



Meeting Agenda

Youth Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

3:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [26-0127](#) Approval of January 21, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. CHECK IN ACTIVITY

During this portion of the meeting, Youth Councilmembers will participate in a team building activity.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A [26-0122](#) Intercity Transit Bus System Briefing

7. REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Accommodations

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Youth Council

Approval of January 21, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026
Agenda Item Number: 3.A
File Number:26-0127

Type: minutes **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Approval of January 21, 2026 Youth Council Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Youth Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

3:30 PM

Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 13 - Chair Nolan O'Connell, Secretary Sophia Park, Councilmember Eman Haroon, Councilmember Varshana Horback, Councilmember Shruthi Lingam-Nattamai, Councilmember Addy Pitman, Councilmember Kaelyn Velazquez, Councilmember Alania Wettstein, Councilmember Amelia Eslinger, Councilmember Amelia Leham, Councilmember Anika Prabakar, Councilmember Donovan Jojola and Councilmember Zian Zaho

Excused: 7 - Treasurer Eric Zhang, Councilmember Gretchen Hillier, Councilmember Demorie Joseph, Councilmember Elizabeth Mendoza, Councilmember Pamela Palmerson, Councilmember Gian Pama and Councilmember Toby Wilson

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [26-0067](#) Approval of the December 17, 2025 Youth Council Meeting Minutes

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Council Liaison Susan Grisham shared an update on the planning for the Youth Summit in May.

5. CHECK IN ACTIVITY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A [26-0066](#) Election and Approval of 2026 Youth Council Leadership Positions

Chair O'Connell discussed the importance of leadership positions for the Youth Council.

He conducted a nomination process and the following Youth Councilmembers were named for each position:

Co-Chair: Nolan O'Connell

Co-Chair: Donovan Jojoja

Secretary: Sophia Park

Treasurer: Addy Pitman

Vice Chair, Communications Subcommittee: Varshana Horback

Vice Chair, Policy Subcommittee: Shruthi Lingam-Nattami

Vice Chair, Outreach Subcommittee: Kaelyn Velazquez

Councilmember Jojola moved, seconded by Councilmember Wettstein to approve a slate of Youth Council members to serve in Youth Council leadership positions. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 13 - Chair O'Connell, Secretary Park, Councilmember Haroon, Councilmember Horback, Councilmember Lingam-Nattamai, Councilmember Pitman, Councilmember Velazquez, Councilmember Wettstein, Councilmember Eslinger, Councilmember Leham, Councilmember Prabakar, Councilmember Jojola and Councilmember Zaho

Excused: 7 - Treasurer Zhang, Councilmember Hillier, Councilmember Joseph, Councilmember Mendoza, Councilmember Palmerson, Councilmember Pama and Councilmember Wilson

6.B [26-0065](#) Discuss and Recommend a 2026 Youth Council Work Plan

Ms. Grisham shared an overview of the proposed 2026 Youth Council Work Plan.

Committee members asked clarifying questions.

Councilmember Jojola moved, seconded by Councilmember Velazquez, to approve the recommend 2026 Youth Council Work Plan to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for recommendation to the full City Council for approval.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 13 - Chair O'Connell, Secretary Park, Councilmember Haroon, Councilmember Horback, Councilmember Lingam-Nattamai, Councilmember Pitman, Councilmember Velazquez, Councilmember Wettstein, Councilmember Eslinger, Councilmember Leham, Councilmember Prabakar, Councilmember Jojola and Councilmember Zaho

Excused: 7 - Treasurer Zhang, Councilmember Hillier, Councilmember Joseph, Councilmember Mendoza, Councilmember Palmerson, Councilmember Pama and Councilmember Wilson

7. REPORTS - None

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming

Accommodations



Youth Council

Intercity Transit Bus System Briefing

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.A
File Number:26-0122

Type: discussion **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Intercity Transit Bus System Briefing

Recommended Action

Receive a briefing on Intercity Transit's planned bus system redesign. Following the presentation and discussion, begin work on the Youth Council's Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding transit.

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive a briefing on Intercity Transit's planned bus system redesign and share input on how changes may impact youth and students, and then use that information to support development of the Council's transit-focused PSA.

Staff Contact:

Susan Grisham, Youth Council Liaison, 360.753.8441

Presenter(s):

Nick Demerice, Chief Communications Officer, Intercity Transit

Background and Analysis:

Beginning in May 2026, Intercity Transit plans to add approximately 18,000 service hours per year to its fixed-route bus service. When combined with service increases implemented in January and May 2025, this represents a total increase of 40,000 annual service hours compared to 2024 levels.

This service expansion is consistent with Intercity Transit's 2018 Long Range Plan and the voter-approved Proposition 1 sales tax measure passed in November 2018.

The system redesign would:

- Retain four existing routes (Routes 13, 21, 600, and 610).
- Introduce 25 new routes.
- Increase the system from 20 routes (as of September 7, 2025) to 29 routes.

- Establish a high-frequency corridor with features similar to bus rapid transit (BRT) connecting west Olympia and east Lacey.
- Expand service to new and growing areas.

The redesign centers around frequent corridor service, a model used in many medium and large cities. Many of the new routes are designed to provide direct, one-seat rides to high schools, shopping centers, employment areas, and connections to the frequent corridor.

For youth riders, potential impacts include:

- Improved access to high schools, South Puget Sound Community College, and after-school activities.
- Increased frequency along major corridors, reducing wait times.
- Possible increases in transfers for some trips.
- Changes in travel time depending on route restructuring.

In addition to receiving the briefing, the Youth Council will use this time to begin discussions regarding the development of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) focused on transit.

Climate Analysis:

Expanded and more frequent transit service is a key strategy for reducing vehicle miles traveled by 25% from 2021 levels by 2040 and for achieving the City's goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

For young people, increased transit access supports:

- Reduced reliance on personal vehicles.
- Safer, more sustainable travel options.
- Long-term climate action consistent with community values.

Equity Analysis:

Many youth, including students and young workers, do not drive or do not have consistent access to a vehicle. Transit provides critical access to:

- Education
- Employment
- Healthcare
- Recreation
- Social services

Improved frequency and coverage can reduce barriers to opportunity, particularly for low-income youth and students from historically underserved communities.

The proposed PSA also provides an opportunity for youth voices to elevate equitable access to

transportation and ensure messaging resonates with young riders.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The proposed transit system redesign is of broad interest to the Olympia-area community because public transportation plays a critical role in daily life. Residents rely on transit to access jobs, schools, medical services, shopping, and community activities. Changes to routes, frequency, and service areas can directly affect commute times, convenience, and mobility options.

For families, improved transit can expand access to educational and extracurricular opportunities for students. For employers and local businesses, reliable and frequent service supports workforce access and customer connectivity. For seniors and individuals with disabilities, transit provides independence and essential access to services.

The redesign also relates to larger community priorities, including traffic congestion, affordability, climate action, and equitable access to opportunity. As the region grows, how transit services are structured will influence land use patterns, transportation choices, and overall quality of life.

Financial Impact:

Intercity Transit is independently funded through voter-approved sales tax and other transit revenue sources. The City of Olympia does not provide direct operating funding.

Development of the Youth Council PSA is anticipated to utilize existing City communication resources.

Options:

1. Receive a briefing on Intercity Transit's planned system redesign and begin discussion of a Youth Council transit PSA.
2. Do not receive a briefing.
3. Receive the briefing and discuss the PSA at a later Youth Council meeting.

Attachments:

None