ETCs New Year’s Resolution’s

At the December 8th Networking Session, Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs) participated in a small group discussion. The goal was to come up with ideas to help their Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program be more successful in the new year. Below are some of their great ideas.

Applaud Success
Give positive reinforcement to employees that participate in Commute Trip Reduction.

Outreach
Provide more vanpool/carpool guidance. ETCs can register employees for rideshareonline.com to help match them with other people who share similar commute patterns.

Awareness
Create promotional materials including brochures, posters, and testimonials to display around the workplace.

Add ETC's information, including phone number, to their e-mail signature block.

Provide more Commute Trip Reduction information for new employee orientations. For state agencies, provide employees with the STAR pass and information on the SAFE Ride Home program.

Transportation Fairs
Host a transportation fair. Did you know Intercity Transit will come to your worksite’s transportation fair and help employees sign up for a vanpool? They also provide help and information on riding the bus.

Management
Get management involved at your worksite. Management support is crucial to the success of any CTR program. We have some great tips for getting and keeping management support on the ThurstonCommutes website.

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Mark Your Calendar CTR 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETC Networking Session</td>
<td>March 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register for the Bicycle Commuter Contest</td>
<td>April 1-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicycle Commuter Contest</td>
<td>May 1-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>Due March 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETC Basic Training</td>
<td>April 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETC Networking Session</td>
<td>June 7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

View the complete 2016 calendar.
Prepare for Winter Travel
ETCs heard from Paul Brewster, TRPC, and Donna Feliciano, Intercity Transit, on preparing for winter travel.

Tips For Easing the Winter Commute
Intercity Transit buses operate in bad weather, even snow and ice. Travel like a pro:

• Learn your route, then give it a try!
• Get a trip plan online or from Customer Service
• Get familiar with OneBusAway (real-time bus arrival information)

Learn which routes have common snow detours by looking at Intercity Transit’s website or Transit Guide (page 104-107).

Get timely detour information:

• Intercitytransit.com
• Facebook (Intercity Transit)
• Twitter (intercitytransit; no “t”)
• Local radio stations
• Intercity Transit Customer Service 360.786.1881 (be patient – phone lines are typically busy during bad weather)

Other things to note:

• Wear warm, visible clothing (you might have to wait longer at your bus stop)
• Use a flashlight, reflector, or cell phone app so the bus driver can see you at your stop

Tips for Vanpoolers

• Create a winter weather plan in advance
• Do not leave anyone behind
• Don’t drive the van if you don’t feel comfortable
• If you have an issue, contact Intercity Transit dispatch at 360.786.8703

CTR Website Updates
Erin Cahill, TRPC, gave ETCs an overview of our newly updated CTR website.

ThurstonCommutes.org is the Online CTR Guide for ETCs

• Learn about CTR news and events
• Find important dates, deadlines, and meetings
• Locate ETCs near you
• Access survey results
• Explore supporting CTR strategies
• Review requirements
• Read about future promotions and events
• And more

Help us make Thurston Commutes work for you. Can’t find what you’re looking for or think something is missing from the site - let us know! Email us your suggestions.
Travel Training
At the Networking Session, ETCs heard from Curt Daniel, Travel Trainer with Intercity Transit.

Bus Travel Training
Intercity Transit provides free, one-on-one or small-group training for new riders to learn how to use their bus system. The training is open to everyone and participants learn practical skills for riding the bus, including how to:

- Plan a trip
- Understand a bus schedule
- Pay fares
- Transfer to other buses/routes
- Use the ramp with a mobility device

The trainer will ride the bus with participants until they feel confident riding alone.
Contact: Curt Daniel, 360.705.5846, traveltraining@intercitytransit.com

Dollar Store Prizes
Donna Feliciano, Intercity Transit, talked to ETCs about assembling dollar store prizes.

Italian Dinner Night
If you are able to give away prizes, you can put together an inexpensive basket by purchasing items at the dollar store. A sample “basket” was displayed. The cost, including the cellophane wrap and bow, was only $14.75 and included:

- Large bowl
- Kitchen towel
- Small napkins
- Colander
- Pasta
- Marinara sauce
- Breadsticks
- Large ladle
- Large pasta server
- Jalapeno stuffed olives
- Jar of pepperoncini
- Dark chocolate cookies

Thurston Regional Planning Council
Holly Gilbert
Paul Brewster
Burina Montgomery
www.thurstoncommutes.com
360-956.7575
* State & Local Requirements & Compliance
* Training & Technical Support
* Surveys & Annual Program Reports
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WA State Department of Transportation (for state worksites)
www.ctr.wa.gov
stateagencyctr@wadot.wa.gov
360-709.9088
* State Agency CTR Program
* STAR Pass
* SAFE Ride Home

Intercity Transit
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* Public Transportation Services & Support
* Transit Guide
* Promotions

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* Vanpools

RideshareOnline
Find a Rideshare Partner
www.rideshareonline.com

Rural & Tribal Transportation*
www.thurstonRT.org
1-800-850-7846

*Rural & Tribal Transportation serves rural portions of Thurston County and connects to Intercity Transit and Twin Transit in Lewis County. State Employees can use their STAR Pass.