

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Josh D. Peters, County Administrator

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION and POTENTIAL ACTION re: Letter of interest – Jefferson Transit Authority Acquisition of the Gateway Visitor Information Center Property

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) is in receipt of a letter from the Jefferson Transit Authority (JTA), dated July 31, 2025 and attached, that expresses interest in acquisition of the county property—located at 93 Beaver Valley Road, Port Ludlow, on State Route (SR) 19 near the intersection with SR 104—that currently houses the Olympic Peninsula Gateway Visitor Information Center (Gateway VIC), operated through the Jefferson County Tourism Coordinating Council (TCC).

ANALYSIS:

The July 31 JTA letter outlines the opportunities and advantages that JTA sees with respect to the acquisition of the subject property. JTA General Manager Nicole Gauthier has been invited to participate in this agenda item to further describe JTA's perspective and to answer questions from the BoCC.

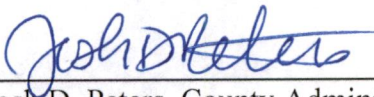
FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

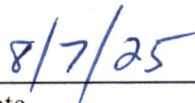
RECOMMENDATION:

Review the JTA letter and discuss the proposal. Direct staff as to next steps.

REVIEWED BY:



Josh D. Peters, County Administrator



Date



63 Four Corners Road, Port Townsend, WA 98368

July 31, 2025

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2025

JEFFERSON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Subject: Letter of Interest – Jefferson Transit Authority Acquisition of the Gateway Visitors Center Property

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express an interest in Jefferson Transit Authority's potential acquisition of the property currently occupied by the Gateway Visitors Center. This location presents a unique opportunity to enhance regional transportation through the development of an enhanced park and ride facility that would also serve as a vital link between Jefferson and Clallam transit agencies.

As outlined in the recently completed site plan by SCJ Alliance, the property is well positioned to facilitate bus operations and essential interagency connections. This would include seamless transfers between the Jefferson Transit #14 Kingston Express and Clallam Transit's #123 Strait Shot, improving accessibility and convenience for riders traveling within and between the two counties.

Additionally, establishing a transit connection point at this location would enable the Dungeness Line to incorporate a stop, expanding interregional transit options further. It would create a central point for ridesharing and other shared mobility services, encouraging sustainable travel behaviors and reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

Importantly, this project supports both Jefferson Transit's broader service goals, outlined in its Comprehensive Operational Analysis, as well as Jefferson County's Framework Goal VII – Mobility, as described in its April 2025 Comprehensive Plan. The acquisition would create a strategic connection point within the agency's service area and serve as a launchpad for exploring new and innovative service models such as microtransit.

I encourage the Board to give serious consideration to this opportunity, which would provide long-term benefits in terms of regional connectivity, environmental sustainability, and community mobility.

Sincerely,

Nicole
Gauthier

Nicole Gauthier
General Manager

Digitally signed by Nicole
Gauthier
Date: 2025.07.31 13:35:05
-07'00'