New Survey Reports Format

Holly Gilbert, TRPC, gave an overview of the new format for the 2017 CTR Survey Reports.

Earlier this year most worksites completed their CTR survey of their employees. The results of the survey are published in a Survey Report for each worksite. The Survey Reports have recently been released and distributed to ETCs. Those results are available on the Survey page of ThurstonCommutes.org.

The format of the Survey Reports has been updated and Holly Gilbert, TRPC, reviewed the new format at the Networking Session. She also discussed how the data from the report can be used by the worksite in evaluating the effectiveness of their CTR program.

Some of the items reviewed were:
- Non Drive Alone (NDAT) Rate and Target
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Rate and Target
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions data
- Historical data for NDAT, VMT, and GHG at the worksite
- Mode Split data
- Work Schedule data
- Parking and Telework data
- Answers to attitudinal questions on why people did and did not drive alone to work.

CTR New Year’s Resolution

ETCs broke out into small groups and discussed ideas for coming up with a CTR New Year’s Resolution for their worksite. They then shared these ideas with the larger group. Here are a few examples:

- Use the New Year as an opportunity to look at worksite’s program with fresh eyes, and determine if there are areas it can be strengthened.
- At state agencies, make sure everyone knows about the STAR Pass and distribute them to those who want one and don’t yet have one.
- Make sure the Commuter Information Center has current materials and is fully stocked.

2018 CTR Events Calendar

Find the full calendar on the 2018 Events Calendar page on ThurstonCommutes.org.

ETC Networking Session
March 6, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Annual Report Form Due
March 31

ETC Basic Training
April 17, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Capitol Campus Parking
Department of Enterprise Services Deputy Director Bob Covington and Deputy Assistant Director MariJane Kirk were present at this month’s ETC Networking session as guest speakers.

A Look Back and Forward

Bob Covington had an opportunity to speak about the challenges facing the parking program on the Capitol Campus and what the team was doing to respond to the ever growing demand for parking. He referenced a parking study conducted in 2014 and how that led to a strategic implementation plan with various action steps to increase parking capacity and utilize using sustainable methods.

MariJane Kirk went into detail on the team’s work to gain greater efficiencies from the parking garage restriping as well as moving the campus toward a parking “zone” concept, which would be a first come first serve approach. MariJane also spoke about future technologies that will help ease the burden on parkers looking for an available parking spot, especially during times of peak demand.

The presentation ended on a Q&A with audience members and both Bob and MariJane spoke about how critical the Commute Trip Reduction Program is in working to ease the demands on the parking system and reducing congestion. Bob noted that “Increasing only 1% of CTR participation on campus frees up 60 parking stalls.”

CTR Reports to the Legislature

ETCs heard from Amber Nguyen, WSDOT.

Amber discussed the highlights of the Statewide and State Agency CTR reports to the Legislature. The statewide report talks about the benefits of CTR programs to the environment and employees, and the cost savings of removing cars off the road. Between 2007 and 2016 CTR affected worksites in the nine affected counties, increased their non-drive alone rate from 34 percent to 39 percent and removed over 22,000 cars from the road each work day. This saves the state money that would otherwise be spent constructing new lanes of highway to accommodate more vehicles.

The importance of partnerships was highlighted in both the State Agency CTR report and the Statewide CTR report. The state agency report also highlighted the need for more consistent guidelines amongst state worksites. The Interagency CTR Board will be working on updating the guidelines for state agencies, and all ETCs and CTRCs are encouraged to attend meetings and offer input.

Report Links:
Statewide CTR Board Report to the Legislature
State Agency Report to the Legislature

For more information on the Interagency CTR Board please email Amber Nguyen at stateagencyctr@wsdot.wa.gov.
New Employee Orientation
ETCs heard from Linda Lawson, ETC for Thurston County.

At the Networking Session, Linda Lawson, ETC for the Thurston County Courthouse, spoke to ETCs about the importance of the new employee orientation she gives on CTR. She then gave the presentation she gives to new employees to ETCs, and distributed handouts (see links below). Her presentation was lively and filled with great information.

Linda also described the monthly CTR drawings she has at the workplace, and the prizes she uses for those drawings, which are very affordable. She also sends out a monthly CTR email to employees. She commented that this opportunity to connect with new employees and maintain ongoing communication with all employees about CTR, makes all the difference in strengthening the CTR program at her workplace.

Script for New Employees
CTR Brochure
CTR Log Entry
Example of Monthly Email

Winter Commuting
ETCs heard from Nicky Upson, Intercity Transit.

Tips for Surviving Your Winter Commute

1. If you don’t have to drive...don’t!
   • Intercity Transit buses operate in the snow and ice. Let Intercity Transit get you there safely.

2. Make your winter commute plan now; use our online trip planner to find your route.
   • Use Intercity Transit’s trip planner to find your route; enter your start and end points and you’ll see your options.
   • Take a test ride.

3. Check if your route is likely to be detoured during snow and ice.
   • Routes 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 60 and 64 have standard snow detour routes.
   • The snowflake icon on a route map indicates a standard snow detour.
   • Detour routes are available on Intercity Transit’s website or starting on page 97 of the Transit Guide.

4. Intercity Transit publicizes when routes are on a snow detour.
   • A Rider Alert will be posted on the homepage at www.intercitytransit.com
   • On Facebook and Twitter.
   • On local radio station (KGY 96.9 FM, KRXY 94.5 FM and KXXO 96.1)
   • Any questions you can call Customer Service 360-786-1881.

5. When waiting for the bus:
   • Wear warm, bright/reflective clothing.
   • Use a flashlight, reflector, or your cell phone so the drivers can see you.
   • Understand that buses will likely be delayed...use OneBusAway (on routes that aren’t detoured).

6. If you are part of a vanpool:
   • Create a plan in advance.
   • Don’t drive if you don’t feel comfortable.
   • Don’t leave anyone behind.
   • If you are stuck in the snow call 360-786-8703.

Visit the Thurston Commutes website to print the Winter Commuting Tips to hang up at your worksite.
Transit and Vanpool Updates
ETCs heard from Nicky Upson and Dave Kolar, Intercity Transit.

3 is Enough

The 3 is Enough promotion starts in January. New vanpools can start up in January with just 3 riders instead of the typical five.

For more information www.intercitytransit.com.

CTR Holiday Party

The Networking Session concluded with a Holiday Party. ETCs had been encouraged to bring a CTR gift worth no more than a dollar, to show that CTR prizes did not have to be expensive. While ETCs enjoyed holiday themed refreshments, they also shared with each other the gifts they had brought. There were many creative ideas. ETCs then exchanged gifts, to bring back something new to their worksite to use as a prize there. A few examples were:

- Cups or bags filled with chocolate
- Bicycle supplies, including a lock, tire pump, and flashlight
- Glow sticks to use when walking in the dark, or standing at the bus stop
- Special erasers to use during telework

And Nicky Upson, Intercity Transit, shared with ETCs the contents of a wonderful “Italian Dinner” themed prize, assembled from the Dollar Store, and which was the last prize drawing for the Networking Session.

We Can Help

Thurston Regional Planning Council
Holly Gilbert
Burlina Montgomery
www.thurstoncommunities.org
360-956-7575
- State & Local Requirements & Compliance
- Training & Technical Support
- SAF5 & Ride Home
- Surveys & Annual Program Reports
- Networking & Promotions
- Rural & Tribal Transportation Material

WA State Department of Transportation (for state worksites)
www.wadot.wa.gov
stateagencyctr@wadot.wa.gov
360-709-8088
- State Agency CTR Program
- STAR Pass

Intercity Transit
www.intercitytransit.com
Nicky Upson
NJUpson@intercitytransit.com
360-705-5891
- Public Transportation Services & Support
- Intercity Transit Guide
- Promotions

Caroyn Newsome
cnewsome@intercitytransit.com
360-705-5829
- Vanpools

RideshareOnline
Find a Rideshare Partner
www.rideshareonline.com

Rural & Tribal Transportation*
www.thurstonRTI.org
360-956-7575

*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.