

ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, October 11, 2025

By Zoom and phone

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT: Charlie Hamilton, Rocky Shay, Bob Lawrence, Gary Wirt, Warren Yee, Larry Yok, Jim McIntosh, John McIntosh

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Barry Green, Steve Spear

Vice President Gary Wirt called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Secretary Rocky Shay identified a Board quorum of seven. Mr. Wirt then showed the day's agenda on the Zoom screen.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: With President Harvey Bowen unable to attend, Executive Director Charlie Hamilton suggested a discussion of Rail Can't Wait and other priorities. He noted the comments of Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso regarding how he wants us to discuss Rail Can't Wait's priorities. Mr. Hamilton said their document is still in draft form, but he showed the latest list and added more from a discussion yesterday with Mary Patterson. Mr. Wirt noted last year's disagreement with some priorities and wondered what might be achievable. Mr. Hamilton suggested that we approve, in draft, the top three items with number four probable and number five possible, based on President Bowen's comments. Mr. Wirt noted that Mr. Bowen should ask the Rail Passengers Association to work with Congress on some of these, partly because of our small size. Mr. Hamilton noted that Mr. Moscoso wants guidance on things to discuss with lawmakers. He then called for a motion to support priorities 1, 2 and 3 now with possible additions later. John McIntosh wondered if the Board could collaborate with Rail Can't Wait on these items. Mr. Hamilton said the RCW list isn't finalized yet and he called again for a motion to support items 1 through 3 and give him and Mr. Moscoso authority to talk about Items 4 and 5. Mr. Yok said anything more than 1 through 3 would be beyond our resources. Mr. Wirt wondered if we were really going to take up 150 mph rail between Seattle and Spokane and suggested there's not much we can do about No. 4. John McIntosh wanted Eastern Washington included in No. 4, supporting restoration of the North Coast Hiawatha on the Stampede Pass route, like the Rail Can't Wait list, noting that the federal government would fund needed upgrades. According to Mr. Wirt, the state could then fund the actual service, but it would be premature to do a cost-benefit analysis. Detailed discussion of the RCW priorities followed. Mr. Wirt said many things on the list aren't achievable and added that work on a dedicated state Rail Office should be with the Secretary of Transportation. Mr. McIntosh noted that certain agreements with them regarding enforcement of Cascades compliance have expired. Mr. Wirt urged discussions with the state Department of Transportation's Jason Biggs. Mr. Yok was told by Mr. Mr. Wirt that 1 through 3 were agreed on and 4 is questioned for talks. Mr. Yok moved to adopt Items 1 through four as priorities for the Legislature. Mr. Hamilton said research would be needed on item 5. Jim McIntosh noted our limited resources. Mr. Wirt urged adding 5 as a footnote. Mr. Yok moved to adopt items 1 through 4 and have Mr.

Moscoso discuss them with Rail Can't Wait. Mr. Hamilton suggested adding his name. John McIntosh then seconded Mr. Yok's motion with the commitment that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Moscoso simplify this to bullet points for simplification with a focus on emphasizing Stampede Pass as the preferential route with state legislative support. Detailed discussion followed as Mr. Hamilton worked to reword priorities to fit our desires. John McIntosh urged work for a long-term funding source for passenger rail in Washington. Mr. Lawrence agreed with the idea of creative financing, as in California. Mr. Wirt urged a provision regarding long-term funding for rail. John McIntosh wondered about urging the Legislature to create a study of this with thought of expanding matching funds to include all qualified corridor and identification programs in Washington. John McIntosh hoped that a joint Class I-Amtrak program could be funded and he called for language on improvement projects to benefit Class Is and us. Mr. Hamilton said he would refine the changes. Mr. Wirt called for a vote on the revised provisions motion. John McIntosh seconded. All Board members present voted by voice to approve the motion.

RAIL SUMMIT: Mr. Hamilton listed members going and said planning was going well. He noted a major anonymous donation this morning with a match, hopefully \$5,000 with \$5,000, with at least \$14,000 so far in current funding, an exciting improvement. Mr. Wirt told John McIntosh and all others that we keep doing well with fundraisers and we are now exercising needed discipline in expenses.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice President Gary Wirt discussed a request for a presentation on rail that he gave to the Governor's Aviation Group on September 17th. He urged us to view the presentation on the public comment period with unanimous encouragement for passenger rail as congestion relief for Sea-Tac Airport. Mr. Wirt offered additional details. The next meeting of the aviation group is December 9th at Boeing Field.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer John McIntosh said there's been a strong spike in donations and a financing improvement. He said a check is needed into why the accounting firm we hired for our IRS matters isn't responding. He said information for this needs updating. Mr. Wirt wondered if we should cut off the firm's ability to withdraw money from our bank account. Treasurer McIntosh said this will have to be resolved by his successor, but he told Mr. Yok that we should terminate that accounting agreement. Mr. Yok said we can possibly redevelop our 990 information. Discussion of our Quick Books fee followed. Mr. Yok said he would work with Treasurer McIntosh, who again suggested that we dis-entangle from this firm, partly because we are small enough for a postcard version of what's needed. Mr. Yee suggested talking with former treasurer De Kock about this, but it was mentioned that Mr. De Kock was out of town until the 27th. Treasurer McIntosh said he would keep us posted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Rocky Shay said there were no meeting minutes to approve today and that he would be working on those (September and October) soon.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence said he'd sent out email reminders, and he said auto-renewals still work. He said renewals have ticked up in October. He added that email reminders often don't work.

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MOSCOSO EMAIL: Mr. Hamilton said this was already discussed. Mr. Wirt said we have today answered Mr. Moscoso's request for action on Item 1. He said Mr. Hamilton and Mark Quam from Wisconsin have started coordinating to get the North Coast Hiawatha group together on advocacy efforts with two discussions coming at the Rail Summit and a meeting Friday at the AORTA office. Mr. Hamilton said he has been communicating with Rail Can't Wait, Mary Patterson and Brandon Bowersox, the latter dealing with aviation and wanting to work with us, partly by providing a list of short-haul flights that could be converted to rail. Mr. Hamilton noted that France no longer allows short-haul flights and we should work with this on our legislative priorities. Mr. Hamilton said we aren't ready to go with an all-out effort on electrification but do like clean energy efforts. Mr. Lawrence mentioned a shore power project for Sounder. Mr. Hamilton also mentioned our creating a Web site showing transit connections at places like light rail stations and bike trails. John McIntosh said it's amazing how many transit systems there are in this state. Mr. Hamilton wants this as an important 2026 project. He noted that the state Rail Office posted about the state bus program recently on social media. Mr. Shay asked about the proposed bus program expansion and was told the recent legislative session approved a study of that. Mr. Wirt suggested checking the WSDOT Web site. Mr. Hamilton noted that Oregon is looking at expanding Point bus service to restart the recently-closed Portland-Boise route.

OFFICER AND BOARD VACANCIES: Mr. Hamilton discussed the vacancies coming up. He said Mr. Bowen might stay on our Board but cannot stay as President. Mr. Hamilton quoted our Bylaws and called for nominations soon.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Hamilton said we did become a sponsor of the Rail Summit and called for attendees. Also, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is meeting before the summit, but fees are too high at the moment. Jim McIntosh was told that about six of us would attend the Summit, with roughly 100 people attending overall and several legislators there. Mr. Wirt noted a link to it. Jim McIntosh also brought up social activities and Transit Riders Union tables at events. He was told by Mr. Hamilton that we have a display board. Mr. Wirt called for volunteers for the Federal Way light rail opening on December 6th. Mr. Hamilton noted our winter gathering December 13th and called for speaker suggestions, but Mr. Wirt said we decided not to spend money on that. Mr. Yee noted a Sound Transit item coming up in early 2026 and said we might want to be there.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary