

Tom Seigel

Bethel Public Schools  
**RESOLUTION 02 (19-20)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403, REQUESTING EXPANSION OF PIERCE TRANSIT BUS SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

WHEREAS, the Bethel School District comprises more than 202 square miles (one-ninth the landmass) of Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel School District has 20,000 students and over 120,000 residents (one-eighth the population of the county); and

WHEREAS, Bethel School District has experienced sustained growth, having grown from 86,000 residents in the year 2000 to 120,000 currently; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County is considering changes in zoning, know as "Centers and Corridors", which will increase residential and commercial densities in portions of the school district, including along Pacific Avenue, Canyon Road, Meridian Avenue and 176th Street; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel School District's population north of 224<sup>th</sup> Street is approximately 80,000. Thus, the population density of this north one-third of the Bethel School District is greater than the City of Lakewood; and when the uninhabited area of the Fredrickson Industrial Area is considered, the population density of this northern portion of the Bethel School District is roughly equal to Puyallup's population density; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Puyallup and Lakewood have multiple bus routes and many miles of bus service; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel School District has approximately three miles of bus service and only one bus route; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County and the Port of Tacoma, have a compelling need to ensure traffic flows smoothly to and from the Fredrickson Industrial Area via Canyon Road to support the heavy truck needs of the companies located there; and

WHEREAS, plans are underway to extend Canyon Road to the Port Tacoma; and

WHEREAS, the current street system in the Bethel School District area is already inadequate, with only three north-south and four east-west arterials, and increase in traffic will further increase congestion; and

WHEREAS, current Pierce Transit service is only available in the western part of the Bethel School District area, thus a person living in the center of Bethel School District may walk more than 5 miles to the nearest bus stop; and

WHEREAS, lack of Pierce Transit bus service inhibits our high school students from participating in "Running Start" programs at two-year colleges in the county; and

WHEREAS, if provided, Pierce Transit bus service on Canyon Road would allow more students to attend the Pierce County Skills Center and take advantage of its unique educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Department of Health conducted a survey of students which indicated that the level of medical, dental and mental health care for Bethel School District students is below the county average, and that condition, at least in part, is due to lack of access to healthcare in Tacoma and Puyallup.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Bethel School District Board of Directors requests that the Pierce County Council and the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County Transportation Benefits Corporation expand bus service in the northern portion of the Bethel School District. This would include routes along 176th and 224th Streets between Pacific Avenue and Meridian Avenue; along Canyon Road to the Frederickson Industrial Area, and extend service on Meridian Avenue to 224th Street.

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Bethel School District Board of Directors held this day the 27th of August 2019. The following members present and voting:



ATTEST:

*Thomas A. Long*  
Secretary to the Board

Board of Directors:

*Brenda L. Rogers*  
Brenda L. Rogers, President

*Marcus Young*  
Marcus Young, Vice President

*Roseanna Camacho*  
Roseanna Camacho, Director

*Amy Pivetta*  
Amy Pivetta, Director

*John L. Manning*  
John L. Manning, Director