



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 7 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

MINUTES

1. CONVENE BOARD MEETING

Chair Richard Bloom called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Representing	Attendee Name	Title	Status
City of Pasco	Ruben Alvarado	Director	Present
City of Kennewick	Chuck Torelli	Director	Present
City of Richland	Phillip Lemley	Director	Present
City of West Richland	Richard Bloom	Chair	Present
Franklin County #2	Rocky Mullen	Director	Present
Franklin County #1	Clint Didier	Director	Absent
Benton County	Shon Small	Director	Absent
City of Prosser	Steve Becken	Director	Present
City of Benton City	Lisa Stade	Vice Chair	Joined at 7:47 p.m.
The Union	Norma Nelson	Nonvoting Union Rep.	Present

BFT Staff: Gloria Boyce, Ayodeji Arojo, Janet Brett, Carina Cassel, Chad Crouch, Bill Hale, Keith Hall, Lisa Larson, Jeff Lubeck, Byron Olson, Rob Orvis, Mike Roberts, Wendi Warner

Legal Counsel: Jeremy Bishop

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Bloom led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bloom opened the meeting up to comments from the public.

Randy Jordan, BFT Coach Operator for four years, spoke against cutting transit funding because it would impact so many citizens who rely on public transportation daily.

Dori Luzzo Gilmour, lifelong resident of Washington state, called upon Benton and Franklin County Commissioners to find other funding for a mental health facility rather than taking it away from transit.

Frank Cuta, a member of the United Blind Tri-Cities, supports the resolution before the Board tonight. If services are cut back, he would be totally isolated.

Andy Wellington, a resident of Richland who spent 23 years working at the Juvenile Justice Center, spoke about how important public transit is to our at-risk youth. Cutting public transportation is not the answer to funding mental health care.

Patricia Gilmore, a resident of Pasco, mother and grandmother, and member of the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 839, asked the Board to vote no on taking away funding from the transit.

Ryan Rosenkranz, a lifelong resident of the Tri-Cities and a nurse, asked the Board not to take away money from Ben Franklin Transit. Many who work in the health care field, along with patients, rely on public transit to get to and from work and health care appointments.

Odalys Gonzalez, a community organizer with UFCW 21, spoke about the impacts cutting transit would have on families without many resources and how important a safe, strong, and viable transportation system is in our community.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Bloom asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION:	TORELLI
SECOND:	ALVARADO
RESULT:	APPROVED (Unanimously)

6. RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions this month.

7. CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK (CAN) REPORT

There was no CAN Report available.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Operations & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chair Ruben Alvarado reported on the in-depth presentation the committee received on how the agency awards contracts.

B. Planning & Marketing Committee – Director Chuck Torelli shared this committee moved the authorization of the release of the TDP for public comment to tonight’s agenda.

C. Administration & Finance Committee – Substitute Committee Chair Bloom reported they discussed accepting the Washington State Auditor’s Report, which had no findings, and is on the Consent Agenda. The second item was acceptance of the WSTIP Annual

Report and BF Key Risk Profile, which is on the agenda as an Action Item. Also presented to the committee were the Authorization to Award the Comprehensive Fare Study as well as the updated Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, both of which are on the Consent Agenda.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Bloom presented the consent items and invited a motion.

A. July 8, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

B. July Voucher Summary

PAYROLL

Check Register Number	Check Number / Number	Date of Issue	In the Amount
515-21	80815 80817	7/2/2021	547,864.21 Payroll
516-21	80818 80821	7/18/2021	567,856.85 Payroll
517-21	80822 80825	7/30/2021	580,806.12 Payroll
Total			\$ 1,696,527.18

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Check Register Number	Check Number / Number	Date of Issue	In the Amount
150-21	78288 78323	7/7/2021	237,306.05 MDSE
151-21	78324 78377	7/13/2021	574,350.50 MDSE
152-21	ACH TRANS	7/18/2021	582,824.24 ACH TRANS
153-21	78378 78434	7/20/2021	338,115.57 MDSE
154-21	78435 78519	7/27/2021	182,651.15 MDSE
155-21	ACH TRANS	7/31/2021	810,567.39 ACH TRANS
Total			\$ 2,785,814.80

C. Resolution 42-2021: Authorization to Release the Transit Development Plan (TDP) for Public Comment

D. Memorandum to Accept the Washington State Auditor’s Office (WASAO) 2020 Financial Statement and Federal Single Audit Reports

E. Resolution 43-2021: Authorization to Award the Comprehensive Fare Study

F. Resolution 44-2021: Adopt the Revised Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

MOTION: ALVARADO
SECOND: BECKEN
RESULT: APPROVED (Unanimously)

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Memorandum to Accept the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) 2020 Annual Report & BFT Risk Profile

Director of Administrative Services Jeff Lubeck presented a memorandum to accept the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) 2020 Annual Report and Ben Franklin Transit Risk Profile. Chair Bloom invited a motion.

MOTION: BECKEN
SECOND: LEMLEY
RESULT: APPROVED (Unanimously)

B. Resolution 45-2021: A Resolution Declining to Place a Referendum on the November 2, 2021, Ballot Reducing the Amount of Local Transit Sales Tax Revenue from 0.6 Percent to 0.5 Percent

General Manager Gloria Boyce recapped the activities that have taken place on this topic since letters were received from Benton and Franklin County Commissions on June 11. It is staff recommendation to decline the Benton County and Franklin County suggestion of placing a referendum on the November 2, 2021, ballot reducing the amount of local transit sales tax revenue from 0.6 percent to 0.5 percent, as the action does not align with BFT's current Strategic Plan.

Director Torelli expressed his appreciation to staff for their presentations on what the impacts would be if this reduction in revenue was enacted.

MOTION: ALVARADO
SECOND: BECKEN
RESULT: APPROVED (Unanimously)

11. DISCUSSION & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Q2 Performance Report

Director of Planning and Service Development Keith Hall and Marketing Manager Lisa Larson presented the Second Quarter 2021 Agency Performance Report, highlighting ridership and marketing activities, as well as progress on Goals and Initiatives.

12. STAFF REPORTS & COMMENTS

A. Legal Report

Jeremy Bishop, BFT legal counsel, confirmed the executive session later in the meeting.

B. Financial Report

Mr. Lubeck presented a financial report, highlighting materials contained in the Board packet.

C. General Manager's Report

Ms. Boyce reported that, on the federal level, we are awaiting on further information on the recently passed infrastructure bill and its impact on Ben Franklin Transit.

From an operations standpoint, Art in the Park and Water Follies events were held in July, and the final summer event is the fair. Shuttles will be held to seating capacity only, and all passengers must wear masks.

Sunday Fixed Route Service begins August 29, for the first time in 39 years.

On behalf of 369 hard-working employees who believe providing mobility to their community is a noble cause, we thank you for our local funding tax for transit.

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Alvarado expressed appreciation to staff for their time in preparing this afternoon's Board Orientation, as it better equipped him to serve on this board.

Director Norma Nelson thanked her fellow Board members for their support of our community and those who work at the Transit.

Chair Bloom added the superheroes picnic theme was fitting this summer, as transit kept the buses moving during an uncertain time, and he really appreciated it.

Director Lisa Stade also expressed her appreciation for the drivers and other people behind the scenes who are looking after the customers and riders of BFT. She also invited everyone to Benton City Days, which will be held September 10, 11, and 12.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board convened in executive session to discuss potential acquisition of real estate under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) at 8:18 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:45 p.m.

Chair Bloom stated he would accept a motion to approve Resolution 46-2021 Authorizing the General Manager or Assistant General Manager to Purchase Property for Construction of the Duportail/Queensgate Transit Hub.

MOTION:	ALVARADO
SECOND:	BECKEN
RESULT:	APPROVED (Unanimously)

15. OTHER

There were no Other agenda items for discussion.

16. NEXT MEETING

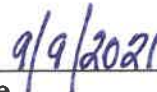
Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 7 pm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bloom adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.



Janet Brett, Clerk of the Board



Date