

Road Trip Update - Heading Home

We learned so much from your input during the first leg of Intercity Road Trip. More than 3,500 individuals shared their future public transit goals and aspirations with us. All together, we collected more than 10,000 unique responses. You talked with us at community events and open houses, submitted ideas at drop boxes throughout Thurston County, participated in intercept surveys on buses and at bus stations, and provided your ideas online. We are grateful for your participation and insights.

Since we completed the first leg of our journey, we've sorted through your input, which gave us a lot to think about. Before we head home, we wanted to make sure we've got the messages right. To help ensure that we heard you correctly, we invited you to take a brief survey about your transit preferences and priorities for the future. You can also engage with us at community events or directly. To learn how, check out the [Get Involved](#) page.

Our goal is to confirm what you want the future of public transit in and around Thurston County to look like, so that we can begin planning to make your vision a reality.



What Matters Most?

- Service to New Areas
- Improved Frequency
- On-Time Performance
- Extended Span of Service
- Enhanced Commuter Service
- Enhanced Capital Facilities
- Change how Fares are Paid
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Night Owl Service

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roadtrip@intercitytransit.com
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Community Ideas

Key Messages

Over the past several months, we've been reviewing the results of leg one of our Road Trip outreach and analysis with a project [Steering Committee](#). The Steering Committee includes representatives from local municipalities, rider groups and community interests. Their review of community input identified the following key messages:

1. Speed up service and attract more riders.
2. Increase frequency and reduce wait times.
3. Offer earlier, later and weekend service.
4. Expand service to new areas.
5. Offer express service on high-volume lines.
6. Ensure access for those most in need.
7. Reduce congestion and parking demand.
8. Expand Vanpool and Dial-A-Lift services.
9. Provide real-time arrival and departure information.
10. Be more bike-friendly.

Potential Enhancements

The Steering Committee recommended consideration of several service enhancements that could help us achieve some, or even most, of the community-identified priorities. They include:

- [Bus Rapid Transit](#) (Fast, high-frequency service along major corridors.)
- [Extended Span of Service](#) (Bus service that starts earlier in the morning and runs later at night.)
- [Improved Frequency](#) (Buses come more often, all day.)
- [Service to New Areas](#) (NE Lacey, Yelm, and other areas over time.)
- [Night Owl Service](#) (Weekend, on-demand, late night transit service to and from downtown Olympia.)
- [Maintain On-Time Performance](#) (Add buses to address congestion and keep them on time.)
- [Enhanced Commuter Service](#) (More, faster Express service to Tacoma/Seattle.)
- [Enhanced Capital Facilities](#) (Money for shelters, lighting, benches, etc.)
- [Change the Way Fares are Paid](#) (Implement new fare technology or introduce an alternative fare structure.)

Other Considerations

The Steering Committee explored future transit scenarios while considering important realities, including:

- State and federal funding sources, which once supported transit station construction or expansion, new bus purchases, and other capital projects have been drastically reduced or eliminated.
- Population growth and congestion are slowing routes while also adding more riders.
- Younger workers show a preference for transit-based commutes over car-ownership.
- Intercity Transit has stretched the service life of its fleet and undertaken other cost-cutting measures. Even so, without new revenue, service demands will outpace revenues by 2022.
- Intercity Transit will provide the level of service our community supports, even if it means reductions.



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Future Scenarios

A range of future scenarios for public transit in Thurston County were considered by the [Steering Committee](#) including:

- **Service Reductions:** Allow public transportation service levels to shrink in the face of increasing growth and congestion which increase operating costs.
- **Status Quo System:** Increase revenues just enough to maintain the current level of public transportation we have today to keep up with growth and congestion.
- **Transformational System:** Increase revenue enough to keep up with growth and reduce congestion, serve new areas, add frequency and ensure those who need it have it.

Based on population growth and ridership projections, the Steering Committee felt the *Service Reduction* and *Status Quo* scenarios would not meet the basic needs and demands of our community.

The Steering Committee recommended the Intercity Transit Authority consider proceeding with the *Transformational Scenario*. They believe it will accomplish transit users' priorities, while also contributing to community development goals.

STANDARD BRT FEATURES



A. Transit Signal Priority B. BRT Branding C. Enhanced Stations
 D. Enhanced Fare Collection Systems E. Specialized Vehicles F. Dedicated Running Way



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Steering Committee

Intercity Transit worked with a Steering Committee to sort through community comments and technical analysis findings, in preparation for the next round of community engagement. The Steering Committee included representatives from our partner jurisdictions, large transit users and other stakeholder interests. The goal was to coordinate and synchronize public input with peer community plans. The Steering Committee will recommend a "public review package" to the Intercity Transit Authority. That package will then be presented to the community for discussion and prioritization.

Steering Committee members include:

- Grant Beck, City of Yelm
- Michael Cade, Economic Development Council
- Ramiro Chavez, Thurston County Manager
- Todd Cutts, Olympia Downtown Association
- Corinne Daffern, Workforce PACMTN
- Mike Matlock, City of Tumwater
- Tomy Mollas, Department of Enterprise Services
- Karen Parkhurst, TRPC
- JoAnn Schueler, WSDOT
- Jeanette Smith, Ph.D., The Evergreen State College
- Keith Stahley, City of Olympia
- Dr. Tim Stokes, SPSCC
- John Suessman, North Thurston School District
- Rick Walk, City of Lacey
- Joanna West, Thurston Chamber Board of Trustees

Community Partners

Intercity Transit shared community input results with a wide range of community partners who identified additional community objectives that would benefit from a robust transit service, including:

- **Community Health and Wellness** – many people rely on transit to get to medical appointments and social gatherings.
- **Economy** – transit is the primary means of transportation for many workers; an efficient transit system is essential to attracting employers.
- **Environment** – higher transit use will reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips and carbon emissions.
- **Quality of Life** – transit helps reduce congestion and provides worry-free travel options.
- **Urban Design** – transit reduces the need to use prime real estate for parking in the urban core.
- **Growth Management** – frequent and abundant transit drives population growth in urban corridors.



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Information & Resources

Fact Sheets

- [Bus Rapid Transit](#)
- [Extended Span of Service](#)
- [Improved Frequency](#)
- [Service to New Areas](#)
- [Night Owl Service](#)
- [Maintain On-Time Performance](#)
- [Enhanced Commuter Service](#)
- [Enhanced Capital Facilities](#)
- [Change the Way Fares are Paid](#)



Presentations

- [Project Status Update - June 2018](#)



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- [Service to New Areas](#)
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Get Involved

Over the coming months, we will be providing details about our long-range planning efforts and what each of the scenarios could mean for our community. Please be sure to let us know what you think the future of public transit in Thurston County should look like.

Listen:

- [Saturday Morning Conversations with Dick Pust](#)

Read:

- [Thurston Talk article](#)
- [Rider News](#)

Online:

- Email us at roadtrip@intercitytransit.com
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Other ways to connect:

- Call our hotline: 360-705-5852
- Send us a note to: PO Box 659, Olympia, 98507
- Stop by our business office at 526 Pattison Street SE, Olympia

Intercity Transit's goal is to offer service that meets our community's needs and expectations. Please help us chart the course to a successful future. We look forward to hearing from you!



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