

Mobility Minutes

Produced by the CWCOG Mobility Management Program



Welcome to the New Mobility Management Trip Assistant

The new Mobility Management Trip Assistant includes new features that make finding resources, planning a trip, and learning about transportation options easy! All the features on the new website will further enable the Mobility Management program to be an asset for the region. Resources pages, a Provider Directory, and a trip planner are just a few of the aspects of the new Mobility Management Trip Assistant.

The resources are grouped together to be easy to find and simple to navigate. Each page under the Find a Resource tab includes resources for that specific population, this includes youth, employees, seniors, and others. The goal for these pages is to gather information into one place so there's no need to edit the search multiple times and scroll in hopes that you can find what you're looking for.

The Provider Directory holds information about over 50 different transportation services and providers in Southwest Washington. It also has a filter feature that allows people to search by county and other criteria. Information about the cost, accessibility, hours of operation, contact information, and other details are included for each provider in the Directory.

The Learn to Ride section currently houses information about the travel training programs within the region and will soon play host to the How to Ride and Accessible Transportation Resources videos.

Having a trip planner on the site is the last piece of the puzzle. After someone has looked through the resources pages and found more details in the Provider Directory, they can plan their trip! Being able to accomplish each part of that process in one place is the goal for this new Trip Assistant.

Please check out the new Mobility Management Trip Assistant [here!](#)

In This Issue

1. Welcome to the New Mobility Management Trip Assistant
2. Regional Transportation Partner Meetings
3. Cowlitz Tribal Transit Services
4. Mobility Management Program Biennium Recap
5. Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan Update

Quick Calendar

- 7/12 Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization Meeting
- 8/3 Cowlitz Area Technical Advisory Committee
- 8/18 Wahkiakum County Technical Advisory Committee
- 8/23 Pacific County Transportation Advisory Committee
- 9/7 Cowlitz Area Transportation Advisory Committee
- 10/18 Public Transportation Stakeholders Committee

Public Transit Updates

Pacific Transit Route Updates

- New Express Route July 17
- Ilwaco to Aberdeen

[View Route Schedules Here](#)

Grays Harbor Transit Route Updates

- The Lucky Eagle Casino stop will be moving July 1

[View Route Schedules Here](#)

Regional Transportation Partner Meetings

The CWCOCG will be hosting regional transportation partner meetings to encourage communication and collaboration among the transportation providers in Southwest Washington. The idea was posed during an annual transportation partner meeting, hosted by Twin Transit, that it would be beneficial to facilitate more frequent meetings of those in the room. This would allow continued coordination regarding route and schedule changes and communication on how those changes would impact other agencies and those who use public transportation.

The first meeting will be held July 17 and will include representatives from RiverCities Transit, The Cowlitz Tribe, Coastal CAP, Lower Columbia CAP, Twin Transit, Mason Transit, Grays Harbor Transit, WSDOT, and more.

Not only will these meetings be beneficial to the transportation providers in terms of planning and collaboration, but those in our community who utilize public transportation will reap the benefits as well. Discussions will be had about how to plan routes and schedules that take connections between systems into account allowing for easy transfers for riders.

By working together, the public transportation system in Southwest Washington will be able to continue to grow and provide much needed services to the community.

Cowlitz Tribal Transit Service

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe has been hard at work this last year chasing funding opportunities that can better our Transit program. In accordance with Tribal values of honoring the planet, we have spent our time focusing on optimizing the use of clean energy in our program. We are embarking on systemic carbon reduction and energy self-sufficiency initiatives such as solar energy generation, energy storage and resiliency, and fleet decarbonization.

Earlier this year the Tribe was awarded funding from the WA State Department of Commerce for the purchase and installation of a 25kW solar array onto the Cowlitz Health Clinic at our headquarters in Longview. Using the energy from this solar array, we plan to power 2 DC Fast Chargers here at headquarters that would be open to the public.

Lastly, the Tribe's Resilient Energy & Emergency Power Project will install solar panels and back-up battery storage at our Transportation facility in Longview. The project will provide a wide range of emergency power and resilience services in responding to critical needs of tribe and community members in emergency events. A 100kW solar array will produce 147,400kW of renewable energy annually, generating an excess of 65,000kW of renewable energy a year. Using the renewable energy produced we have the opportunity to expand the electrification of the Tribal fleet as well as providing a secure power source for emergency operations for the local community in the event of major power disruptions.

This is only the beginning of the Tribe's long-term strategy for us to increase economic and energy resiliency in the face of climate change and its impacts on our way of life. We are excited to continue with this movement to decarbonize our fleet, to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels, and to create new sources of renewable energy.

Contributed by Amanda Lomasney, Cowlitz Tribe Department of Public Works Program Manager



CWCOG Mobility Management Biennium Recap

To think that the Mobility Management Program has only been around for two years is mind boggling! Together we have accomplished so many things in a short amount of time.

Some of the projects that have been brought to fruition in that time are the CWCOG Mobility Management web page, an ongoing public transportation provider route inventory, flag stop safety and educational materials, a youth activity book, and a new trip assistant website.

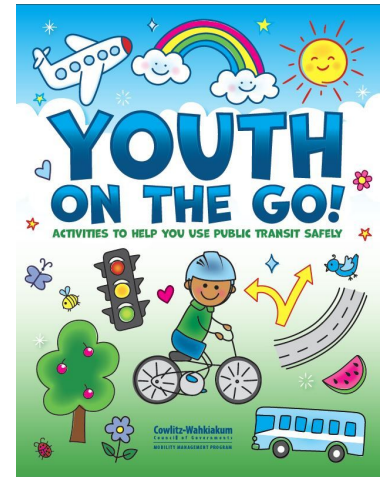
In addition to the projects that were completed there are many more that are continuing to be worked on. One of the most notable of these is the series of How to Ride videos in collaboration with RiverCities Transit and KLTV. Three have been completed in the series of eight; they will be released soon and will be available on the CWCOG website on the Mobility Management page under Travel Training.

The route inventory could also fall into the category of ongoing projects since it is continually updated as providers change their routes and schedules. This project will be essential as staff continue to hold Regional Transportation Partner meetings and encourages collaboration among transportation providers within the region.

Throughout the life of the program, staff have attended 14 community events and hosted 23 training events! The community events include back to school nights, hiring events, resource fairs, and many more. These events enable staff to meet the community where they are and provide information not only about the Mobility Management Program, but about the available transportation and mobility options as well.

Training events were held for members of the Public Transportation Stakeholder Committee, human service agencies, and the general public. A series of Accessible Transportation Resources trainings was held virtually, and staff is in the process of creating short videos that cover the same information as the live events. They will be available on the CWCOG website on the Mobility Management page under Travel Training.

After all that has been accomplished in two short years, think of what will be accomplished in the next four years!



Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan Update

In the April edition, we provided a summary of the results of the Transportation Priorities Survey. The survey was one of the main forms of public outreach that has been done for the Plan. It reached over 430 people and enabled members of the community to express their thoughts on where transportation funding should be spent.

In addition to the survey, there has been ongoing outreach with the transportation advisory committees in each of the five counties since early 2022 reviewing various components that will go into the final plan. The Public Transportation Stakeholders Committee was involved in discussions for the policy element of the final plan and an overall plan update will be given at their October meeting.

Stakeholder interviews were also conducted for the freight emphasis area. There will be additional outreach to local and state agencies when the first draft is released mid-summer asking for their review and comments. These comments will be used to make revisions ahead of another comment period. The second comment period will be published through legal notices in papers throughout the region, as well as our distribution lists, and could be an opportunity for additional stakeholder comments as well as public comment.

Contributed by Robert Stevens, CWCOG Transportation Planner

The CWCOG operates in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age or disability.

Those persons with limited English Proficiency may request language assistance through oral, visual, and/or written translation at no cost to the individual.

For assistance or questions regarding the CWCOG's Title VI or Limited English Proficiency policies or to file a complaint, please contact the Agency's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 577-3041.