot buses are in Cheney it has reduced the crowds and fixed the travel issues for the Amazon employees. Double decker buses will soon be in Cheney.
- Rhonda Young Working with the Manito Cannon Hill Council regarding the Lewis and Clark students who are using the buses, especially after sporting and extracurricular activities in the evenings. She also has conversations with Gonzaga and the Climate Institute on climate

resiliency and upgrading the community centers filtration and cooling systems and how people can get to these locations by transit. Ms. Young also teaches her students how to use transit.

5. <u>CEO REPORT</u>

- Mr. Otterstrom reported that STA is in a strong financial position to get through any uncertainty regarding federal government aid and current executive orders. He reported there are some interesting changes to federal policy regarding grant programs.
- Mr. Otterstrom also stated that there has been some community concern regarding sales tax renewal. The Connect 2035 project relies on STA savings to continue to make investments in clean energy campus infrastructure, Division Street BRT and maintain operations. Even though STA is currently financially sound, a sales tax revenue stream is still required to maintain and continue operations.
- Mr. Rapez-Betty stated that the STA Board will decide when to present to the voters regarding the sales tax renewal reauthorization.
- Mr. Rapez-Betty reported that there were four All Employee outreach meetings held to provide information directly to employees. These were interactive meetings focused on the Interim co-Chief Executive Officer's priorities list, as well as wellness programs, culture and capacity building, employee affinity groups, and enhanced system security strategies.
- Mr. Rapez-Betty also stated that there could be potential for the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence at STA at some point in the future. Therefore, STA's Ombudsman and Accessibility Officer and legal counsel researched relevant guidance and information. Mr. Rapez-Betty stated that in the event of ICE presence, no employee is to interfere with or assist in ICE activities. STA's responsibility is to provide a welcoming, safe, comfortable environment for people to get to their destinations.
- Ms. Young asked about potential short- and long-term impacts on federal grants due to the current administration's shift away from electric vehicles and how this might affect STA's strategic direction. Mr. Otterstrom responded that STA has successfully secured federal and state grants for key initiatives, including charging stations and a future clean energy campus. While STA has allocated \$55 million for the project, additional grants will likely be needed. He noted that challenges could arise if the state loses federal funding or faces budget constraints.

6. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

There was no Committee Information provided.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPRESSIONS

There were no expressions shared.

8. March 12, 2025 – COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW

The committee reviewed the proposed agenda items for the March 12, 2025, meeting. There were no suggested corrections or additions.

9. ADJOURN

With no further business, Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Peach

Dianne Peach

Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications & Customer Service Officer



Spokane Transit Authority 1230 W Boone Ave Spokane, WA 99201-2686 509-325-6000

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of March 12, 2025, Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

DRAFT

STA Northside Conference Room 1230 W Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA

In person w/ Virtual Public Viewing Option

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Brown, Chair Jackson Deese Andrew Tse Linda Carroll Perry Crandall Julie Corpuz Rhonda Young

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Gray Konrad Capeller Chris Fortensky John Lemus Caleb McDougall Kinzie Michael Tyler Salyer

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Karl Otterstrom, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer Brandon Rapez-Betty, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer Carly Cortright, Chief Communications & Customer Service Officer

Kade Peterson, Chief Information Officer
Tammy Johnston, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Delana Combs, Ombudsman and Accessibility Officer
Dianne Peach, Executive Assistant to the Chief
Communications & Customer Service Officer

GUESTS

Christian Bigger, Zero-Emission Fleet & Facilities Manager Mike Tresidder, Senior Transit Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Dan Brown, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and roll call was conducted.

2. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Chair Brown shared that he has been attending neighborhood meetings to present STA initiatives. He encourages each group to visit the Plaza to dispel any misconceptions about safety concerns.

3. COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Minutes of February 12, 2025, Committee Meeting

As there was no quorum of the committee, the minutes could not be approved as submitted and will be presented at the April 9, 2025, meeting.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. 2024 Unaudited Year-End Financial Report

Ms. Johnston provided an overview of the 2024 Unaudited Budget, highlighting that revenue was 8.0% above budget expectations, while expenses were 2.2% below budget.

B. Charge Management System Implementation

Mr. Rapez-Betty introduced Mr. Bigger, the Zero-Emission Fleet & Facilities Manager, who provides oversight of STA's fleet transition to new, efficient, and reliable technologies. Mr. Bigger highlighted the Charge Management System (CMS), a smart software that optimizes electric vehicle (EV) charging by balancing energy demand, costs, and infrastructure capacity. The CMS reduces energy costs by charging during off-peak hours, ensures EVs are charged and ready for operations, promotes garage safety by adjusting charging priorities, and extends battery life by preventing excessive charging and discharging.

C. Connect 2035 Strategic Plan: Sequencing

Mr. Otterstrom and Mr. Tresidder reported on the proposed sequencing of STA's next 10-year strategic plan, Connect 2035. Discussion ensued regarding the Connect 2035 plan, including feedback on immediate steps and key initiatives. Some ideas were introduced, such as creating interactive shelters with touch screens for a more engaging experience. The conversation also touched on the importance of door-to-door experience and connected communities as key priorities for the public. Mr. Otterstrom introduced references, appendices and key initiatives like the Division BRT, Facilities Master Plan, and the clean energy campus that were seen as long-term efforts contributing to a healthy environment. The feedback from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) highlighted that door-to-door experience and connected communities had the most support. Lastly, the group discussed how to present the plan effectively, including which outcomes to focus on in communications and future Board meetings.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Rapez-Betty began with a celebratory announcement that Spokane Transit Authority (STA) turned 44 years old on March 10th. He reflected on STA's growth, lightheartedly noting how it has evolved from a time without smartphones and the internet to embracing new technologies, like the Charge Management System, and how the agency has benefited from both public and private sector collaboration. The 44th anniversary highlights STA's progress and the continued support it receives from local leadership, businesses, and labor. Moving forward, staff are excited to implement Connect 2035 and complete the STA Moving Forward initiatives for STA.

Mr. Otterstrom reported there are concerns about the state transportation budget, which is facing significant challenges. Revenue from gas tax has been decreasing, impacting the ability to fund capital projects. The North Spokane Corridor project is seeking an additional \$267 million to finish; just one of many funding issues. While the transit program is solvent, multimodal funds, which can be used for both transit and highway projects, are at risk. The Climate Commitment Act funds are more secure but still subject to legislative changes. He noted the North Spokane Corridor project may be delayed three to five years, potentially affecting the Division Street BRT project. To address this, STA is exploring a phasing option to deliver parts of the BRT project by 2030. The exact details of this plan are still under development.

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 12, 2025 Page 3

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPRESSIONS

There were no expressions shared.

8. <u>APRIL 9, 2025 – COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW</u>

The committee verbally reviewed the proposed agenda items for the April 9, 2025, meeting. There were no suggested corrections or additions.

9. <u>ADJOURN</u>

With no further business, Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Peach

Dianne Peach

Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications & Customer Service Officer

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4A: FACILIITES MASTER PLAN PHASE 1 UPDATE

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Brandon Rapez-Betty, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer/Chief

Operations Officer

Jessica Kelch, Senior Project Manager

SUMMARY: STA's Facilities Master Plan (FMP) is a key document for planning and programming the long-term support infrastructure for the region's public transportation system. The FMP Update project is a planning process to determine a location or locations for needed facilities and future growth over time. Staff will provide an overview of the identified needs and strategies that will be incorporated into the draft FMP this spring.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4B: 2024 YEAR- END PERFORMANCE MEASURES

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee (Speirs)

SUBMITTED BY: Brandon Rapez-Betty, Chief Operations Officer

SUMMARY: The complete report has been posted to the STA website:

FULL REPORT

The following is a summary of significant measures that are of particular interest, or the committee has provided guidance for staff to highlight on a routine basis.

Ensure Safety

Preventable Accident Rate

- At 0.15, Fixed Route was higher than STA's goal of 0.08 preventable accidents per 10,000 miles.
- At 0.10, Paratransit was higher than STA's goal of 0.10 preventable accidents per 10,000 miles.

Earn and Retain the Community's Trust

Ridership

- Fixed Route 2024 year-end ridership was 10,166,876, up 13.6% compared to year-end ridership in 2023 with 8,947,157 trips.
- Paratransit 2024 year-end ridership was 390,956, up 8.3% compared to year-end ridership in 2023 with 360,535 trips.
- Rideshare 2024 year-end ridership was 103,270, up 8% compared to year-end ridership in 2023 with 95,655 trips.

Passengers per Revenue Hour (PPRH)

- Fixed Route PPRH was 19.33. The goal is to transport 15 or more passengers.
- Paratransit PPRH was 2.42. The goal was to transport 2.4 or more passengers.

Provide Excellent Customer Service

On-Time Performance: Fixed Route

On-time performance is measured as a bus departing between 0 to 5 minutes after the scheduled departure time.

• Fixed Route year-to-date on-time performance was 91.9%, below STA's goal of 93%.

On-Time Performance: Paratransit

On-time performance is measured as a van arriving no more than 30 minutes after the scheduled arrival time.

• Paratransit year-to-date on-time performance was 93.5%, above STA's goal of 93%.

Operator Ride Checks

- There were 342 out of 342 ride checks completed for Fixed Route.
- There were 63 out of 63 ride checks completed for Paratransit.

Exemplify Financial Stewardship

Cost per Passenger

Fixed Route and Paratransit continue to exceed STA's goal to keep the cost per passenger less than 95% of the average cost of the urban systems in Washington State.

- Fixed Route cost per passenger was \$9.42. This was 62% of the urban systems' average.
- Paratransit cost per passenger was \$58.72. This was 89.9% of the urban systems' average.

Cost Recovery from User Fees (Farebox Recovery)

- Fixed Route farebox recovery was 25.8%, above the goal of 20%.
- Paratransit farebox recovery was 4.71%, below the goal of 5%.

*New Board-approved methodology began third quarter 2024. Standard fare rate (\$2) divided by operational cost per passenger.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE: Receive Report.

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CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4C: DIVISION STREET BUS RAPID TRANSIT: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

UPDATE

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Karl Otterstrom, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer/Chief Planning &

Development Officer

Don Skillingstad, Senior Project Manager

SUMMARY: Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is currently in the project development phase. The purpose of this report will be to share highlights of a developing mitigation strategy that responds to implementation risks the project faces.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4D: 2026-2031 TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN: OVERVIEW

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Karl Otterstrom, Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer/Chief Planning &

Development Officer

Madeline Arredondo, Associate Transit Planner

SUMMARY: The agency's primary mid-range planning document is the Transit Development Plan (TDP). The 2026-2031 TDP is expected to be adopted by the Board of Directors in July 2025 and will include the six-year Capital Improvement Program and the three-year Service Improvement Program. The current TDP may be viewed on STA's website at spokanetransit.com/projects-plans/transit-development-plan.

BACKGROUND: The Transit Development Plan translates the policies of Connect Spokane Comprehensive Plan and the strategies and objectives of the strategic plan into an implementation program, identifying the projects and service STA will provide over the following six years. Spokane Transit developed a proposed stakeholder outreach approach to include presentations to the STA Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), SRTC's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), the City of Spokane's Pedestrian Transportation and Traffic Committee (PeTTC), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), as well as in-person and virtual public meetings. This approach goes beyond the required public hearing held in June and is intended to involve more stakeholders in the development of the plan. In June, the CAC will receive an update on the preparation of the draft TDP and upcoming public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE: Receive report.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 5: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Brandon Rapez-Betty, Interim Co-CEO & Chief Operating Officer

Karl Otterstrom, Interim Co-CEO & Chief Planning & Development Officer

SUMMARY: At this time, the Interim Co-CEOs will have an opportunity to comment on various topics of interest regarding Spokane Transit.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE: Receive Report.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM _7: COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPRESSIONS

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Dianne Peach, Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications &

Customer Service Officer

SUMMARY: At this time, members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will have an opportunity to express comments or opinions.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 8: REVIEW DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS FOR May 7, 2025, MEETING

REFERRAL COMMITTEE: n/a

SUBMITTED BY: Dianne Peach, Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications &

Customer Service Officer

SUMMARY: At this time, members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will have an opportunity to review and discuss the items proposed to be included on the agenda for the May 7, 2025, Committee meeting.

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call (Chair Brown)
- 2. Committee Chair Report (Chair Brown) (5 minutes)
- 3. Committee Action (5 minutes)
 - A. Minutes April 9, 2025 Corrections/Approval
- 4. Committee Reports (60 minutes)
 - A. 2025 Community Perception Survey Results Summary (Cortright)
 - B. Service Change May 2025 (Otterstrom)
- 5. CEO Report (Otterstrom/Rapez-Betty) (15 minutes)
- 7. Committee Member Expressions (Chair Brown) (3 minutes)
- 8. Review DRAFT Agenda Items for June 11, 2025, Meeting (2 minutes)
- 9. Adjourn

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE: Review and discuss