

Get Ready for Fall!

The weather is changing to that familiar drizzle we all know and love. Remember to take extra care not to [hydroplane](#) when carpooling:

- Do not brake or accelerate suddenly if you hydroplane
- Make sure your tires have ample tread
- Only go as fast as conditions allow!

Walktober

October is the month to try out a new routine in the name of Walktober! If you live reasonably close to your workplace and have a safe route to walk on, why not try walking to work this month? If you don't live close to work, feel free to add an extra walk in whenever you can. Remember:

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Wear high visibility clothing or carry a light, especially in the dark
- Take extra care near intersections



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Welcome!

Welcome to our new quarterly newsletter designed for Employee Transportation Coordinators.

Hopefully this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good health. With the pandemic, protests, and most recently wildfires, we've all had an unprecedented year that has affected all of our lives in some way.

It is our hope that this newsletter will help all of us feel just a little bit more connected during these unpredictable times. In this newsletter, we plan to feature transit news, commuter tips, events, resources, and the benefits of reducing single occupancy trips.

While this newsletter is designed with ETCs in mind, feel free to distribute this to your employees if you think they will find it beneficial.



If there is anything you would like to see in the next edition of this newsletter, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at akoerber@everettwa.gov or by calling 425.257.7728. Any ideas or suggestions would be much appreciated.

-Amanda Koerber



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COVID Impacts on Employers

We asked our ETCs how their companies are dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. Here are some statistics from the largest employers in Everett:

- **50%** of employers have not been able to retain all of their employees
- **89%** of employers are allowing significantly more telecommuting than before the pandemic
- **44%** of employers say that their telecommuting program will become permanent after the pandemic



Health Resources

- Getting your [flu shot](#) is more important than ever this year
- Register for a drive-thru [COVID-19 test](#) in Snohomish county
- If you're feeling unsettled by recent events, you're not alone. [Here is a list](#) of resources to deal with the emotional impact of the COVID-19 crisis



Originally, the plan was for Everett Transit's reduction in service to be temporary.

During the first few weeks of the pandemic, when we all thought the stay-at-home order would only last a few weeks, Everett Transit reduced service in order to keep passengers and drivers safe. However, as the pandemic wore on, it became clear that this pandemic would lead to our current service model becoming unsustainable.

Many transit agencies rely on sales tax to sustain themselves. With so many stores closed and a decrease in consumer spending, transit agencies have seen unimaginable budget shortfalls. To make matters worse financially, many agencies went fare-free during the early months of the pandemic, leading to even more lost revenue.

Service Reductions Across Agencies

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many transit agencies are facing budget cuts and service reductions.

As of today, here are what the service reductions currently look like across agencies:

Everett Transit continues to operate on an enhanced Saturday schedule during weekdays, a regular Saturday schedule on Saturday, and no service on Sunday. Route 6 is suspended.

Community Transit is now running service at 85% of pre-pandemic levels, up from 70% at the beginning of the pandemic. This level of service will be maintained through Spring 2021. Sales tax revenue accounts for 65-70% of CT's budget.

Sound Transit has suspended several routes. Most relevant to commuters in this area may be the elimination of reverse-peak service for route 532. Additionally, two out of the four Sounder trains leaving

the Everett Station remain suspended. Several large construction projects have been frozen due to the pandemic. Sound Transit is in the process of realigning its budget to avoid reaching the legal debt limit which would be reached in 2028 without realignment.

King County Metro has had arguably one of the most dramatic reductions in service. Over 50 routes have been suspended entirely, and almost all routes are operating on reduced service.

All of the aforementioned agencies have implemented safety precautions in response to COVID-19 including driver barriers, distanced seats, mandatory masks, and passenger limits. Finally, let's take a moment to thank all of the transit drivers who have worked tirelessly and patiently throughout the pandemic.



Wildfires and what we can do

Why work to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips? One big reason is climate change.

We have all recently experienced the devastating effect wildfires can have on our environment and health.

In the context of commuting, wildfire smoke makes every mode of commute more difficult. From smoke lingering at a bus stop to smoke entering your home or car, it can seem like there is no escape.

What can we do? In the long-term, there is substantial evidence that wildfire smoke is increasing because of [climate change](#). We must do as much as we can to reduce the effects of climate change.

Per the [EPA](#), transportation accounts for 28% of greenhouse gas emissions, with 59% of that from light-duty vehicles. Now more than ever, reducing our rate of single occupancy vehicle trips is of utmost importance.

In the short-term, here are some steps you can take to mitigate the effects of wildfire smoke on your health:

- Get an air purifier. A HEPA filter works best, but a [box fan](#) with a furnace filter placed over it can work in a pinch
- Keep your windows closed, even when using a box fan
- Weatherproof your home with airtight weatherstripping
- Wear an N95 mask (if available – don't take away from healthcare workers)

Vanpool Update

If you live in King County, you might be interested to know that King County Metro has relaxed its vanpool ridership requirements for essential workers. Instead of requiring 5 participants to form a vanpool, KCM is temporarily only requiring 2 participants to obtain a seven-passenger van. [Learn more here.](#)

Remember, always follow COVID-19 guidelines when vanpooling or carpooling.



Commuter Tip

As the weather cools down, commuting by foot, bike, or bus can become less comfortable. Have you recently taken inventory of the products you're using on your commute?

- [Good shoes](#) make all the difference. Look for something waterproof!
- A jacket prepared to handle the rain can keep you feeling like it's a summer day. Learn how [waterproof](#) ratings really work.
- If using an umbrella, finding a nice compact umbrella can keep it from becoming a hassle.

Featured Commute Mode: [Telecommuting](#)

The most sustainable form of commuting!

Out of all the forms of commute trip reduction, you can't beat telecommuting when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Telecommuting doesn't just cut emissions in half like carpooling might; it reduces vehicle emissions to nearly zero.

Luckily, many of us who can telecommute are likely already doing so during this time. However, is the telecommuting program

at your worksite going to remain a permanent fixture after the pandemic is over? It might be a good idea to let management know the positive effect telecommuting has had on your life and the environment.

Here are some facts to back you up:

- In some cases, teleworking has been shown to [increase productivity](#)
- Employees can continue working during inclement weather or minor illness
- In general, teleworkers show [increased job satisfaction](#) and are [easier to retain](#)



Need Anything?

If you need trip-planning or transit assistance, do not hesitate to call Everett Transit Customer Service at 425.257.7777 or email ETmail@everettwa.gov.

If you need assistance as an ETC, please reach out to one of us directly:

Mimi West
425.257.8806
mwest@everettwa.gov

Amanda Koerber
425.257.7728
akoerber@everettwa.gov

Upcoming Events

- **Currently, there are no upcoming events.**

If you have a commute-related event (virtual or otherwise) open to the public that you'd like to see on this list, please [send us your event](#).

Commuter Resources

[Trip Planner](#)

Use this to find out which bus to take to your destination.

[Rideshare Online](#)

Use this to find someone to start a carpool or vanpool with.

[Snohomish County Bike Map](#)

Use this to plan your bicycle Commute around Snohomish County.

[Seattle Transit Blog](#)

For news on transit throughout the region.



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