

Minutes

CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK REGULAR MEETING

Monday June 16, 2025 6:00 p.m.

BFT Admin Building - Conference Room - 1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, WA

1. Convene CAN Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

2. Attendance: – 2 Min

| Representing | Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Citizen Advisory Network | Dennis Kreutz | Chair – Recording Secretary | Zoom |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Dori Luzzo-Gilmour | Recruitment Committee Chair | Zoom |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Ed Frost | Past Chair | Present |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Amber Wissenbach | Member | Absent |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Bernie Vinther | Member | Present |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Bill Barlow | Member | Absent |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Brandon Harbo | Member | Present |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Brooklyn Hufstader | Member | Absent |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Eric Watkins | Member | Present |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Frank Cuta | Recruitment Committee | Absent |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Laurie Price | Member | Absent |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Nayeli Aranda | Member | Absent |
| Citizen Advisory Network | Ulises Navarro | Member | Absent |
| | | | |
| BFT Staff | Janet Brett | Manager of Communications | Present |
| BFT Staff | Tom Drozdt | CEO | Present |
| BFT Staff | Kevin Sliger | Planning Manager | Present |

3. Comments by Guests: None

4. April and May 2025 Meeting Minutes Approval: - 4 Min.

Discussion: No Discussion.

Motion to Approve the Minutes by: No Quorum, Postponed until July Meeting.

Second to Approve the Minutes by:

Minutes Approved Unanimously by a Voice Vote of the CAN Members: YES / NO

5. Old Business: 5 Min.

A. A follow-up from the March CAN Meeting regarding having High Schools students as CAN Members.

1. Report by Laurie Price on having High School Students attend CAN Meetings.

Laurie Price not in attendance so this item moved until the July CAN Meeting.

6. New Business: 35 Min.

A. Report of the June BFT Board Meeting – Dori Luzzo-Gilmour

1. Shared WA HB 1418 that passed allowing two non-elected riders to be voting members of the Board of Directors.

2. Reviewed Title VI presented to Board by BFT.

- B. BFT Presentation by Kevin Sliger: Upcoming Public Comments and Information regarding the upcoming Title VI Program Update Public Comment and Public Hearings.
 - 1. BFT is currently in the Public Comment Period.
 - 2. BFT currently provides language assistance via a Language-Line resource. (509) 735-5100
 - 3. Minority Population: Benton – 37%, Franklin – 66%, Combined – 46%
 - 4. Low Income Population: Benton – 13%, Franklin – 11%, Combined – 12%
 - 5. Ed Frost requested clarification if these are correct for Franklin County. Kevin Sliger said he will check the accuracy.
 - 6. Eric Watkins asked if Title VI requires equity treatment for infrastructure such as sidewalks. Kevin Sliger stated that it does.
 - 7. Discussed lack of sidewalk interconnectivity in the metro areas, and that BFT can not pick up the costs that should be done by the cities.
 - 8. Janet will send an email with the Title VI slide presentation for distribution to CAN Members. Dennis Kreutz will send to CAN Members.
- C. Discuss the issue with BFT Board Meeting Public Comments currently having to be made at the beginning of the Board Meeting and not generally allowed after an Agenda Item has been presented by BFT Staff to the Board.
 - 1. Is this an item that CAN would like to make a Recommendation to BFT Board?
NOTE: This item discussion has been postponed until the July CAN Meeting.
- D. Discuss the recently passed Washington House Bill 1418 allowing two voting members that are transit users to be on the governing body of public transportation benefit areas.
 - 1. Is this an item that CAN would like to make a Recommendation to BFT Board?
NOTE: Ed Frost stated that we have several months to work on this so we will start discussion in the next CAN Meeting.
- E. Next CAN Meeting Proposed Agenda Items:
 - 1. April and May 2025 Meeting Minutes Approval
 - 2. Discuss CAN Recommendation to Board regarding a rider voting members on BFT Board.
 - 3. Discuss the issue with BFT Board Meeting Public Comments currently having to be made at the beginning of the Board Meeting and not generally allowed after an Agenda Item has been presented by BFT Staff to the Board.
 - 4. Report by Laurie Price on having High School Students attend CAN Meetings.

7. BFT Board / BFT Staff Comments: 5 Min.

- 1. Janet Brett requested that CAN Members become prepared for photos being taken at July CAN Meeting.
- 2. Kevin Sliger shared that new service routes and changes went into place July 15.
- 3. Kevin Sliger stated that new Service Plan is in the process of being developed and he will make a presentation to CAN in August CAN Meeting with dates of Public Comment Workshops as they are available.

8. CAN Member Comments: 5 Min.

- 1. Eric Watkins stated that he is in favor of the new service changes, but the new Route 41 schedule has affected him, and the revised schedule are not readily available. Kevin Sliger stated that service change routes have new route maps on website and posted in buses.
- 2. Dennis Kreutz brought up an email comment from Vanessa that CONNECT can go across boundary areas. Kevin Sliger stated that is not the case and he will pass that along to CONNECT for distribution to drivers.

3. Ed Frost brought up that he appreciated that the Tri City Herald had a nice article regarding upcoming service changes.

4. Ed Frost asked if there will be a hard copy Fixed Route Schedule. Kevin Sliger stated that it will not be printed, but individual route maps will be done.

9. Assign CAN Member to Attend next Board Meeting: 1 Min.

Board Meeting July 17, 2025 6:00 PM BFT Board Room
CAN Member Assigned: Brandon Harbo

10. Next CAN Meeting: 1 Min.

Monday July 19, 2025 6:00 p.m. BFT Board Room

11. ADJOURN:

A. Meeting adjourned at: 8:05 pm