

Jefferson Transit Authority Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 3:30 pm
63 4 Corners Road, Port Townsend WA

CAC Board Members Present: Darrell Conder, Viviann Kuehl, Brandon Maxwell, Anne Metcalfe, and John Nowak, with Tim Caldwell excused. A quorum was present.

Authority Board Member Present: City of Port Townsend Council Member, Ariel Speser

Staff Present: Operations Manager Leesa Monroe, and Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Laura Smedley

Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Committee Chair Darrell Conder.

Election for Chairperson

Motion: Vivann Kuehl nominated Darrell Conder. Brandon Maxwell seconded.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by voice vote.

Public Comment

Brenda McMillan- Would like to see the bus buddies program returned, someone who introduces new riders to transit.

Leesa Monroe responded that JTA has a Travel Training Program and staff that train new riders.

Margaret Lee- Would like to see CAC meetings more often, and asked if there will be other opportunities to ask questions.

Brenda McMillan - Commented on CAC meeting notice.

Ariel Speser- complimented the CAC Board on a great discussion regarding the Long Range Plan at the previous CAC meeting.

Fehr & Peers – Comprehensive Plan Presentation Please see attached presentation

Aaron Gooze of Fehr and Peers discussed results of the Long Range Plan Open House held on January 29, 2020 and gave a PowerPoint presentation.

The following questions were asked:

- The graph shows 7% of the trips are from Sequim, does this represent transit routes only to Port Townsend?
 - The 7% represents all trips, not just transit. The data captured cannot distinguish the mode of transportation used.
- How data is captured?
 - StreetLight Data provides data that is captured through two different sources, cell phones and GPS. The cell phone data is the source used to make the call. The GPS data is the physical location of the phone using satellite. Cell phone data is generated with the phone company using cell phone towers and GPS.
- Are the percentage numbers of the San Juan's, Port Hadlock, and Chimacum still low?
 - No, the numbers have moved up to 27%.
- Does that 27% mean the Tri area route?
 - Yes, this means the Tri area route.
- Does a cell phone need to have a certain application installed to be tracked?
 - Any cell phone that is turned on can ping the cell phone towers. The GPS phone apps need to have location service turned on in order to capture GPS data.
- Does StreetLight consider the volume of people without cell phones?
 - Assuming that this is consistent throughout the different populations of travel. The StreetLight firm has five years of experience sampling and understanding the percentages captured of overall travel vs travel with cell phones. They compare with traffic counts to provide more accurate data, although it is not a perfect comparison.
- Why is the total percent on the graph less than 100%?
 - This is the top fifteen locations of all the trips outside of Port Townsend.
- If the populations of people riding the bus are fewer than those who don't, does StreetLight take that into consideration when numbers are calculated?
 - There is no direct data to back it up, and yes it is taken into consideration. Decisions are not made based purely on this data. This is to highlight big picture of travel trends that could be suited to transit. Survey results and feedback from the open house are additional data being considered. StreetLight is a useful tool to look at data and identify trends. The Long-Range Plan is addressing current and future needs as growth is planned in Port Townsend and other areas within Jefferson County.

Aaron Gooze encouraged the CAC to distribute the Long-Range plan survey to the public. He asked the CAC why JTA is important to them, why individuals are serving on the CAC, and what is the primary objective for JTA.

The following were answers were given:

- The environment; more people riding transit will help protect our environment.

- Transit is a fallback or secondary option for transportation for people who are not transit dependent.
- Health benefits; riding the bus encourages people to walk more.
- Financial benefits; you can save money otherwise spent on gas. The ability to save money while supporting something bigger.
- The comfort and convenience of not having to drive.
- The community atmosphere on the bus.
- Accessibility to bike trails.

There was a discussion regarding bus routes to trails, the bike barn, bike lockers, bike maps and bus bike racks.

Aaron Gooze asked the CAC to think about how JTA should prioritize the following: greater coverage, higher frequency, more hours and new connections to ferries or regional destinations.

The following topics were discussed:

- Circular routes.
- A Kingston route
- An evening run to Hadlock.
- A direct connection to a Seattle ferry.

Aaron Gooze asked about emerging trends that JTA should possibly address in the Long-Range plan.

The following topics were discussed:

- The impact of potential alternative modes of transportation, such as Uber or autonomous buses.
- Real time bus arrival, digital maps and other rider information.
- Fuel efficiency and alternative energy sources for buses.

Aaron Gooze asked about other topics or big changes that could be considered in regards to how JTA provides service.

The following topics were discussed:

- Midday bus service to South County
- Fare free or donation only
- Online or digital options to make buying a bus pass easier.
- Orca cards being honored.
- Token Transit.

The survey is open until February 12th. The Remix tool will be used to look at JTA routes during the next CAC meeting.

A link to JTA's long-range plan information will be added to JTA's website home page.

At the next CAC meeting the Fehr and Peers Long-Range plan discussion will be held after the business is completed.

Motion: Viviann Kuehl moved to approve the corrected minutes from November 6, 2019. Anne Metcalfe seconded.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by voice vote.

Motion: Viviann Kuehl moved to approve the CAC 2020 Meeting Schedule. Anne Metcalfe seconded

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by voice vote.

Old Business

- a. Recommendations or nominations for a new CAC Member

Motion: John Nowak moved to nominate Debbie Jahnke and Brenda McMillan to the CAC. Viviann Kuehl seconded.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by voice vote.

- b. Vice-Chair Elections

Brandon Maxwell was nominated for Vice-Chair at the last CAC meeting. A motion and vote are required.

Motion: Viviann Kuehl moved to approve Brandon Maxwell as Vice-Chair. John Nowak seconded.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by voice vote.

Motion: John Nowak moved to table the New Business and Ridership Report to the next meeting. Viviann Kuehl seconded.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 5-0 by voice vote.

Public Comment

John Frasca thanked everyone for serving on the CAC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm. The next regular meeting is May 6, 2020, at 3:30 pm, and will be held at 63 4 Corner Road, Port Townsend, WA.

SJ Peck, Clerk of the Board

Date