

**BEN FRANKLIN TRANSIT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 8, 2013/7:00 p.m.
1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, WA**

1. Convene/Roll Call: MATT WATKINS, BOB OLSON, STEVE BECKEN, BOB KOCH, RICK MILLER, RICHARD BLOOM, TERRY CHRISTENSEN, LISA STADE, (Jerome Delvin, Norma Nelson, excused)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that Norma Nelson came in just before the start of the meeting and asked to be excused in order to be present for the birth of a new grandson who is arriving earlier than expected.

Staff: Tim Fredrickson, Gloria Boyce, Kathy McMullen, Tony Kalmbach, Debra Hughes, Katherine Ostrom, Rob Orvis, Dick Ciccone, Tom Turner, Dan Sandmeier, Christy Watts, Barbara Hays, Susan Snowdy, Patrick T. Roach, Legal Counsel

2. Pledge of Allegiance

CHAIRMAN WATKINS invited TERRY CHRISTENSEN to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizens Public Comment/Introduction of Visitors

Visitors: Macy Neshati, Lance Riniker, Zachary Ziegler, Holly Kaczmarski/CAC Member, Ed Harvill, Chris Lilyblade, and a couple of other unidentified guests.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS invited public comment on any item that is not on the agenda. Please state name and address for the record. Please limit remarks to three minutes.

No public comment was given.

4. Approval of Agenda

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that Staff has asked that Consent Agenda Item 6F be moved to Action Item 7C for consideration by the full Board of Directors. He called for a motion to approve the revised Agenda.

ACTION: TERRY CHRISTENSEN made and BOB KOCH seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the one revision as stated by CHAIRMAN WATKINS. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Board Committee Reports

A. Planning & Marketing Committee/Bob Koch, Chair

BOB KOCH stated that the Committee changed the meeting date to fit schedules. He presented an overview of the items discussed most of which are on tonight's agenda. The notes were provided in the Board packet.

B. Operations & Maintenance Committee/Rick Miller, Chair

RICK MILLER stated that the Committee met August 1, 2013. They discussed some of the same items presented to Planning & Marketing. The Committee discussed the Budget amendments, procurement of buses. Staff gave updates on sales tax, and boardings. The notes were provided in the Board packet.

C. Administration & Finance Committee/Steve Becken, Chair

STEVE BECKEN, Chair, stated that the Committee met on Thursday, August 1, 2013. The items they discussed in addition to others previously mentioned are the State Audit and a couple of agreements pertaining to grants. The Committee notes were included in the Board packet.

6. Consent Agenda

(Any item is open for discussion at Board or Public Request)

- A. Minutes of August 8, 2013 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Payroll/Voucher Summary

July 2013 Vouchers audited and certified by Ben Franklin Transit's auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which was emailed to the Board Members August 2, 2013.

ACTION: As of this date, August 8, 2013, I, _____
Move that the following checks be approved for payment:

Payroll

Check Register Number	Check Number/Number	Date of Issue	in the amount of
083-13	74439 74495	7/12/2013	354,890.52 Payroll
084-13	Electronic File Payroll Taxes	7/12/2013	137,011.83 Payroll
089-13	74496 74550	7/26/2013	354,190.82 Payroll
090-13	Electronic File Payroll Taxes	7/26/2013	140,537.14 Payroll
Total			\$ 986,630.31

Non-Payroll Vouchers

081-13	50595 50596	7/3/2013	\$ 50,979.26 Mdse
082-13	50596 50653	7/5/2013	130,414.17 Mdse
085-13	50654 50722	7/12/2013	725,776.32 Mdse
086-13	Wire Transfer-Gillig LLC	7/19/2013	1,615,550.96 Mdse

087-13	50723	50723	7/17/2013	53,137.80	Mdse
088-13	50724	50789	7/17/2013	159,685.02	Mdse
091-13	50790	50875	7/26/2013	536,775.56	Mdse
092-13	Electronic File	Excise Tax	7/24/2013	1,426.76	Mdse

Total \$3,273,745.85

Check Register Numbers 081-2013 to 092-13 in the total amount of **\$4,260,376.16**
The motion was seconded by _____ and approved by a unanimous vote.

- C. Resolution 43-2013 – Amend the 2012 Operating and Capital Budget
And Rescind Resolution 49-2011 in its Entirety
- D. Resolution 44-2013 – Amend the 2011 Operating and Capital Budget
And Rescind Resolution 12-2012 in its Entirety
- E. Resolution 45-2013 – Authorizing the General Manager to enter into an
Inter-local Agreement with Port Authority of Allegheny County Pittsburgh, PA
For 13 Transit Bus Options
- F. Resolution 46-2013 – Authorizing the General Manager to enter into an
Agreement with Gillig, LLC to purchase 3 Transit Buses

CHAIRMAN WATKINS read aloud the items on the Consent Agenda. He called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended in Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Agenda, and repeated that Consent Agenda Item 6F was moved to Action Agenda Item 7C.

ACTION: BOB KOCH made and RICK MILLER seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, minus Item 6F. MOTION CARRIED.

(BFT Board Standing Committees recommended approval of Consent Items to the Full Board of Directors)

7. Action Items

- A. Resolution 47-2013 – Authorizing the General Manager to file WSDOT
Regional Mobility Grant #GCB1511 Applications for Park and Ride
Improvements at Tulip Lane Richland, WA

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated this topic is very near and dear to his heart. He called on Timothy J. Fredrickson, General Manager. Tim Fredrickson deferred comment to Kathy McMullen.

Kathy McMullen, Service Development Manager, stated that every two years the WSDOT puts out a call for projects through their Regional Mobility Program. BFT has sought funding and received notice of award of \$592,500 for improvement to the Park & Ride Lot at Tulip Lane in Richland, WA. The agreement will be similar to the one BFT has with WSDOT on the Park & Ride Lot located across for the BFT MOA on Columbia Park Trail.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated the Tulip Lane lot will be the second serious Park & Ride Lot near BFT. He favors Park & Ride lots. They are the right thing to do for the community. CHAIRMAN WATKINS asked if there are other lots on the horizon. Kathy McMullen stated yes, in Pasco near Road 68 and in Kennewick near the Southridge area.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS called for a motion.

ACTION: BOB OLSON made and STEVE BECKEN seconded a motion to approve Resolution 47-2013 as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Resolution 48-2013 – Authorizing the General Manager to file WSDOT Grant #GCB1583 Application for Consolidated Operating Expenditures

Tim Fredrickson presented an introduction to the Resolution authorizing him to complete the application process and enter into a contract making the funds available for expenditure. He deferred additional comment to Kathy McMullen.

Kathy McMullen stated that BFT was awarded funding for general labor operating paratransit service expenditures. The 2012 Transit Development Plan and STIP have been through public hearings that included the programming of these funds.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS called for a motion to approve.

ACTION: BOB KOCH made and STEVE BECKEN seconded a motion to approve Resolution 48-2013 as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a Contract with Gillig LLC for Four (4) Transit Buses utilizing the Port Authority of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA Contract

CHAIRMAN WATKIN stated that this item was taken from the Consent Agenda (Item 6F) and placed on the Action Agenda (Item 7C). This took place under Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Agenda. He noted that revised materials for 7C are on the desk.

Tim Fredrickson stated that Staff was in the process of buying 3 transit buses from Gillig LLC and found excess funds in the grant. Staff explored the possibility of adding a fourth bus to the procurement and the Port of Allegheny County has agreed to release four transit bus options to BFT. CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that the number of buses has changed and what about the status of the funds. Staff responded noting that the federal share on the fourth bus would be up to \$206,065 and the local share would be \$247,841, for a total of \$453,906.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS called for a motion to approve.

ACTION: RICK MILLER made and RICHARD BLOOM seconded a motion to approve Resolution 46-2013 – Authorizing the General Manager to enter into a Contract with Gillig LLC for four (4) Transit Buses utilizing the Port of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA Contract. MOTION CARRIED.

(BFT Board Standing Committees recommended approval of Action Items to the Full Board of Directors)

8. Discussion/Information Items

A. Receive and File 2012 WSTIP Annual report and BFT Risk Profile

Gloria Boyce, Administrative Services Manager, stated that the WSTIP reports were discussed in the Admin & Finance Committee meeting. The Committee recommended bringing the reports to the Board for discussion, information. Gloria Boyce stated that she is requesting the Board to receive and file the reports.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that the WSTIP documents are in the envelopes on the desk tonight. WSTIP is our insuring agency made up of a consortium of transit agencies around the state. We need to monitor and be sure we are good stewards of our insurance money. We need to be aware of what we cost the system. CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that the Board has the WSTIP reports and consider it received. He stated his thanks to Ms. Boyce.

B. Receive and File 2012 SAO Audit Report

Gloria Boyce stated that this item was presented to the Admin and Finance Committee last week. The State Auditor's Office has completed their 2012 Financial Statement and Federal Award Audit. They issued a statement both an unmodified opinion and no material witnesses and no significant deficiencies on both the financial statement and federal award audits. Moreover regarding the status of last years finding in the financial audit they indicate that it has been resolved. With that she requested the Board receive and file the 2012 SAO Audit Report. CHAIRMAN WATKINS responded noting that the Board has the 2012 SAO Audit Reports and considers them received. CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that he would take it one step further and extend not only a thank you but a round of applause to Staff for clearing this audit. The audit was a very important one as Ms. Boyce has indicated.

C. BFT Marketing Plan July 1, 2013-December 31, 2013

Christy Watts, Marketing/Customer Service Manager, stated that she presented the Marketing Plan for the remainder of 2013 to the Planning & Marketing Committee last week. During the 2013 mid-year Budget revision, \$50,000 was added to the marketing budget for TV advertising bringing the budget to \$62,000 for the last six months of 2013. Staff will increase marketing for the following:

- The Columbia Cup Boat Races
- The Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo – 3 ads will run in English & Spanish
- Travel Training
- The cost effectiveness of using public transportation
- BFT's mix of services

The goals of the BFT Marketing Plan are to increase ridership on event services, maintain and increase the utilization and productivity of BFT's mix of services, and promote Travel Training for seniors and people with disabilities.

Christy Watts stated that BFT Staff is working to leave all of the people in our transit area feeling good about how their tax dollars support public transportation. We are working with consultants to create ads to address the Marketing Plan goals. Further discussion for the upcoming Budget will include marketing efforts into the future.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS thanked Christy Watts for the report. He formerly served on the Planning & Marketing Committee and saw the concerns with the economy and it is fair to say that Staff contracted on the marketing budget for a time. It is good to see improvement in the marketing budget.

D. CAC Meeting Notes of July 8, 2013

Holly Kazmarski, Vice Chair of CAC/Dial-A-Ride Sub-Committee, stated that in the interest of brevity she won't go into a lot of detail. The CAC group covers a lot of areas, they accept comments from the public, and they are the eyes and ears of what is going on in transit in the area. She itemized three things:

- Invited all Board members and Staff to attend the annual CAC Roundtable discussion on Monday, September 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the BFT Board Room
- BFT Website – Reminder that BFT has an on-line reservation system. Dial-A-Ride customers can reserve their trips. This frees up Dispatchers and the phone lines. The CAC has 2 blind members and several low vision members who are testing the on-line reservation system. They say it is working well. It is accessible to their screen readers.
- Kathy McMullen provided a good and informative talk on the Transit Development Plan (TDP) at the August meeting.

Personally speaking – the CAC was afforded the opportunity to ride the new All-Electric (E-1) bus. Some of us liked it so well that we didn't get off the bus and stayed on for the second trip. It was quite a trip. The CAC meeting notes were not in the Board packet, but they are on their way. Thanks for inviting the CAC to the Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated his thanks for the good report. The CAC members are the folks who use transit services more than Board members, probably use transit on a regular basis. The CAC represents a cross section of our community and are volunteers. Between their questions and work with Staff, a lot of trouble-shooting happens. CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that he values the CAC. Holly Kaczarski responded, thank you and noted that the CAC has 23 members.

TERRY CHRISTENSEN stated in order to have more than one voice – he very much appreciates the CAC. The group has very good insight and a good feel about what is happening in the transit system. He feels that the CAC is very valuable to BFT. Thank you for your work. Holly Kaczarski thanked TERRY CHRISTENSEN for the compliment.

Tim Fredrickson noted that the CAC is very valuable to BFT. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for their work.

E. APTA Board Member Seminar Reports

LISA STADE stated that she had the privilege to attend the APTA Board Members Seminar in Austin, TX, July 20-24, 2013. The Board Members Seminar was a good learning experience. She got to network with peers from transit systems around the country and meet with peers from small transit systems like BFT. She got to hear different ideas on how agencies promote and advertise their service to encourage ridership. LISA STADE stated that she realizes there is a lot to learn and she is glad for the opportunity.

LISA STADE stated that she rode the public transit system in Austin each day and talked with passengers. She learned how the system worked and enjoyed the air-conditioning. LISA STADE stated that she looks forward to learning more and being able to help increase BFT ridership because she believes we provide a great service.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS thanked LISA STADE for the report. He thanked Staff for putting the report on the agenda noting that he believes it is important for Board members who attend these meetings to give a report on how the conference materials apply to what we deal with as elected officials and Board members.

F. WSTA Public Transportation Symposium/Roadeo, WSDOT Wall of Fame, Spokane, WA Red Lion Inn at the Park – Roadeo & Awards Sunday Aug. 25, Symposium Aug. 26-28, Wall of Fame Awards Banquet Tuesday, Aug. 27

Tim Fredrickson stated that these events are coming up soon. If you plan to attend, please let Susan know at your earliest convenience.

G. APTA Annual Meeting, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2013, Chicago, IL

Tim Fredrickson stated that even though this is not an EXPO year, the APTA Annual Meeting is always a good event. There will be lots of exhibits. Let Susan know if you are planning to attend.

9. Staff Reports & Comments

A. Legal Report

Patrick T. Roach, Legal Counsel, stated that he is happy to report that no events have occurred that are any cause for litigation or Executive Session.

B. Boardings and Quarterly Performance Report

Tony Kalmbach, Transit Planner, stated that the monthly ridership report was in the Board packet. He will also present a brief slide covering the quarterly performance reports that were presented to Committee meetings last week. The presentation includes some graphs that break down the ridership into more detail. The methodology

behind the quarterly performance report is to provide a break down by every single mode including contracted services. The report tracks our ridership, mileage, hours. Staff is using the quarterly report to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the transit system. Staff will also use the data to be in compliance with reporting at the state and federal level. The data presented tonight is for April, May and June. Tony Kalmbach gave a brief overview of the monthly ridership report.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS mentioned that by analyzing individual routes and looking at efficiency levels of routes Staff can look at service levels and make adjustments if there are routes that are underperforming so much so that such action would be warranted. Tony Kalmbach stated that Staff is looking at putting some type of performance measures into place and attach a certain percentage to it to begin taking a hard look at that particular route. CHAIRMAN WATKINS asked if any of this analysis effect or is Staff able to determine how our transfer points in the system are working. Tony Kalmbach stated that BFT does have a fairly high transfer rate, but that is not captured through this data. Through our FleetNet System Staff can track all transfers.

C. Treasurer's/Budget/Sales Tax Reports

Gloria Boyce stated that she is presenting June information this evening. As of June 30 out revenues were about \$722,000 above Budget. Our expenses were about \$1.4 million below Budget. Obviously the drivers for this are our sales tax is above projections as well as our vanpool fares are running above costs. Our fare box recovery year-to-date is 14.5 percent up from a budgeted 12.8 percent. Our lower ridership increases the allocated costs per boarding which is identified in the summary report on page 168 of the Board packet. Our fares per boarding is running at and above budgeted levels.

Treasurer's Report –

Sales Tax revenue increased 7.4 percent in July for May business compared to 2012 and year-to-date receipts area about 7.9 percent above Budget. The Local Jurisdiction and other PTBA sales tax reports that were included in the Board packet contained an error. The corrected reports are on your desk tonight.

D. General Managers Report

Tim Fredrickson stated that he doesn't have a formal report tonight. Everything that he would report on has been talked about.

Some months ago when we approved the TIGER Grant you, the Board, asked to be made, even though you've approved it, to be made more comfortable. With us tonight is Macy Neshati, Vice President of Complete Coach Works, Riverside, CA, to do just that. CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated this is a special treat tonight and welcomed Macy Neshati.

Macy Neshati expressed his thanks to the Board of Directors for inviting him to be here. He referred to a hand out which bears a photo of the All-Electric bus on one side and offers some highlights of what the bus has done since we put it into service. Macy noted that sitting here tonight and listening to you approve all these extra diesel buses, he

was thinking could he get on the Board for about an hour and file a motion to buy four electric buses instead – just kidding. Macy stated that he isn't quite sure how to comfort the Board, so he thought that maybe one of the things he could do is just walk the Board through who Complete Coach Works (CCW) is, what we have done in the past and how we have gotten here today.

High tech is always a risk. When you are on the cutting edge there is always the sense of will it work, what if it doesn't work, will the company still be there to support the product and so on. Everyone that is competing with Complete Coach Works has only been in the business for 2 or 3 years, 4 years tops. He asks people to tell him, if they have been in the transit industry for a while, about the last successful bus manufacturing start-up company – are they still in business. The answer would be Gillig which was founded in 1890 something. The landscape is littered with bankrupt bus manufacturing companies. There are only 4,000 buses a year built in the U.S. You have up to 6 or 7 companies vying for a percentage of 4,000 buses.

Complete Coach Works is the nation's largest bus manufacturing and retrofit company with over 27 years of experience in the transportation sector. He believes you can put your minds at rest. We have been around a long time, have a great business model. We try and do things that make sense, are sustainable and repeatable, therefore, we are still in business.

About a year a half ago my RCO and I were sitting in the office going gosh, you know, electric buses, man we could get rid of diesel, cut our dependence on foreign oil, clean up the air, get rid of greenhouse emissions. If only we could get something that would travel the length of miles that a bus company needs it to travel.

At the time everybody else was building a 25-30 mile battery bus and charging over \$1 million for it and taking \$30-40 million in government funding to develop these 30-mile buses. We thought that's not fair. You don't go to a transit company and say buy my bus and by the way you have to re-route and restructure all your routes to go 30 miles and then the bus has to be recharged.

The right way to do business is to go to a transit system and ask how far do you need to travel, what is your current route structure and what can we do to provide you a vehicle that fits your needs and satisfy your requirements. That is what CCW set about to do and we did it with our own money. There is not 1 dollar of tax-payers money invested in the bus we developed. We went around and looked at some technology and built a prototype in 10 days. The prototype bus has 18,000 miles on it and has been in about 16 of the 48 contiguous states. It has been in revenue service all around the country – in New York, Washington DC, LA, Palm Springs, and is continuing its route right now all over the country.

We came and met with your visionary General Manager, Mr. Fredrickson, and Mr. Ciccone and said here is what we got. The bus will go 120 miles. Will that fit your needs, does that get you through a day, does that help you with your operating sequence? Yes, OK was their answer. CCW responded stating let us show you our demo. So that is what we did and the rest is kind of history.

CCW has shown that you can take a 12-year old bus, the FTA mandated lifetime, recycle it, keep it out of landfills, reduce raw material consumption, re-manufacture it into a current configuration – make the bus just like a new bus for half the money. You are helping recycle, reduce and reuse. CCW has been doing this for 27 years. The re-manufacturing is done out of a facility in Riverside, CA.

Macy Neshati showed a slide presentation of some of the bus remanufacturing, retrofitting, and graffiti clean-up work they do at CCW, before and after photos are remarkable. CCW also does railcar repair and locomotive work. They also do full railcar re-manufacturing, double-decker railcars for Amtrak and vintage Disney railcars for Disneyland. CCW is very involved in Green Technology – reducing dependence on foreign oil.

BFT Zero Emission Propulsion System (ZEPS) Powered All Electric Transit Bus Demonstration Project – If we can make this economically viable, we can make something positive happen for the whole world. The project is a 9-month demonstration data collection process. We will be comparing it to 2 diesel buses. It was built on a BFT 40-foot low-floor bus. The bus has 242kw hours of batteries, a 40kw on-board charger – we do not charge extra for the charger like brand X and about a 5-hour recharge time. We advertising 120 miles, but we know we can probably push 140 miles. The bus does meet Buy American requirements. If we mapped out where all the parts come from to build the BFT bus it would be coast to coast.

Regarding batteries – right now most of the batteries come out of China or Korea. However, the domestic battery people will take a hard look and be interested when they see lots of electric buses. Right now as we stand today the three major battery manufacturers for this type of technology are all bankrupt. The ZEPS bus is 346 percent more efficient and 93 percent cheaper to operate as compared to a diesel bus.

Right now BFT has the ZEPS bus on a 61-mile run in the morning, a 5-hour gap, which basically allows for charging, then it runs on a similar route in the evening. For 122 miles the bus is consuming only 200kw and we have 242kw so there is a substantial reserve. There would be a 90 percent reduction in the cost of fuel if you ran the bus for a year. The cost of electricity use per day is \$7 versus \$78.00 for 21 gallons of diesel fuel – run that out times 365 days. Very significant – 660 pounds of CO2 emissions reduced each day.

The U.S. Bus and Tim's leadership – TIGER came out with another grant, only \$478 million available. By the day the grant closed there was \$9 billion in asks – projects submitted in response to \$478 million available. There were 512 applications and we are one of them. We are excited about the grant and following BFT's lead 12 other transit agencies across the United States formed a consortium and went in for one grant with one voice and asked for \$30 million of the \$478 million and we'll deploy 42 buses across the United States. Take pride, because the other transit agencies are following BFT's lead. The fact that BFT put an All-Electric bus in service and it works has inspired these other transit agencies including the largest transit agency, at least in the U.S., New York MTA, signed on to be under the BFT grant to get 2 buses. This is a pretty compelling

story. The story of what we are reducing regarding acquisition costs: hydrogen bus \$2.5 million, hybrid \$650,000, our competitor's 30-mile bus \$1.2 million not including a \$750,000 charger, CCW bus \$525,000 and we throw in a charger. The payback on a ZEPS bus is 3 ½ years.

Macy Neshati named the transit agencies who signed onto the grant as one voice:

- Clallam Transit
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- MARTA in Pennsylvania
- Santa Cruz Metro
- Tri-Delta Transit, California
- Lane Transit, Eugene Oregon
- Omni Trans, southern CA
- Indianapolis, IN
- New York MTA
- City of Gardena, CA
- Kansas City Airport Commission

Macy Neshati stated that he doesn't know if all this makes the Board feel more comfortable, less comfortable, he hopes it is more comfortable.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that he is definitely the person who asked to be made more comfortable. Between what Macy Neshati has said and what he has learned through the grant process, when he is riding the bus, and also researching, he is increasingly more comfortable with what is a visionary idea. This isn't research mode we're in, but to be fair, we are still not quite there to where there is going to be an electric bus on every corner instead of diesels, but I can see that we are a heck of a lot closer to that end of the spectrum of the bus that is parked outside. The only questions or concerns he has at this point have to do with transition from diesel to electric and what might be needed as far as infrastructure.

Macy Neshati stated that this is a valid point and he believes that the technology is going to move fast. Training the workforce is a key element and comforting them to know that we are not putting them out of work. We will be shifting again what people need to know to be productive.

TERRY CHRISTENSEN asked what is the apparatus on top of the bus in front of the air-conditioning units? Macy Neshati stated, that is your last set of batteries. The second item is Senator Patty Murray was very significant in helping to get the grant started and she was here today. He wasn't able to be here. Perhaps you or Tim Fredrickson could tell us what you thought about Senator Murray's visit. TERRY CHRISTENSEN noted that he spent a couple of days in Washington, DC during the APTA Legislative Conference with Macy Neshati, who is a very nice, and professional individual, so he is extremely comfortable with the electric bus project.

Tim Fredrickson stated frankly, he thinks Senator Murray was amazed at the bus, the savings, reduction in pollution, etc. She did take a ride around the bus yard. She spent

30 minutes at BFT, which was more time than was originally allowed for her visit. We are grateful and appreciative of that.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS stated that what he took away is that he believes Senator Murray was expecting the equivalent of a bus Prius and she got on a regular bus that was very quiet. When she kept hearing nuggets like it costs \$7 a day to operate, or other details like this is a bus that costs half a million. It was at that point that it was clear she knew that the bus wasn't just a research bus, but an actual bus in service. She kept asking, if fact, if the bus was in service and the answer was yes. He believes Senator Murray was impressed. Macy Neshati agrees that Senator Murray was very favorably impressed.

Macy Neshati again thanked the BFT Board and Staff for the invitation.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS thanked Macy Neshati for his presentation. Macy Neshati was given a round of applause.

10. Board Member Comments

TERRY CHRISTENSEN – Nothing special to report.

RICHARD BLOOM – We had an event at Flat Top Park which was well attended. Last month he missed the Board meeting. He was in Colorado. As part of the challenge in taking semi-public transportation, he rode Greyhound from Denver, CO to Laramie, WY. He had the experience of getting in on the initiation of the Greyhound, which was unique. If you ever thought getting on an airline was hard, try getting on the start of a bus route – that is a challenge, but he had a relatively pleasant trip.

BOB KOCH – No report.

LIDA STADE – Benton City held Benton City Daze that included a parade and BBQ. Lots of people attended. It was a nice event.

STEVE BECKEN – The Primary was last Tuesday and a Prosser City Councilmember was defeated. We have two positions to fill because another member decided not to run. The Prosser Wine and Food Fair is this weekend. It will be hot, but there will be lots of beer and wine to drink and good food too.

BOB OLSON – The new Pizza Parlor at Southridge is coming out of the ground.

RICK MILLER – Nothing too important is going on in Franklin County, at least to talk about, so he will pass.

MATT WATKINS – Stated that he did his Motorcycle Rally and did very well. The theme was planes, trains, and automobiles.

11. Next Meeting – Thursday, September 12, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
BFT Administration Building Board Room, 1000 Columbia Park Trail,
Richland, WA

12. Executive Session – None.

13. Adjournment

Adjournment – The regular meeting of the BFT Board of Directors adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting recorded by:
Susan Snowdy, CMC
Executive Assistant & Clerk of the Board/September 12, 2013