

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.

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

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

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.

5. 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.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPRESSIONS

There were no expressions shared.

8. APRIL 9, 2025 – COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW

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

9. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Peach

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Executive Assistant to the Chief Communications & Customer Service Officer