

# Mobility Minutes

Produced by the CWCOG Mobility Management Program



## Transportation Electrification Strategy for Washington: Electric Vehicle Council

The Electric Vehicle Council was created in response to the signing of the Move Ahead Washington transportation package. The legislation created the Interagency Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council (EV Council) to encourage state agencies to collaborate on efforts involving electric vehicles. The EV Council is co-led by the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Washington State Department of Transportation, they are joined by several other agencies in their task of developing a statewide transportation electrification strategy.

They are currently planning their public involvement for the Transportation Electrification Strategy that will take place over the next several months. The Council will be gathering input from Washington residents through in-person meetings, surveys, and focus groups. All opportunities will be posted on the Transportation Electrification Strategy webpage [here](#).

The EV Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. You can learn more about the EV Council [here](#).

The April meeting will be on Wednesday 4/5 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and is dedicated to the Council's work on development of the state Transportation Electrification Strategy. There will be discussion on the proposed EV adoption scenarios and a draft overview of the dashboard will be presented. The May meeting will be Wednesday 5/3 and the June meeting will be Wednesday 6/7.

The April meeting can be watched live [here](#). Previous meetings can be watched [here](#) and past meeting materials can be viewed [here](#).

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### Quick Calendar

- 4/6 Cowlitz Area Technical Advisory Committee
- 5/4 Cowlitz Area Technical Advisory Committee
- 5/17 Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization Meeting
- 5/19 Wahkiakum County Technical Advisory Committee
- 5/24 Pacific County Transportation Advisory Committee
- 6/1 Cowlitz Area Transportation Advisory Committee
- 6/14 Public Transportation Stakeholders Committee

## Public Transit Updates

### RiverCities Transit Route Updates

- RiverCities Transit asked the Cowlitz Transit Authority to set a public hearing for April 12, 2023, to hear comments on a proposal to shift service from the North Cowlitz Connector to Route 411

[View Public Hearing Notice Here](#)

### Twin Transit Route Updates

- New Brown Route
  - Service from Centralia to Morton
- Purple Route Changes
  - No stop at Port of Winlock
  - Stops at Kelso Safeway

[View Route Schedules Here](#)

### Grays Harbor Transit Route Updates

- The WAVE Route is cancelled until Summer schedules take effect

[View Route Schedules Here](#)

## Making Moves with Community in Motion

If you are out and about in Clark County, look for Community in Motion. We would love to discuss your transportation needs. We are currently working to serve Non-Emergency medical transportation needs as well as our community's employment transportation program. We also have Volunteer Driver and Reserve-a-Ride programs.

Our Mobility Manager is working on outreach for our North County Shuttle Service, a free wheelchair-accessible weekly shuttle intended to enable the aging populations of rural Clark County to maintain their independence and promote the health of the overall community.

Our Transportation Programs Specialist is working to onboard new Volunteer drivers, works closely with employment agencies to enable the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties, as well as performing outreach to teach the community about the many programs supported by Community in Motion.

We have Non-Emergency Medical Transportation services available in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Klickitat, and Wahkiakum counties.

In 2022 we served over 9,400 clients and provided over 270,000 rides and look forward to serving more in 2023!

Contributed by Gerina Hatch, Mobility Manager at Community in Motion



## Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan

As part of public outreach for *Moving Forward 2050*, a Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan update, the CWCOG developed and administrated a Transportation Priorities Survey online using the SurveyMonkey platform. The survey was open from early September 2022 through late February 2023. There were 433 people who responded to the survey. A full report was prepared to: 1) Document highlights of the survey outreach; 2) Summarize the survey results; and 3) List survey results by question. This article is a brief summary of the full report.

Below are the key points from a review of the survey responses.

- In a typical week 80% - 90% of people get where there need to go by driving alone with the second highest number of people walking (about 20%).
- People prefer driving alone (70% - 80%), walking (over 30%), and carpool/vanpool or public transit (over 20%) for their travel needs.
- The top two most concerning issues for people are road conditions and lack of sidewalks (about 40% each). In the second tier were lack of transit and pedestrian/bicycle safety (a little over 20%).
- In the table below are the top barriers reported for travel by driving, biking, walking, and public transit.
- The largest number of people (about 40%) have no plans to purchase or lease an electric vehicle (battery or plug-in hybrid).
- For more than 70% of people the pandemic did not change their work to a work-from-home situation.
- The majority of people have heard of a road usage charge as a funding source to replace the gas tax, but support for a road usage charge is about an equal split with 50% supporting or maybe in support and 50% not in support.

Based on the key points from the survey, the themes that appear to rise to the top are as follows: 1) Need to preserve the existing system; 2) Focus on safety to prevent fatal and serious injuries; 3) Improve and expand pedestrian/bicycle access; 4) Create new economic opportunities; and 5) System expansion is important and needed in appropriate locations when possible. More EV charging appears to be of lesser importance when compared with other priorities.

Contributed by Robert Stevens, CWCOG Transportation Planner

## Over 100 Years of Service: A History of Public Transit in Longview

In January, when researching the history of public transportation service in Longview for a Columbia River Reader article, RiverCities Transit staff learned that they had just missed the 100-year anniversary of the first bus service.

A 1924 New York article titled, “City Built With Buses”, described how the Longview Public Service Company (LPSC), which provided power, water, and transit to the new community, placed Bus #1 into service in September 1922, even before the city’s roads were paved.

By November 1924, eight buses operate 16 hours a day, transporting workers from Kelso and Longview to the Long Bell lumber mill or to the dock for the ferry that ran to Rainier. The service operates as a 3-zone fare system, at \$0.05 per zone. In today’s dollars, a round trip from Kelso to the mill would cost \$5.22, making RiverCities Transit’s \$2.00 daily pass a bargain by comparison.

Quite amazing were the ridership numbers reported in the 1924 article: over 70,000 riders per month! Whether riders were counted each time when crossing a zone, or just when boarding, those are impressive numbers. Of course, this may be in part due to a captive audience...there were very few autos or other mobility options.

The name changes to Longview-Kelso Bus Company sometime after WWII, and Long-Bell sold the company to private owners in 1964. However, by 1975 the owners could no longer afford to operate the service, and the Cities of Longview and Kelso stepped in, with Longview purchasing the company, and renaming it Community Urban Bus Service (CUBS).

In 1987, the Cowlitz Transit Authority (CTA) forms after Kelso and Longview residents vote for the Public Transit Benefit Area sales tax. CTA contracts with the City of Longview to continue CUBS service. In 2012, CUBS rebranded itself as RiverCities Transit, and in 2020, a new Transit Center was opened in Longview, with the Amtrak Depot serving as Kelso’s multi-modal transfer center.

In 2022, RiverCities Transit began service to Lexington under a pilot project, in part funded by a Washington State Department of Transportation Regional Mobility Grant.

Today, RiverCities Transit is proud to be part of over 100 years of continuous service to our local communities, providing safe and courteous transportation to our residents and visitors.

Contributed by Jim Seeks, Transit Manager at RiverCities Transit



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