Thank you to everyone who joined us at the September 13, 2016 Networking Session. We hope to see you all at the next session on December 6, 2016. In the meantime, here’s a summary of what you missed.

Welcome Stefanie Randolph, Intercity Transit

Stefanie Randolph, the new Marketing, Communications and Outreach Coordinator for Intercity Transit, came to Intercity Transit this summer. Her background includes state employment, and freelance marketing and public relations consulting in Florida and Washington.

She spoke briefly about Intercity Transit’s recent Market Segmentation Study, and indicated she’ll go into more detail about the demographics of transit users at the next ETC meeting.

Stefanie will help ETCs by producing email-ready messages you can forward to your coworkers. She’ll also provide promotional items to share with your CTR commuters. Email Stefanie if you’re having a transit/wellness fair and want Intercity Transit to set up a table with information about biking, walking, transit, and vanpool.

Contact Stefanie at srandolph@intercitytransit.com or call 360-705-5891.

SAFE-Ride Home Program Update

Burlina Montgomery, TRPC, gave a brief update on the SAFE-Ride Home Program for state employees in Thurston County.

SAFE-Ride Home Program
Recently, TRPC assumed management of the SAFE-Ride Home program in Thurston County. They are currently updating processes and materials and will let you know when that is finalized. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Burlina Montgomery at montgomeryb@trpc.org or 360-956-7575.

Wheel Options 2016

ETCs heard from Jef Lucero, WSDOT.

Take Your Commute to New Heights
Wheel Options 2016, a promotional campaign encourages and rewards commuters for using work trip commute alternatives during the month of October. The grand prize this year is a $2,500 prepaid MasterCard to explore our National Parks, or anywhere you want!

Any participant in the State of Washington that records at least six days of eligible Wheel Options commutes in October will be entered to win a $2,500 MasterCard and many other great prizes. Wheel Options modes include carpool, vanpool, bus, train, light rail, streetcar, bicycle, walk, working from home, or a compressed work schedule (e.g., four, 10-hour shifts in a week).

For questions about Wheel Options contact Burlina Montgomery at montgomeryb@trpc.org or 360-956-7575.

Mark Your Calendar CTR 2016

ETC Networking Session
December 6, 1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.

Wheel Options
Month of October

Watch for 2017 calendar of events in December.
DES Transportation Demand Manager Update

ETCs heard from Tomy Mollas, Transportation Demand Manager with the State Department of Enterprise Services (DES/Enterprise Services) about the progress of the Capitol Campus Parking Strategy Implementation Plan. He also discussed the important role ETCs play in their agency to promote CTR.

Background

In response to the 2014 Capitol Campus Transportation and Parking Study, the Legislature’s 2015-2017 Capital Budget, directed the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to develop a Capitol Campus Parking Strategy Implementation Plan that includes actions to:

- Reduce agency reserved stalls from 26 percent to 15 percent of the total campus parking stalls.
- Complete a cost benefit analysis of incorporating parking attendants or parking arms to accept payment for campus parking during legislative sessions.
- Install at least two electronic boards, or other methods of communicating the available parking capacity in the East Plaza Garage.
- Work in cooperation with the City of Olympia to consider the city enforcing parking on the Capitol Campus.

Status

The Implementation Plan was submitted to legislative fiscal committees in November 2015. Enterprise Services responded to questions from the Office of Financial Management on December 6, 2015. In addition to the items listed above, the plan articulates actions to meet visitor parking needs and to consolidate the delivery of parking, commute trip reduction, and fleet services to effectively implement transportation demand strategies (TDM) campus-wide:

- Reduce reserved stalls: A total reduction of 684 reserved stalls is required.
  - As of September 2016, approximately 501 reserved stalls have been converted to zoned stalls.
  - An additional 183 reserved stalls will be converted to reach the goal.
  - DES Parking Services staff have met with each state agency on the Capitol Campus about converting reserved stalls to zone stalls. Meetings have gone extremely well and DES is currently on schedule to hit goal by end of this year.
- Explore parking attendants and arms to collect payment: Use of integrated parking technology provides greater benefits at a lower cost.
  - Pilot new technology for the Dash Lot (14th and Jefferson) to test pay-by-plate.
    - Obtaining great data from the pilot on compliance rates.
    - Getting positive feedback from users.
  - Will be testing out new technology by end of this year for pay by mobile.
  - Working on RFP specifications on a new customer service parking management integrated platform that can be tailored to fit agency needs and tie together all information for the parker via smartphone/mobile app.
- Increase available parking capacity at the East Plaza Garage by re-striping 100+ stalls by some areas and improve wayfinding signage in the garage.
  - Project will start late September/early October and end early December. Construction will take place off hours between 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. and possible weekends.
  - New visitor parking in the Plaza Garage for use by off-campus state employees.
- Consider contracting with City of Olympia to provide parking enforcement at the Capitol Campus:
  - Agency request legislation being submitted on September 15th to allow DES to contract with the City of Olympia to provide parking enforcement.

In addition to the above items, DES continues to work on major action plans to improve parking on the Capitol Campus.
ThurstonHereToThere.org is Getting a Face-lift

Erin Cahill, TRPC, talked about ThurstonHereToThere.org website updates.

ThurstonHereToThere.org
For the past month, Thurston Here To There has been under construction. The new and improved site will feature an updated look, a homepage slider where you can see what’s new in the world of commute alternatives, and a more mobile friendly, responsive design. Stay tuned for the unveiling!

Please help TRPC make this a resource. Contact TRPC with ideas and suggestions by emailing ThurstonHereToThere@trpc.org.

Vanpool Program

Lee Peterson, with Intercity Transit, talked about Intercity Transit’s vanpool program.

Intercity Transit Vanpool

A vanpool is a group of five or more people with similar commutes sharing the ride to work. Intercity Transit provides the vehicle. Participants pay a low monthly fare that covers the cost of operating the van including gas, maintenance, and insurance. The group sets the route and schedule. Riders volunteer to share the driving. Intercity Transit trains and approves each volunteer driver.

The benefits of riding in a vanpool include:

- Saving money
- Reducing wear-and-tear on your car
- Finding extra time to relax or read a book
- Reducing your carbon footprint
- Helping to reduce congestion on our crowded roads

Vanpoolers who need to leave work early because of an emergency can get a free emergency ride home by taxi.

If you’d like more information about finding or starting a vanpool, visit www.intercitytransit.com, email at vans@intercitytransit.com, or call 360-786-8800.

“Being in a Vanpool is great! I was a little nervous starting out - would it be awkward, would they be weird (or think I was...), would I be stuck without a ride? It turned out it was NONE of those things. I made a couple of new friends, can just sit back and sleep in the mornings, AND I save some money every month. It has turned out to be totally worth getting home a little later every day. Try it - you might just be surprised!”

~ Barb - Chehalis, WA

For the Future

Holly Gilbert, TRPC, explained that we want to do a “Commuter Spotlight” at future Networking Sessions.

Commuter Spotlight

ETCs collect and submit stories from employees who commute via an alternate means. From those, TRPC will choose someone to spotlight once a quarter at a Networking Session. The commuter would briefly share their commuting story. Think about people at your worksite who you could approach about being one of the commuters we spotlight. Watch for more information.

CTR Help

ThurstonCommutes.org

Are you looking for ways to promote CTR at your workplace? Inspiration for your CTR bulletin board?

Maybe you’re new to the program and want to learn the basics of CTR. Or you’re looking for ways to sell your program to management.

We can help! Check out ThurstonCommutes.org or emailthurstoncommutes@trpc.org.
Governor’s Executive Order

Brooke Hamilton, Office of Financial Management (OFM), spoke about the new Governor’s Executive Order for State Worksites.

Building a Modern Work Environment

Governor Jay Inslee recently signed Executive Order 16-07. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) will pay a key role in the implementation. The following is from OFM’s website...

“The state of Washington’s workplace strategy initiative is an effort, directed by Governor Inslee through Executive Order 16-07 and led by OFM, to help agencies identify, experiment with and adopt innovative ways to support its business by modernizing the physical environment, providing greater workplace flexibility, and enabling a more mobile workforce. The focus is on looking at how, when and where people do their best work and on providing the necessary options and tools.”

For more information, please visit the OFM website [http://ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/workplacestrategies/default.asp](http://ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/workplacestrategies/default.asp).

Regional Transportation Plan

ETCs heard from Karen Parkhurst, TRPC, regarding the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

What Moves You - 2040 Regional Transportation Plan

What Moves You - the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan serves as a strategic blueprint for our regional transportation system. Throughout this plan, ETCs will see the commitment that local elected officials make to a multimodal system – investing in roads and bridges, but also sidewalks, bike facilities, and transit.

Staff suggested that ETCs might want to visit Chapter 1 Introduction, Retrospective (p. 26-29) for some history tidbits, including this one from 1889: “The Olympia dude can now make the circuit of the Public Square, arm in arm with his dudine, on a good sidewalk.”

You could also check out the “Planning For” section (p 43-48). How will our changing population or emerging technology support your work in encouraging people to use commute alternatives. To view the plan, visit www.trpc.org/352/2040-Regional-Transportation-Plan---What

Get in touch if you want more information!

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*Training & Technical Support
*SAFE Ride Home
*Surveys & Annual Program Reports
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*Rural & Tribal Transportation serves rural portions of Thurston County and connects to Intercity Transit in Thurston County and Twin Transit in Lewis County. State Employees can use their STAR Pass.