



MOBILITY MINUTES

Quarterly report on what's happening in Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Columbia and Grays Harbor Counties.



Megan Wirtz

It has been a great first six months! In the new year I will be completing the Easter Seals Mobility Management Certification Program.

Our Public Transportation Stakeholders and Regional Transportation Partners meetings will be focusing on Travel Training, Marketing and Advertising, Building Ridership, Volunteer/Driver Recruitment, Human Services Transportation Plan, and increasing mobility awareness.

We will be making some updates to the Trip Planner website, updating the Provider Directory and community outreach.

Our CWCOG office is moving to 959 11th Avenue Longview, WA 98632 in the new year.

Mobility Management Year End Recap

1,354 CWCOG Mobility Website Visits

1,192 CWCOG Mobility Website Downloads

776 Trip Assistant Users

1,071 Youth on The Go Activity Books distributed

Upcoming Meetings

December 18 Public Transportation Stakeholders Meeting

February 12 Regional Transportation Partners Meeting

March 5 Public Transportation Stakeholders Meeting

May 14 Regional Transportation Partners Meeting



Transportation Spotlight



A Heartfelt Story

When the Aberdeen Dialysis Center closed temporarily due to repairs in Grays Harbor County, a group effort of Grays Harbor Transit, Mason Transit and Coastal CAP came to the rescue, ensuring all clients could access life-saving treatments. To accommodate all the patients, they needed to transfer them from Pacific County and Grays Harbor County to Shelton, Olympia, Lacey, and Centralia. This demonstrated truly inspiring teamwork.

Columbia County CC Rider

The newly wrapped CC Rider Bus arrives just in time for the Transit Advisory Committee meeting I attended in October (photo).



In March, CC Rider introduced a new partnership Commute with Enterprise to encourage shared rides for commuters in Columbia County.

Chris Wheatley, the new Transit Manager will be replacing John Dreeszen, Transit Director, who is retiring at the end of the January. Thank you John for your many years of service! Learn more about [CC Rider here](#).

Grays Harbor Transit

Grays Harbor Transit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony celebrating the interior remodel of the Hoquiam building (photo). I also participated in the Showcase Grays Harbor event, where 122 community members and partners boarded the Grays Harbor Buses for a guided tour of local businesses and the impressive \$32 million Student Services Building at Grays Harbor College. The center highlights transportation options available for students. Learn more about [Grays Harbor Transit here](#).



Transit Employee Spotlight

Chris Wheatley is a dedicated professional with over 20 years of experience in the logistics and transportation industry. A proud husband and father, he moved from Alaska to Oregon in 2020, seeking new opportunities and challenges. In September of 2024, he accepted the position of Transportation Manager at CC Rider in St. Helens, Oregon, and has since found great satisfaction in his role. Passionate about optimizing operations and delivering results, Chris is committed to driving innovation and success in the transportation sector, while continuing to grow both professionally and personally in his new community.



Route Updates

LEWIS COUNTY TRANSIT

Brown Route: Hwy 12 East Route to Packwood

Adjustment: This route has expanded to include service from Morton to Packwood! They have added seven new stops in Glenoma, Randle, and Packwood. The timetable has changed greatly to accommodate additional stops. [View Route Schedules Here](#)

Green Route: I-5 Route to Olympia

Adjustment: This route has three new stops and the timetable reflects these changes.

Red Route: Chehalis

Adjustment: Dayspring Church is no longer a time point, it will remain a stop, but the bus will not hold at this location. New time points will be the Market & 3rd and Walmart stops.

Blue Route: North Centralia

Adjustment: There will be no more Lum Rd or Johnson Rd Service. The Blue route will continue to service Safeway.



C-TRAN'S Route 48 will be extended to La Center, serving a new stop at E Birch Avenue and Sixth Street in La Center. The route will serve La Center on all trips, and all existing stops in Ridgefield and at ilani. The change will take effect Sunday, January 12, 2025. [View Route Schedules Here](#)

Mobility Management Program

Youth on the Go Activity Book

If anyone needs English or Spanish Youth on the Go Activity Books for any upcoming Group Travel Trainings or community events please reach out to Megan Wirtz, Mobility Management Coordinator, mwirtz@cwco.org. We can also provide a PDF copy to print.

Trip Assistant

[The CWCOG Provider Directory](#) holds information for over 50 different transportation services and providers serving Southwest Washington. Please review and make sure your information is up to date.

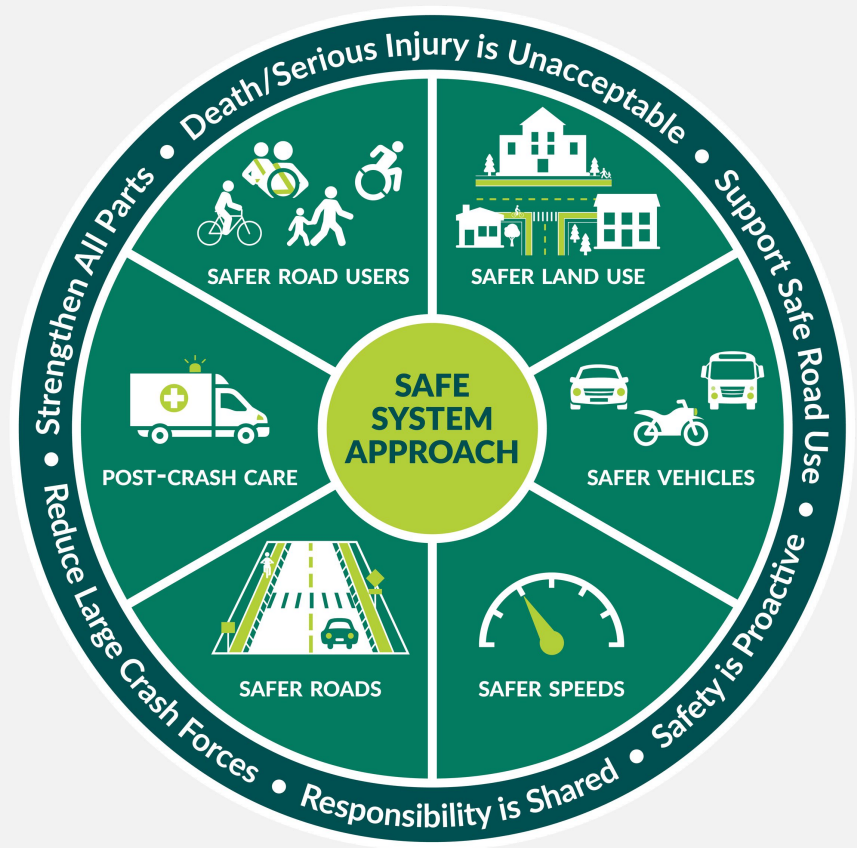
How To Ride Videos

Please consider creating How To Ride videos for your community that can be posted on YouTube and the CWCOG Mobility Website.



Comprehensive Safety Action

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) is in the final phase of developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (also called a Safety Action Plan) for Cowlitz County and Rainier, Oregon. This plan is rooted in the Safe Systems Approach (see image) and was developed through a systematic, data-driven process to identify safety countermeasure improvements focused on reducing and eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Right now, the CWCOG consultant team is finalizing a public review draft of the Safety Action Plan to be released early January 2025. CWCOG staff will send out notice when the public review draft is released. Everyone who uses the transportation system in Cowlitz County or Rainier, Oregon is strongly encouraged to provide your input or pass on the information to others.



Contributed by Robert Stevens, CWCOG Transportation Planner

2025-2027 Biennium Consolidated Grant Regional Ranking Process Results

Reminder that the results of the Consolidated Grant Regional Ranking Process will be reviewed and discussed at the Public Transportation Stakeholders meeting on December 18th.



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