

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: Shonda L. Shipman, Director of Finance
Peter Stark, General Manager

DATE: May 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Consideration of Approval of an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee met on May 14, 2015 and recommended that the Board of Directors approve an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid between certain member transit agencies and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement as a participating transit agency.

BACKGROUND

WTA obtains liability insurance coverage through the Washington State Transportation Insurance Pool (WSTIP) per the provisions of an Interlocal Agreement between WSTIP and each of the member agencies.

At its meeting on September 26, 2014, WSTIP introduced an Interlocal Agreement that allows transit agencies to provide mutual aid to one another in emergent and non-emergent situations. This aid can assist WTA in continuing operations during a regional emergency situation. The lack of a mutual aid agreement in place prior to an incident functions as an obstacle to a timely response.

WSTIP will maintain a list of all participating agencies and shall annually distribute the list to all participating agencies. The agreement serves as the format transit agencies will look to when responding to an emergency situation.

Current participating transit agencies are:

Asotin County PTBA (Clarkston)
C-Tran (Vancouver)
Columbia County (Dayton)
Community Transit (Snohomish County)
Grant Transit (Moses Lake)
Island Transit (Coupeville)
Kitsap Transit (Bremerton)

Link Transit (Wenatchee)
Mason Transit (Shelton)
Pacific Transit (Raymond)
RiverCities Transit (Longview)
Skagit Transit (Mount Vernon)

FISCAL IMPACT

This item has no fiscal impact at this time. If aid were to be provided, WTA will be billed for the costs of the aid rendered. Conversely, if WTA provided aid, we would be recompensed for the cost of the services.

F.5 Consideration of Approval of an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid

Recommendation: The Executive Committee met on May 14, 2015 and recommended that the Board of Directors approve an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid between certain member transit agencies and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement as a participating transit agency.

Shonda Shipman gave an overview of this item pointing out that staff added a list of the current participating agencies to the item at the request of Board member Greenough.

MOTION BY WEISS, SECONDED BY KREMEN THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL AID BETWEEN CERTAIN MEMBER TRANSIT AGENCIES AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AS A PARTICIPATING TRANSIT AGENCY.

Board member Korthuis asked if there is a way out of the contract once we are in. Ms. Shipman said every year we would have an opportunity to opt out without affecting the status of the other participating agencies.

The motion passed 7 – 0.

G. BOARD DISCUSSION

G.1 Discussion of Renewal of Agreement with the City of Bellingham Transportation Benefit District (TBD)

Mr. Stark gave the background on this issue stating that WTA requested that the TBD continue to fund service at the current level through 2016 to give WTA time to complete their Strategic Plan. The TBD Board countered with a one year extension that would offer the same level of service but would reimburse WTA at 2/3 the cost of the service provided. He said there was also mention of the TBD providing capital rather than operating funding in 2017-2020. He said staff are looking for guidance from the Board about how to approach the TBD with a response. He said he would like to take a position to the TBD Board at their June 1st meeting and work toward ratifying a contract by the end of June.

Board member Weiss asked Mr. Stark to state the staff's recommendation. Mr. Stark said staff are recommending that we accept the terms the TBD has offered to reduce their operating funding to 2/3 of the cost of the current service they are funding, provided they show some willingness to fund capital in the future, preferably with an Interlocal Agreement that memorializes an understanding.