

Mobility Minutes

Produced by the CWCOG Mobility Management Program



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

2023 was a busy year for the Mobility Management Program! Several collaborative projects were completed and so much value was added to the community by bringing those to fruition. These projects included a How to Ride video series featuring RiverCities Transit buses, a Youth Activity Book, and the start of a Regional Transportation Partner group.

All of these projects, among others, have a common theme: teamwork.

Teamwork is the reason that our regional transportation system continues to grow and be successful. This sentiment is expressed in several of the mottos of the agencies involved in the Mobility Management Program. For example, Pacific Transit says, "It's All About Community" and Lewis County Transit's, formerly Twin Transit, motto is "Connecting Our Communities". Here at the CWCOG, we are "Working Together to Enhance our Region". All of these share the same principle of serving and bettering our region, and the only way to accomplish that is by working together.

Thank you all for the opportunity to work with you this year and I am very much looking forward to all that will be accomplished in 2024!

Lauren Read, CWCOG Mobility Management Coordinator

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2/1 Cowlitz Area Technical Advisory Committee

2/7 Southwest Washington Regional
Transportation Planning Organization

3/7 Cowlitz Area Transportation Advisory
Committee

3/13 Public Transportation Stakeholders
Committee

The Regional Transit Partner meeting will be held in February with a date and time to be determined.

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Pacific Transit Launches Veterans Connect Shuttle

On Monday, December 18, 2023 Pacific Transit launched the first of their Veterans Connect Shuttles in Raymond. Several members of the community, local Veterans, and elected officials were in attendance for the ribbon cutting of the newly wrapped shuttle. Some of those who spoke before the ribbon cutting were David Puente Jr., Director of the state Department of Veterans Affairs; State Representative Joel McEntire (19th), representatives from U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, and U.S. Representative Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez. A representative from Joe Kent's office was also in attendance and spoke on his behalf. Along with the elected officials, several local veterans were in attendance including Ron Black, a member of the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.

General Manager Michael Wagner shared that this service has been a goal of Pacific Transit for several years. The idea began to take shape 10 years ago when he realized that there was a gap in service for veterans needing to get to medical appointments.

A ride on the Veterans Connect Shuttle must be booked at least 48 hours in advance, this can be done by calling Pacific Transit at 360-875-9418 or 360-642-9418. The veteran, and a caregiver if needed, will be picked up and taken to their appointment at the VA facilities in Olympia, American Lake, or Camp Rilea in Oregon.

Pacific Transit has plans to eventually extend the service by adding a second shuttle to serve veterans in south county.

Photo Contributed by Pacific Transit Staff



Twin Transit Becomes Lewis County Transit

As of January 1, 2024 Twin Transit is no longer. They have rebranded to Lewis County Transit to better align with their mission and reflect the commitment they have to serving their community. A press release was released on December 27, 2023 and can be read [here](#).

Along with the name change, a new slogan of "Connecting Our Communities" was also included in the rebranding efforts. According to the press release, the slogan encapsulates the mission of the agency and embodies the core purpose of Lewis County Transit. The rebranding also allows the agency to better communicate their identity, values, and engage of services offered.

While the phone number and fax number stayed the same, the website address has changed to lewiscountytransit.org. However, the twintransit.org website will redirect visitors to the new site.

LEWIS COUNTY  **TRANSIT**

Mobility Management Program

Year End Recap

2023 Program Goals

- Increase Outreach
- Implement a Quarterly Newsletter
 - Provide Additional Training Opportunities
- Create Educational Material
 - Increase Coordination

2023 Notable Projects

- Youth Activity Book
- Flag Stop Handouts and Slap Bracelets
 - Trip Assistant Website
- New Marketing Material for Youth, Employees, and Tourism purposes
- RiverCities Transit How to Ride Videos
 - Youth on The Go Survey

1,402

Website Visits

This number showcases the most visited page from each month.

1,336

Website Downloads

The most popular download was route schedules followed by the Mobility Minutes Newsletter.

42

New Connections Made

These connections include human service agencies, healthcare clinics, contacts at public transportation agencies, and community groups.

16

Community Events Attended

Events included back to school nights, hiring fairs, resource fairs, Parent Teacher Association meetings, and career expos.