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**PTBA MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 19, 2021**

**Held at: Grant Transit Authority, (ZOOM Meeting)**

**Board Members Present**

Chair, Mayor Bruce Reim, Ephrata  
 Vice Chair, Councilman Don Myers, Moses Lake  
 Mayor, Kevin Newland, Wilson Creek  
 Councilman, Dylan Kling, Quincy  
 Mayor, ShirleyRae Maes, Coulee City  
 Councilwoman, Michelle Agliano, Soap Lake  
 Rhonda Bowers, ATU Representative  
 Mayor, Diane Kohout, Electric City

**Board Members Absent**

Councilman, Byron Starkey, Warden  
 Commissioner, Cindy Carter, Grant County

**Staff Present**

*Greg Wright, General Manager*  
*Saira Martinez, Administrative & ACCESS Coordinator/Board Clerk*  
*Brandy Heston, Administrative Services Manager*  
*Kendra Moos, Human Resources Manager*  
*Stephanie Guettinger, Financial Resources Manager*  
*Thomas Leighty, Maintenance & Facilities Manager*  
*JoBeth Carlson, Operations Manager*

The meeting of the Grant Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chair, Mayor Reim at 6:30pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken by Saira Martinez, GTA Board Clerk, 8 Board Members were present and 2 were absent.

**Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing was opened by Board Chair, Mayor Reim. The Transit Development Plan has been available for public comment, and we have not received any comments to date and can take comments during this hearing. No comments. The Public Hearing was closed by Board Chair, Mayor Reim.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Maes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Agliano seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

**Treasurers Report, review and approval of vouchers**

Finance Officer, John Friend, went over the expenses for the month

**Public Comments**

None

**Battery Electric Bus Project - Update**

General Manager, Greg Wright, explained that Green Power Motors trucked an EV Star electric bus to SeaTac last week and Greg had an opportunity to spend some time behind the wheel and kicked the tires a bit. Very smooth ride with quick acceleration. This is a narrow-bodied vehicle, and it will take time for passengers to get used to the tighter boarding entrance and aisle space limitation. Green

Power plans on trucking one of our buses to us in December prior to the completion of the charging infrastructure (we will use the plug-in charger at MTC during this time) providing an opportunity for the operations and maintenance departments to become familiar with the vehicle.

Momentum Dynamics is negotiating with a civil engineering firm who will begin the design & engineering of the ground charging infrastructure at MTC and Ops as soon as their contract is signed.

### Unfinished Business

NONE

### New Business

a. **Resolution NO. 21-14, WSDOT Consolidated Grant Agreement PTD0324**

Mayor Maes made a motion to approve Resolution NO. 21-14, WSDOT Consolidated Grant Agreement PTD0324. Mayor Kohout seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Carter entered the meeting at 6:19pm.

b. **Resolution NO. 21-15, Transit Development Plan**

Councilman Kling made a motion to approve Resolution NO. 21-15, Transit Development Plan. Mayor Maes seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

c. **Resolution NO. 21-16, Surplus Vehicles**

Vice Chair, Councilman Myers made a motion to approve Resolution NO. 21-16, Surplus Vehicles. Mayor Newland seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

d. **Resolution NO. 21-17, CRRSAA Grant Agreement PTD0231**

Mayor Maes made a motion to approve Resolution NO.21-17, CRRSAA Grant Agreement PTD0231. Mayor Kohout seconded motion, motion unanimously carried.

### General Manager's Report

- **Building Back Ridership**

It's been 17 months since the pandemic began and impacted the level of service GTA provides to the public, and now is the time to begin thinking about how we can start building back ridership in the current COVID-19 climate. Initially, ridership plummeted at the onset of the pandemic and has remained approximately 55% below pre-pandemic levels, but we are now beginning to see a slight uptick and optimistic that this trend will continue.

Once the pandemic hit, we reduced monthly service hours and now at 75% pre-pandemic levels. The reduction was based on the number of employees unavailable for work due to COVID-19 and/or related symptoms and not knowing what the future with COVID-19 would bring. It's been a struggle having enough employees to provide consistent service during this time.

Current service hours reflect what we can provide with some certainty with the staffing we have now, but another round of COVID-19 would most likely force us to scale back service even further. Loss of service hours equates to loss of passenger trips.

In order to improve transit system efficiency and ridership, we periodically analyze routes and look at using the right mode for the area we are serving, but this has been on the backburner. We have seen a spike in ridership with our DART service in Grand Coulee and now in Royal City and will begin marketing this service more aggressively with a goal of getting riders back, as well as introducing new riders to the system.

We are just now beginning to see where travel patterns have shifted since the pandemic began and will look at our current fixed route structure to see where we can improve given the circumstances.

- **Use of Force Policing Laws**

The Grant County Sheriff and the City of Moses Lake Police Chief were invited to meet with the management team and answered questions about how the new policing laws could affect GTA when requesting assistance. Thanks to both for taking time out of their day to provide insight on the reforms.

- **Grant County Fair**

The Grant County Fair provides a great opportunity to market our transportation services and this year we will focus on promoting the battery electric bus project.

- **Link Transit Electrification Expo**

General Manager, Greg Wright, attended Link Transit's expo.

The Operations, Financial and Maintenance report were available for the board to review.

**People for People**

The People for People report was presented to the Board of Directors.

**Other:**

The next regular GTA Board of Directors Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 6:30pm.

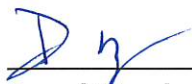
Councilman Kling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion, meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.

Attested:



Saira Martinez  
Administrative & ACCESS Coordinator  
Board Clerk

I certify that this is a true copy of the accepted GTA meeting minutes.



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Board Member