

## Turn on your lights!

With winter weather underway, remember to follow these important safety tips on your commute:

- If your windshield wipers are on, your headlights should be on. Even if it's daytime, you may be practically [invisible](#) to semi-trucks in the rain.
- Slow down and keep your distance in snowy conditions – read up on [how to react](#) before you hit a surprise patch of black ice on your morning commute.



## COVID-19 Updates

As the pandemic continues, it's important to note that [masks are still required](#) by the FTA on all forms of public transportation.

If you received your COVID-19 vaccine more than six months ago, the [CDC](#) recommends getting a [booster shot](#) for everyone over age 18. Even for those who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past, the vaccine has been shown to provide [stronger immunity](#) than natural immunity.



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## Warm winter wishes

Read on for information you'll want to know as an Employee Transportation Coordinator or commuting employee – even if you're telecommuting.

During this holiday season, ensure that the whole family stays safe by following CDC guidelines for [safe gatherings](#). If you're traveling on the road or just on your commute, keep an eye out for impaired drivers which are [far more common](#) during the holidays. [Plan ahead](#) and arrange to take a taxi, Uber, or [plan a transit trip](#) if you won't be able to drive home safely.

In this issue, we take a look at when and where the new Everett Link light rail will be built. We also explore how Washingtonians have already begun to feel the effects of climate change. Take a glance at the sidebars for information on potential service impacts, COVID-19 updates, how the legislature is fighting climate change, and more. See the upcoming events section on the last page for information on two open public comment periods as well as Everett's annual [Wintertide](#) celebration.



If there is anything you would like to see in the next edition of this newsletter, please share your thoughts by emailing [akoerber@everettwa.gov](mailto:akoerber@everettwa.gov) or by calling 425.257.7728 with any suggestions.

❄️ Have a great Decembrrr! ❄️



**EVERETT TRANSIT**

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## Everett Transit seeking feedback on future commuter incentives

Everett Transit is looking to find out what rewards might encourage commuters to leave their car at home and try transit, carpooling, biking, or other alternate forms of transportation. Please [send us](#) your feedback on what types of rewards and challenges you would like to see to help commuters get out of their cars and move towards a more sustainable alternative.



## Pandemic impacts lead to service reductions for regional transit agencies

Due to a national driver shortage, some local agencies are temporarily reducing service.

[Sound Transit](#) has reduced service for several routes. So far, the effected routes are located in the south and east side of Sound Transit's service area and do not affect routes going into Everett or Lynnwood. Sound Transit could also face difficulty implementing its [2022 service plan](#) if the required level of staffing cannot be fulfilled.

[Pierce Transit](#), operating in the Tacoma area, has had to reduce service on a number of local routes as well.

Fortunately, as of November 2021, neither Everett Transit nor Community Transit have had to reduce service because of driver shortages. Both agencies continue to operate at full service.



The Northgate Link light rail is [officially open](#) as of Oct. 2, 2021.

Passengers can now enjoy taking the light rail all the way from Northgate to SeaTac for only \$3.50 for adult fare. The train runs at least once every ten minutes from 5:55 a.m. to 10:13 p.m. with a handful of less frequent [trips](#) before and after those times. During peak frequency, the Link will have the capacity to carry [4,500 riders](#) per hour in each direction.

Where can I park if I visit the Northgate Link?

Avoiding parking headaches in downtown Seattle or at the airport may be one of the most compelling reasons to opt for the light rail. Northgate Station has [four parking options](#) nearby which can make things a little bit confusing. Luckily, there is [free parking](#) at all three parking garages as long as you park on the correct level of each garage and don't park in mall parking. The Northgate Transit Center Park & Ride also has free parking.

## Northgate Link light rail opens; Everett Link scoping begins

Sound Transit has begun scouting potential locations for its new operations base and six new light rail stations.

When will the Everett Link light rail open?

Due to financial constraints caused by the pandemic, Sound Transit underwent a realignment process that delayed the Everett Link light rail. Under the new timeline, the Everett Link is expected to open by [2037](#), a delay of only one year. However, if Sound Transit does not find a way to close a \$600 million affordability gap, the Everett Link may only open service to the SW Everett Industrial Center station in 2037, and delay servicing Everett Station until 2041.



Everett Link early scoping

Sound Transit has already begun scouting out locations for the six new light rail stations that will be located in Everett and Lynnwood. Sound Transit will also build a new operations and maintenance facility that will be used for servicing its fleet.

Currently, Sound Transit has identified [several potential locations](#) for each station and its operations facility.

Everett Link public comment  
Sound Transit is seeking [public comment](#) through Dec. 10, 2021 on the locations for the six new light rail stations and the new operations and maintenance facility. Once preferred alternative locations are determined, the project will move on to creation of a draft environmental impact statement.

Light rail in Lynnwood

The Lynnwood light rail has now reached [50% completion](#) and is still on target to open in 2024. As part of this process, Community Transit is seeking [feedback](#) through Dec. 17, 2021 for its transit plans in 2024. Community Transit has stated that it will no longer run buses currently serving the Northgate Station and Downtown Seattle once the Lynnwood Link opens. Instead, more buses will be added to connect to the new light rail.

# Climate change in our backyard



As the effects of climate change are becoming more apparent globally, what effects have already been realized in the Pacific Northwest?

With droughts and high temperatures, this was a rough year for Washington's [apple growers](#). Unfortunately for those hoping last summer's historic heatwave was a fluke, [researchers](#) confirmed that the heatwave was almost certainly made possible by climate change. Since Washington produces over [60%](#) of apples grown in the United States, the effects on our local crops could lead to increasing prices or shortages across the country.

Considering that the supply chain for products such as [apple cider](#) can be dependent on the harvests from years past, it could be some time before we feel the brunt of the shortage.

Other effects of hotter summers could include [increased insects](#) in the Pacific Northwest, including everyone's favorite insect, the [mosquito](#).

Our climate problems aren't just limited to land – we're witnessing the effects at sea as well. Due to increased heat, warmer waters are less able to store oxygen molecules leading to low oxygen levels known as

[hypoxia](#). Many other factors including pollution can also contribute to hypoxic conditions. While some level of hypoxia is a [normal seasonal event](#) in areas like the [Puget Sound](#), this year's hypoxic season began on the Pacific Coast earlier than it had in 20 years. The longer a hypoxic season lasts, the longer that existing oxygen will have to last. This can make it impossible for marine animals along the coast to survive the entire season.

To learn more about climate change in Washington and to find out what you can do, visit the Department of Ecology's [website](#) for ideas.

## Alien earth

If action isn't taken to lessen climate change, what could the earth look like by the year 2500? A team of [researchers](#) have used their research to advise a series of [paintings](#) that show what common places such as the American Midwest could look like by 2500 on our current trajectory.



## Governor Inslee signs order to electrify state vehicles

The governor signed an [executive order](#) that will require all agencies under Governor Inslee's control to have an all-electric fleet. Light-duty and passenger vehicles must be 100% battery electric by 2035. Medium and heavy-duty vehicles will need to be electric by 2040.



## Federal bill fights climate change

The \$1 trillion federal infrastructure bill signed by President Biden will dedicate [\\$47 billion](#) to mitigate the effects of climate change. This includes funds for recovery from increased floods, storms and wildfires. Of the \$1 trillion bill, a total of \$8.6 billion will go directly to [Washington state](#).

## Featured commute mode: Carpooling

*"I got no car and it's breaking my heart, but I've found a driver and that's a start!"*

### Why should I carpool?

- Carpooling can cut down [greenhouse gas emissions](#) by half or more depending on how many people are in your carpool. Help improve air quality in our community.
- Sharing the cost of your commute can save some serious cash. Try using a [commute cost calculator](#) to see how much.
- Use the extra time as a passenger to build a new skill, catch up on work, read a book, shop online, nap and more.
- Some employers offer preferred parking or a monthly incentive. Check with your Employee Transportation Coordinator today!

### How can I find a carpool?

Find a carpool buddy with [RideshareOnline.com](#), an [app](#), or ask if your employer offers a ridematching service.

### How can I improve my carpool experience?

Before you commit to a carpool, it might be a good idea to try out a trial period of a week or two. Laying down some [ground rules](#) for your carpool can also make it a better experience for everyone:

- Who will drive? Whose car will be used? Will riders share the cost of wear and tear or just gas?
- How long should the carpool wait if someone's late?
- Will music be allowed? What genre? Who chooses?
- Will eating/drinking be allowed in the car?

Remember, many employers offer a free [Guaranteed Ride Home](#) in the event that you have an emergency.



## Need anything?

If you need trip-planning or transit assistance, do not hesitate to contact Everett Transit Customer Service by phone at 425.257.7777 or by email at [ETmail@everettwa.gov](mailto:ETmail@everettwa.gov).

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

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## Upcoming events

- **Sound Transit early scoping comment period – until Dec. 10**

Sound Transit is seeking [public comment](#) about a new Operations and Maintenance Facility that will be located in Everett as well as locations for Everett Link light rail stations.

- **Community Transit online open house – until Dec. 17**

Community transit is [seeking feedback](#) on their plans for transit in 2024 with the arrival of the [Lynnwood Link light rail](#).

- **Everett Wintertide – throughout December**

Celebrate the holiday season in Everett with ice skating, shopping, lights, and more. Visit the [Wintertide](#) page to learn more.

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](#). The next newsletter will be published in mid-March.

## Commuter resources

### [Everett Transit's CTR Website](#)

Find past newsletters, trainings, RCWs and more!

### [Trip Planner](#)

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



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