



SYSTEM REDESIGN – Phase 3

Imagine a Better Bus System

Rob LaFontaine Deputy Director of Planning

Presented to the Authority Board October 1, 2025



EVERY 15 MINUTES



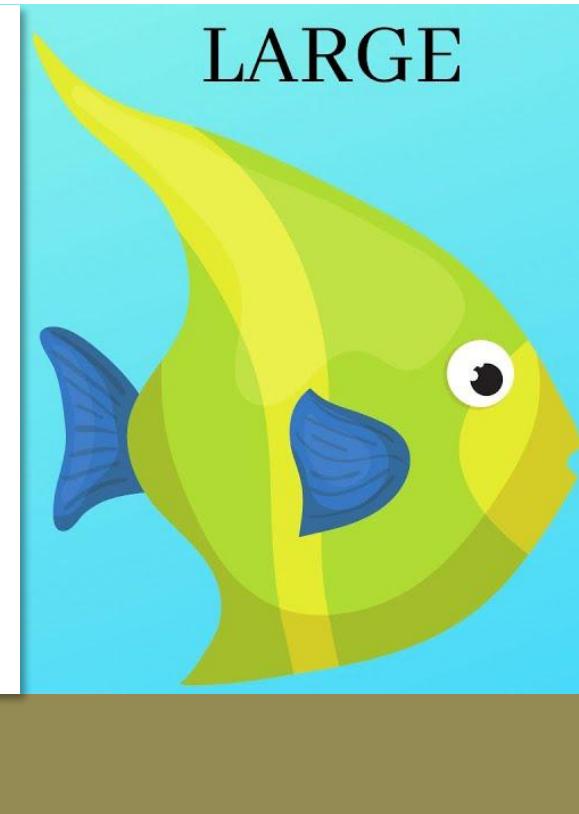
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Phase 3 – *the big fish*

May 2026

New crosstown BRT-Lite line, as well as replacement of most existing local routes.



Imagine a Better Bus System



www.intercitytransit.com/bus-system-redesign

Bus System Redesign

In May 2026, Intercity Transit will complete the implementation of a system redesign. The redesign is being carried out using a three-phase process outlined below:

Phase	Timeline	Changes to System
Phase 1	May 2025	Expanded service hours and increased frequency.

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Provide Feedback

[Provide public comment](#)

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Publications

[September 2025 Service Change - Major Service Change Summary & Equity Analysis](#)

[Draft 2025 - 2030 Transit Development Plan](#)

Other Information

[Draft Schedules and Maps](#)

Dedicated webpage

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Phase	Timeline	Changes to System
Phase 1	May 2025	Expanded service hours and increased frequency.
Phase 2	September 2025	Introduction of two new commuter routes.
Phase 3	May 2026	New crosstown BRT-Lite line, as well as replacement of most existing local routes.

Many of the changes are included in the [2025 - 2030 Transit Development Plan](#) and resources to support the system redesign and some of the changes have been allocated in the [2025 Budget](#).

The following sections provide an overview of the bus system redesign; they will continue to evolve as resources are developed and refined so customers can learn about the new system, provide feedback on proposed changes, and plan in advance for necessary changes to how they travel by transit within the [Thurston County Public Transportation Benefit Area \(PTBA\)](#) and beyond.

Why is Intercity Transit redesigning its bus system?

Learn about factors that lead Intercity Transit to propose a bus system redesign, benefits to passengers and the community, and more.

[Background Information](#)

System Redesign Process & Timeline

Design and review of the new system is underway. Between now and May 2026, we'll be busy working with local jurisdictions, community partners, and our passengers to help keep everyone informed and engaged.

[See the Timeline](#)

Bus System Redesign - Map

In the coming weeks and months, we will provide detailed graphic information about the new system, including descriptions and maps of each route, as well as schedules.

[View New System Map](#)

Opportunities to Learn More & Provide Feedback

We want to hear from you! Find out when and where you can provide input on the system redesign and where we'll be to help passengers learn their routes before the redesign is implemented.

[Come Talk with Us](#)

Dedicated webpage
Lots of Information

Preliminary Service Change Summary **DRAFT**

May 2026: System Redesign



Prepared by:

Intercity Transit Planning Division
September 2025

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Service Change Summary & Analysis

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Introduction

In 2016, Intercity Transit began a two-year effort that informed the agency about expectations and priorities for public transit in Thurston County. The comprehensive effort provided input about what transit should look like and prioritized those into common themes, which were then used to develop scenarios for the future that include:

- Service Reductions: Allow public transit to serve the growing population while increasing growth and congestion where possible
- Status Quo System: Increase revenue to keep up with growth and congestion
- Transformational System: Increase revenue to serve new areas, add frequent service, and reduce congestion

Riders can look forward to better connections to the University of Puget Sound, Community College (SPSCC), and other key destinations. The Transformational System. The new routes will add frequent service to new areas, and add cross-town connections. The new system is designed to be more efficient, reliable, and accessible.

The improvements to service identified in this summary are consistent with Intercity Transit's:

- Draft 2026 Annual Budget
- 2025 – 2030 Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Shown to the right is an excerpt from the TDP containing the adopted Element 7 - Planned Operating Changes section

Year	New Hours
January	10,800
May	12,500
September	0
Year	New Hours
January	0
May	18,000
September	0
Year	New Hours
2027	<3,000
2028	<3,000
2029	<3,000
2030	<3,000

public engagement

Convenient Connections

The redesigned network includes route connections with the Route 9X corridor service along Harrison Ave., State Ave., 4th Ave., and Martin Way. Connecting along the frequent corridor will reduce the need to connect at transit centers, which often require a long out-of-direction travel between the start and end of a trip.

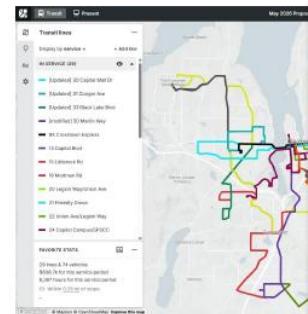


Shared Frequency

College Street

(Right) The proposed redesign of service includes a significant increase in bus service along College Street. Routes 52 and 90 will combine to provide service every 15 minutes, making it easier and more convenient for people to travel to and from destinations along College St. and connect to the Lacey Transit Center, which will provide access to many other locations across the system. In addition, College St., Lacey Blvd. and Pacific Ave. will continue to be served by routes with shared frequency, which means passengers will have more frequent options traveling to and from their destinations.

Interactive Map: <https://platform.remix.com/project/03cdaee8?latlng=47.06615,-122.90656,12.253&sp.id=680f7c74-dc8e-4073-ae10-bce11b19a9be&styleBy=service>



BUS STOP NOTE: Exact locations are subject to change, pending jurisdictional approvals.

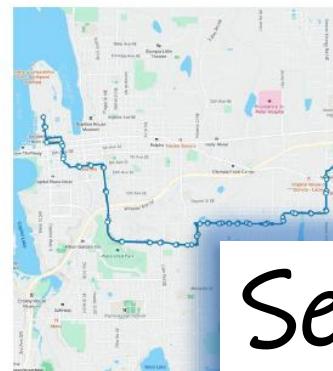
What does it mean when bus routes interline?

Buses are often assigned to different routes. When this happens it is often referred to as a bus interline. An interline occurs at a transit center location; arriving to the transit center as one bus and departing as another.

Interlines are strategic combinations of routes that help the system run more smoothly. Passengers benefit from interlined bus routes by enjoying a trip that involves a transfer from one bus to another.

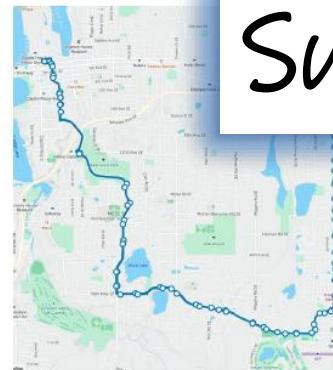
EVERY 15 MINUTES

Olympia to Lacey



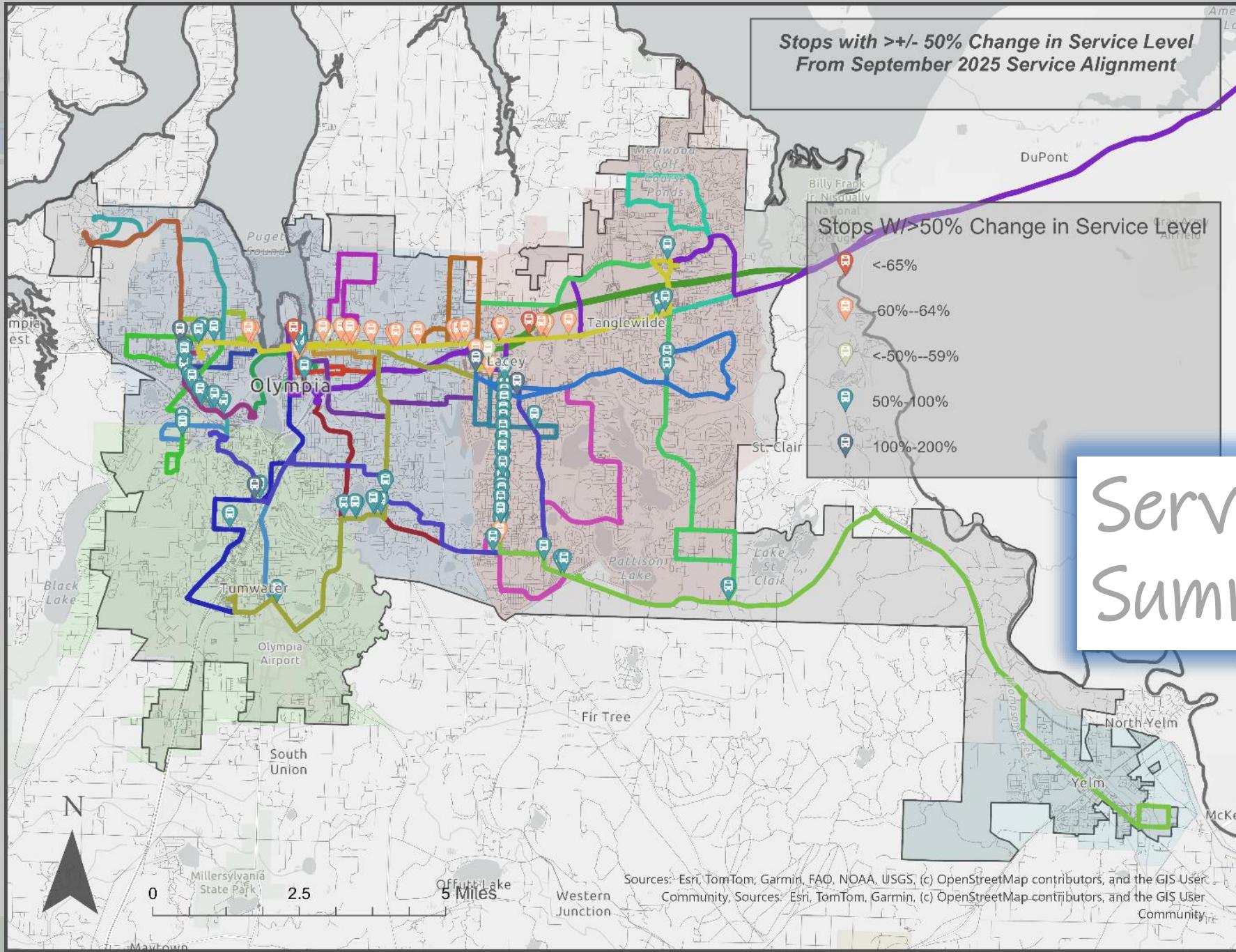
May 2026

51 Farmer's Market/Lacey
SERVING
Farmer's Market
Olympia Transit Center
Adams St
9th Ave
Eastside St

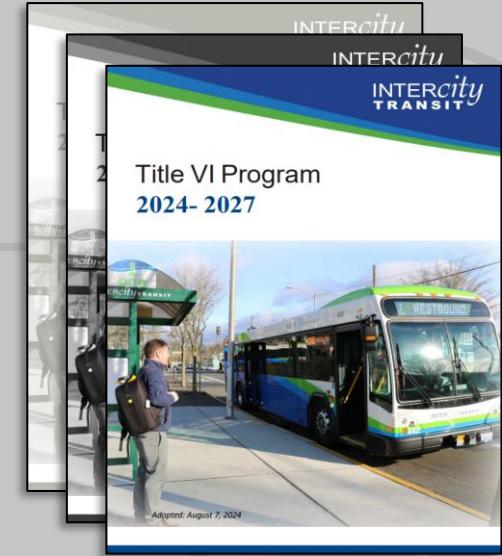


30 Daytime service every 30 minutes Weekdays & Weekends
SERVING
Lacey Transit Center
College St
Lacey Corporate Center
Yelm Ave
Henderson Blvd
Olympia High School
Watershed Park
Adams St
Olympia Transit Center

Service Change Summary & Analysis

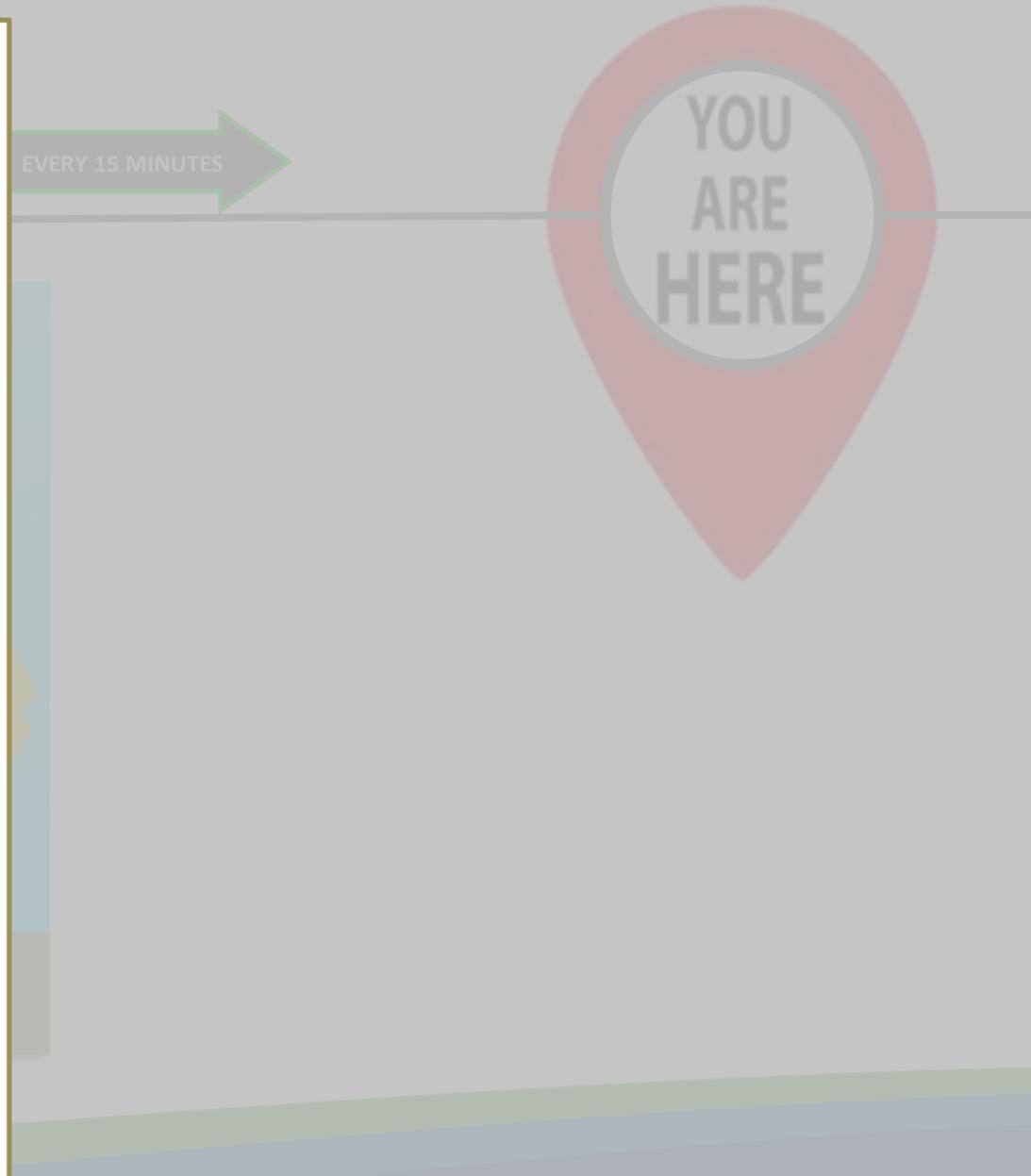


Service change Summary & Analysis



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Phase 3 – May 2026



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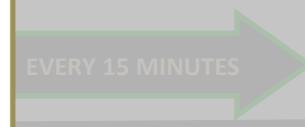
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Phase 3 – May 2026



October - November 2025

- October 1 – Schedule a public hearing, begin comment period
- November 14 – end comment period



COMMENT CARD

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



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Scheduled Presentations



- October 3rd TRPC
- October 8th TPB (TRPC)
- October 28th Lacey City Council
- November 25th Tumwater City Council

EVERY 15 MINUTES



what we might expect to hear



- Concerns from existing users about how the changes may impact their experience
- Concerns from property owners regarding the introduction of new service
- Requests that the service be expanded beyond what is anticipated
- Looks great!



EVERY 15 MINUTES



Imagine a Better Bus System

Phase 3 – May 2026



November - December 2025

- November 17 – CAC Recommendation
- December 3 – ITA Adoption of Service Summary & Analysis

EVERY 15 MINUTES

YOU
ARE
HERE

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