

Mobility Minutes

Produced by the CWCOC Mobility Management Program



Accessible Crosswalk Tour

This past July, I met with Anna Zivarts of the Disability Mobility Initiative and Greg, a member of the visually impaired community, for a tour of Kelso and Longview and take inventory of accessibility of crosswalks. This included taking note of any audible cross signals, braille signage at crosswalks, and any obstacles on the sidewalk or along the walking path.

Greg learned how to get around with limited vision by watching YouTube videos before he lost his sight. The use of a mobility trainer also helped. He currently uses a seeing eye dog five and a half days a week and uses a cane the rest of the time. He shared that before using a seeing eye dog, there had been several close calls with almost being hit in a crosswalk.

One specific crosswalk in the area was labeled as “the most risky” by Greg. This crosswalk has no curb cut, no audible walk signal, and the walk/don’t walk signal isn’t visible while standing on the sidewalk. Greg also pointed out that there were no audible announcements or braille signage at the bus stops and shelters along the route that we walked. You can see the video interview of Greg [here](#).

Of the crosswalks and intersections we toured, 8 had audible cross signals and only one had signage in braille. It was also noted that of those with audible signals, there isn’t consistent messaging throughout the city. Some only say “Walk” while others give more details like a countdown and the name of the cross streets.

The mission of the Disability Mobility Initiative includes “... to champion equitable and inclusive solutions, fostering empowerment through advocacy and the sharing of personal narratives that highlight the importance of safe, and accessible streets, homes, and services for non-driving individuals with disabilities.” The tour that we did is a step towards ensuring that the crosswalks and intersections in Kelso and Longview are safe and accessible for those with visual impairments. You can learn more the Disability Mobility Initiative [here](#).

Contributed by Lauren Read, CWCOC Mobility Management Coordinator

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Quick Calendar

- 10/5 Cowlitz Area Technical Advisory Committee
- 10/11 Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization
- 10/18 Public Transportation Stakeholders Committee
- 8/23 Pacific County Transportation Advisory Committee
- 11/2 Cowlitz Area Transportation Advisory Committee
- 11/3 Wahkiakum Technical Advisory Committee
- 11/15 Pacific Technical Advisory Committee
- 12/6 Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization
- 12/7 Cowlitz Area Transportation Advisory Committee
- 12/17 Public Transportation Stakeholders Committee

Public Transit Updates

Pacific Transit Route Updates

- New Shopper Shuttle to Tokeland
- New Route 106 begins 9/25
- This is a deviation of Route 32 that serves Raymond and South Bend

[View Route Schedules Here](#)

Twin Transit Route Updates

- Blue Line: One stop added and two stops moved
- Orange Line: Five stops added
- Red Line: Six stops added and two stops moved
- Yellow Line: Eight stops added and one stop moved
- Brown Line: Two stops added

[View Route Update Details Here](#)

RiverCities Transit Route Updates

- Route 45: 4:30 trip added from Transit Center
- Route 46: Adjusted routing
- Route 411: 1:15 trip added and adjusted routing

[View Route Update Details Here](#)

It's All About Community at Pacific Transit

On Monday, September 11, Pacific Transit unveiled their newest route at their 5th and Commercial stop in Raymond. The Tokeland Shopper Shuttle ribbon cutting event was attended by several people, including members of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Washington State Department of Transportation, Pacific County Economic Development Council, elected officials, myself, and Pacific Transit staff.

This route connects the Shoalwater Bay Reservation with Raymond and the amenities it offers. The shuttle also provides Raymond and South Bend residents with access to an additional option for medical care at the Shoalwater Bay Wellness Center.

The shuttle runs Monday-Saturday and is free for Veterans, seniors 65 and older, and youth under 18. You can view the Tokeland Shopper Shuttle schedule [here](#).

This is the second Shopper Shuttle to be launched by Pacific Transit. The first one, which travels between Raymond and South Bend, began in April of this year. Pacific Transit General Manager, Michael Wagner, said, "It has been extremely popular, and when we first started it we thought we'd maybe have a few dozen people joining, and in the first month we had over 450 riders, which is now the third largest route by ridership in our system".

In addition to the ribbon cutting for the new route, the event also showcased Pacific Transit's new logo and theme. The new vehicle wraps feature waves, wind, trees, sun, and in-motion movement. The new look also comes along with a new slogan; "It's All About Community". Human Resources Manager, Pattie Gray, said "The Pacific Transit System is meeting the expanding needs of all our communities throughout Pacific County. Our new slogan is, 'It's All About Community,' and we are working diligently to meet the needs of our growing communities."

Contributed by Lauren Read, CWCOG Mobility Management Coordinator and Pacific Transit Staff



Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan Open for Public Comment

The CWCOG has released a draft of Moving Forward 2050: A Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan for initial stakeholder review. Based on initial stakeholder comments received, revisions will be made before the formal public comment beginning October 20 and ending November 3.

Cities, towns, counties, transit agencies, and others will be notified via email when the comment period opens. Legal and media notices will also be sent to major regional newspapers and the information will be posted on the CWCOG website. Public comments can be submitted through the CWCOG website's public comment form.

Final action on the plan is anticipated for November by the CWCOG Board of Directors, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and December for the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) Board.

As a reminder, each RTP and MPO must prepare a plan to accomplish local objectives with respect to the development of the area's transportation work.

The plan includes priorities for managing and operating a multi-modal transportation system to meet the region's economic, transportation, development and sustainability goals for a 20+ year planning horizon.

Contributed by Robert Stevens, CWCOG Transportation Planner

2023-2025 Consolidated Grant Awardees

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) awarded \$110 million to 151 new and continuing projects through the Consolidated Grant program for the 2023-2025 biennium.

As you know, the Mobility Management Program was awarded funds for the 2023-2025 biennium and the 2025-2027 biennium pending federal and state budgets. Several other projects in our region were awarded funding as well. The projects are also listed in the Coordinate Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

As a reminder, the plan discusses mobility in the region and how it can be improved, especially for people with disabilities, low-income, young and elderly individuals, veterans, and rural residents. The plan covers existing mobility services; additional needs for services identified by transportation providers, human service providers, and the public; and future strategies for meeting those needs in Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties. The current plan can be viewed [here](#).

Those awardees have been listed below along with their respective projects.

- Coastal CAP for sustaining the Driven to Opportunity program and ADA van replacement for the program in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.
- Community in Motion for sustaining operating assistance for the Reserve-A-Ride program in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties.
- Cowlitz Tribe for rural demand response and planning for the tribal transit service in Clark, Cowlitz, and Lewis Counties.
- Grays Harbor Transit for the replacement of 10 heavy duty coaches and 2 cutaways for use in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, and Thurston Counties.
- Lower Columbia CAP for connecting the I-5 corridor and vehicle replacements in Clark and Cowlitz Counties.
- Pacific Transit for sustaining rural paratransit fleet and rural transportation system.
- RiverCities Transit for sustaining paratransit services in Longview/Kelso.
- Twin Transit for two mobility management positions, fixed route and demand response staffing and program support, and fixed route and deviated services in Cowlitz, Lewis and Thurston Counties. As well as demand response and special needs services in Lewis County.
- Wahkiakum on the Move for rural bus service and two replacement vehicles for Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties.

Congratulations to all of the agencies who received awards for new and continuing projects.

You can view all of the awardees [here](#).

Surface Transportation Block Grant Set Aside (Transportation Alternatives) Call for Projects Now Open

The CWCOG has opened a call for projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Set-Aside (Transportation Alternatives [TA]) with applications due by October 12, 2023. The TA Program provides federal funds for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by integrating modes and improving the cultural, historical, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

Eligible activities for TA funding in the SWRTPO are Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, Safe Routes for Non-Drivers, Conversion of Abandoned Railway Corridors to Trails, and Maintenance or construction of recreational trail or trailhead facilities.

Eligible applicants include Local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional transportation authorities, Transit agencies, Natural resources or public land agencies, School districts, local education agencies, or schools, Tribal governments, and Non-profits.

For more information, visit www.cwcog.org and look in the Grant Applications box on the homepage.

Contributed by Robert Stevens, CWCOG Transportation Planner

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