Natural Resources Building Bicycle Committee
Reed Ojala-Barbour, WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Stephanie Earls, WA State Department of Natural Resources

Employee Bicycle Commuters at the Natural Resources Building Organize to Advocate for Improved Bicycle Security and Consistent Application of CTR Incentives.

After a string of thefts from the Natural Resource Building (NRB) bike cages, bicycle commuters got together to discuss solutions regarding the lack of secure bike parking. The group has already made gains by working with agency executive management to create a secure overnight bike storage room. Upon request from executives, the group also provided recommendations and cost estimates for improving bicycle cages at the NRB.

During discussions, bicycle commuters also noticed the lack of consistent CTR programs across the natural resource agencies. The group decided to spearhead an effort to educate executive management about the benefits of CTR incentives for alternative commuters. We realized that while the CTR Survey provides lots of useful information, it does not provide information about seasonal variation or the actual costs an agency might expect to incur based on CTR programs.

You can help! NRB bicycle commuters are asking ETCs to provide cost information about their CTR programs. If you are able, please provide the number of employees and actual costs of CTR programs on an annual or monthly basis. This will help us to improve cost estimates and fill in knowledge gaps from the CTR Survey.

Please send information or questions to Reed.Ojala-Barbour@dfw.wa.gov.

2018 CTR Events Calendar

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETC Networking Session</td>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETC Basic Training</td>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheel Options</td>
<td>October 1 - 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETC Networking Session</td>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
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Star Pass Expansion
ETCs heard from Amber Nguyen, WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Amber Nguyen with WSDOT discussed the expansion of the State Agency Rider (STAR) Pass program to Grays Harbor and Mason Transit. The Legislature recently approved funding to expand the State Agency Rider (STAR) Pass Program to Grays Harbor and Mason counties. In addition to Intercity Transit, the STAR Pass will soon be good for fare-free transit rides to state employees on Grays Harbor Transit and Mason Transit Authority. Any state employee stationed in Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties is eligible.

Program status
The program is already in effect for Mason Transit. Transit within Mason County is already free to their customers. But now, travel between Mason and Thurston counties—for which Mason Transit does charge a fare—will be provided at no cost to state employees using their STAR Pass.

At this time, we’re still working with Grays Harbor Transit on formal adoption of the STAR Pass. We will notify state agencies again when Grays Harbor Transit implements the STAR Pass expansion.

Thurston Thrive Active Transportation and Community Design Initiatives
ETCs heard from Chris Hawkins, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services/Thurston Thrives.

Active forms of transportation, part of the mix of successful CTR programs, have a number of other benefits including savings to the wallet and building social capital. Public health is involved in promoting active transportation because it boosts residents’ daily physical activity (for adults, 30 minutes per day of which is recommended to prevent disease such as diabetes) and reduces pollutant emissions.

Scientific evidence from public health shows that the ways to increase levels of physical activity involve changes to the community environment that make being active, particularly in the form of going for a walk or using active transportation including transit, easier: more sidewalks and trails, safer street crossings and other complete streets approaches, and an accessible, comfortable system that connects people to desired destinations, for work or play. Part of this presentation shared the evidence for how to increase physical activity (density, diversity/mix of uses, and design), and updated attendees on local efforts. It also gave ETCs a chance to participate in a small group activity to explore how changes at worksites and the nearby community could support more people being active.

The local health department has been working with partners in Thurston County and other local governments to address the need for better, more walkable built environments. For the past two years, our community has been participating in the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge, in which our local project has identified a number of places to improve access to and features along the regional trails system so that it connects better to the places where people live and work.

More information can be found at: http://bit.ly/2eZeQ7J If you know of part of Thurston County where worksites (or dense housing) are near a trail but have limited access to it, please let the Active Community Design partnership of Thurston Thrives know by contacting Chris Hawkins at hawkc01@co.thurston.wa.us or 360-867-2513.
Vanpool Program Update
Breezy Medina, Intercity Transit, provided updates on incentives to vanpool.

A vanpool is a group three to 15 people who commute together in a comfortable passenger van. To start or join a vanpool with Intercity Transit, your trip needs to start or end in Thurston County. Below are current vanpool rewards Intercity Transit is offering:

- Three’s enough – can start a van with just three people, and have six months to get up to the minimum of five riders with our help!
- Gift Cards – when a new van is started, each participant gets a $100 amazon gift card. People joining an existing van get a $50 amazon gift card, those who refer new riders get a $50 amazon gift card, and everyone who joins is entered to win $500!
- New riders get their FIRST MONTH FREE!
- I shared some of our Vanpool testimonials.
- I went over the new site and how to navigate it.
- Vanpool Riders wanted list.

For more information, or to join a vanpool, contact Carolyn Newsome at cnewsome@intercitytransit.com.