

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MASON COUNTY  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AREA (DBA MASON TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY) AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO TAKE ACTION  
TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC.**

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2020, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health announced the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States and in Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020 the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) commencing January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 2020-27 approved on March 13, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners of Mason County declared a countywide state of emergency related to the public health threat from the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Mason County; and

**WHEREAS**, Mason Transit Authority provides an essential public service that is critical to public health, safety, and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Mason Transit Authority's employees are its most important asset and Mason Transit Authority is not able to perform its essential public service without employees who are ready and available to perform their job duties; and

**WHEREAS**, Mason Transit Authority has experienced significant decreases in ridership and recognizes that the COVID-19 situation is rapidly changing and it is imperative that the General Manager be empowered to manage all transit services as well as its employees to protect the safety and welfare of its employees and the general public;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASON TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD** that, effective immediately, the General Manager is hereby authorized to, within applicable legal requirements:

1. Modify or eliminate existing services as deemed necessary to protect the safety and welfare of Mason Transit Authority employees and the public with the direction to give as much notice to the public as practicable.
2. Suspend any other policies or standard practices as needed to preserve the safety of staff, riders and the community at large.
3. Implement and execute any administrative policies and procedures deemed necessary and appropriate to take protective measures.
4. Direct when employees shall be sent home and not allowed to return to work until directed by the General Manager or designee, and manage those employees necessary to maintain critical business functions of PTBA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** pursuant to, and as authorized by RCW 39.04.280, the General Manager is hereby authorized to waive the competitive bidding requirements for Mason Transit Authority's purchase of essential materials, supplies, and public works required to operate the transit system, and the General Manager is directed and authorized to take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure uninterrupted operation of the PTBA systems.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the foregoing authority extends for the duration of the emergency, or until the Board withdraws such authority; and the Board requests regular updates regarding the state of the emergency, no less frequently than monthly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution is not intended to establish a precedent for how similar emergency situations will be addressed in the future.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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Wes Martin, Chair

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Sharon Trask, Vice-Chair

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John Campbell, Authority Member

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 Kevin Dorcy, Authority Member

  
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Matt Jewett, Authority Member


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Randy Neatherlin, Authority Member

  
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Deborah Petersen, Authority Member

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Kevin Shetty, Authority Member

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Sandy Tarzwell, Authority Member

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:   
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Danette Brannin, General Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:   
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Robert W. Johnson, Legal Counsel

ATTEST:   
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Tracy Becht, Clerk of the Board

DATE: 3/30/2020