

Commute Trip Reduction

ETC Networking Session Overview - December 2016



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the December 6, 2016 Networking Session. We hope to see you all at the next session on March 14, 2017. In the meantime, here's a summary of what you missed.

Star Commuter

December Star Commuter - Gerard Dolmans, SPSCC

The first Star Commuter Award was given to Gerard Dolmans of South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC), who was nominated by ETC Arlene Cook. ETCs heard from both Arlene and Gerard. Each received a \$5.00 coffee gift card and Gerard received a Star Commuter Certificate of Recognition.

ETC Arlene Cook introduced Gerard. She explained that Gerard has been an English professor at the college since 1997, and used a bicycle as his primary means of transportation here in Olympia since 1992. Knowing that he was an avid cyclist and that he always took leadership in promoting the Bicycle Commuter Contest each year, Arlene noted that when she saw the contest announcement, Gerard immediately came to her mind as a star!

Gerard explained that he initially started commuting by bicycle many years ago with cost savings as a primary motivation. He then came to enjoy the many other benefits of cycling. In addition to doing his part to reduce his carbon footprint, he also feels more mentally and physically fit.



He commented that he likes the time to think during his commute and to take in his surroundings without the many distractions he encounters while driving. Gerard's current commute is about 3.6 miles each way. He rides daily unless he is ill or the roads are too icy to be safe.

Congratulations to Gerard for his commitment to regularly commute by bicycle! His ongoing participation in CTR not only helps the region reduce congestion, air pollution, and dependence on fossil fuel, but is an inspiration and model for other CTR affected employees to follow.

Thank you to ETC Arlene Cook for nominating Gerard. Look around your worksite and find a champion to nominate as a Star Commuter at our next Networking Session! We'll send out an announcement to solicit nominations ahead of time. We know there are many Star Commuters out there! This is a great way to recognize some of them.

2017 CTR Events Calendar

Holly Gilbert, TRPC, reviewed the 2017 CTR Events Calendar that was a handout at the Networking Session. Find the full calendar on the [2017 Events Calendar](#) page on [ThurstonCommutes.org](#).

Mark Your Calendar CTR 2017

ETC Basic Training
February 9, 1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.

Annual Report & Survey Setup Form Due
March 31

ETC Networking Session
March 14, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Register for the Bicycle Commuter Contest
April 1-30

Capitol Campus Parking Update

ETCs heard from Tomy Mollas, Transportation Demand Manager with the State Department of Enterprise Services (DES/Enterprise Services) with an update on Capitol Campus Parking.

Brief Overview

The Legislature directed the Department of Enterprise Services to implement a plan based on recommendations from a 2014 study to improve parking on the Capitol Campus. As the number of people visiting and working on the campus continues to grow, the demand for parking increases. The upgrades are designed to ease congestion and reduce travel time spent looking for parking.

The work will:

- Increase parking by more than 100 stalls by reducing the width of some spaces and decreasing the amount of reserved parking.
- Install signs to help drivers and pedestrians navigate the garage.
- Remove and replace existing signage.
- Repaint pedestrian walkways.
- Add employee visitor parking to the 'A' level of the garage near the Maple Park entrance.

What's Changing

Parking stalls - When planning the re-striping project for the Plaza Garage, a DES study found 70 percent of parked vehicle are drive compact or medium size, and only 30 percent are large vehicles. Before the project began, all stalls in the Plaza Garage were approximately nine feet wide. After the re-striping:

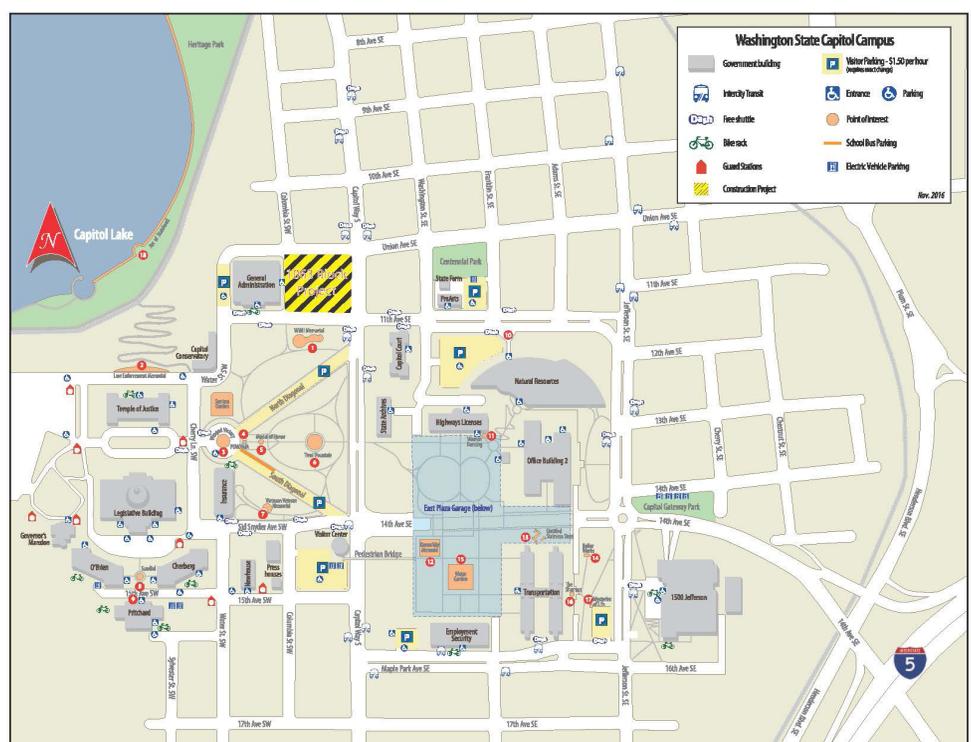
- 70 percent of the stalls will be converted from 9 foot to 8 foot.
- Code compliant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) stalls will increase from 19 to 35.
- Most of the outer ring of parking stalls on each level will remain 9 feet wide and signed for those parkers who drive larger vehicles.

Employee visitor parking - This project will add up to 145 paid automobile and five motorcycle parking stalls to the 'A' level at the Maple Park entrance for state employees visiting the Capitol Campus for official business such as meetings or trainings. To be eligible to park in this lot, you must be a state employee whose permanent work station is not located on the Capitol Campus.

Navigation and signage - This project will also improve traffic flow in the Plaza Garage by providing new navigational signage and circulation patterns. When the project is complete, drivers will notice:

- A consistent theme of central one-way aisles and dedicated ramps for descending and ascending.
- New wayfinding signage to help parkers navigate to the next levels, and to garage entry and exit points.
- Each level will be color coded to help people remember where they parked.

Together, the circulation and wayfinding improvements are anticipated to help people navigate the Plaza Garage.



ETC Discussion

Holly Gilbert, TRPC, facilitated a small group discussion to find out ETCs' most commonly asked questions.

Commonly asked questions

ETCs broke out into small groups and then shared their findings with the larger group. TRPC staff will review these questions and update the website, ThurstonCommutes.org, and Basic Training curriculum.

Some of the common themes:

- Details about the worksite's CTR program, particularly regarding incentives & subsidies, telework/flex schedule policies, and whether workplace amenities exist such as bicycle racks/cages, showers, and lockers.
- How to strengthen the worksite's CTR program, including both the issues of management support and incentives & subsidies.
- Vanpool program - how it works, how to get connected with one, whether the worksite has a subsidy for vanpool and how that works.
- How Rideshare Online works and Carpool issues in general, including whether the worksite offers an incentive, and who to contact when there are technical problems with Rideshare Online.
- Star Pass questions - how to get one, how long it takes to get one, and how does it coordinate with transportation outside the County.
- SAFE-Ride program (emergency ride home program for State employees who work in Thurston County) - how to qualify, who to contact, general process.

Winter Commuting Tips

Stefanie Randolph, Intercity Transit, and Paul Brewster, TRPC, shared winter commuting tips.

Intercity Transit

Intercity Transit operates in the snow and ice. Test ride your route before the inclement weather hits and use [One Bus Away](#) to check when your bus will arrive. Wear warm clothing and use your reflector or phone so the operator can see you. Vanpools create their own snow plan, which should be planned in advance.

TRPC

Winter's arrival to the Pacific Northwest is a perfect time for ETCs to remind employees about worksite CTR programs as they relate to inclement weather.

Snow and ice delay both bus schedules and vanpool and carpool arrangements. Office hours may also be impacted with delayed openings and early releases. Employees who are dependent on the bus or shared ride programs require timely notification about service changes.

Highlighting your worksite's flex time and telework policies can also alleviate employee stress about adverse travel conditions. Winter weather may also be an opportunity to promote free bus pass programs like the STAR pass. Riding the bus to work may be a safer alternative for employees who are uncomfortable driving in the snow.

Most importantly, remind employees to be safe and have a backup plan for a ride home if they are suddenly caught off guard by a drastic change in the weather. The SAFE Ride Program is not intended to be used for inclement weather. Employees are expected to plan ahead for dealing with weather related travel arrangements.

If you are uncertain about what is a legitimate use of this program, contact Burlina Montgomery at TRPC.

Intercity Transit

ETCs heard from Stefanie Randolph, Intercity Transit.

Holiday Schedule

Below is the holiday schedule for Intercity Transit. Local and Express bus service, Dial-A-Lift, and special van programs will not operate.

Will not operate:

- Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2016.
- New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017.

End early on:

- Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2016.

Will operate on regular schedules:

- New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, 2016.

Updates

- New Intercity Transit website with built-in trip planner will launch December 21, 2016.
- Long-range planning in 2017, sign up for email updates: bit.ly/ITconversations.
- Market research:
 - More than 60% of Intercity Transit riders are choice riders - they have a car but choose to ride the bus.
 - 86% of respondents said they think transit is important for their community.
- The DASH legislative session schedule begins January 9, 2017.

2015 CTR Survey Data & Goals Review

Holly Gilbert, TRPC, reviewed the 2015 CTR Survey Data and Goals. Links to the Survey data tables and Holly's PowerPoint can be found below. Holly mentioned that 2017 is a survey year and that further information on that process will be sent early in the year. In preparation for that survey, this is a good time to start discussion with management about how to have a strong survey at your worksite.

[2015 CTR Survey Data](#)

[Powerpoint - Overview on 2015 CTR Survey Data & Goals Review](#)

Vanpool Program Update

Carolyn Newsome, Intercity Transit, provided information about vanpools, including how to start one and the benefits. To see the whole presentation visit www.thurstoncommutes.org.

Cash in on Your Commute

Win **\$500 CASH** in Intercity Transit's vanpool rewards program!

Get rewards from **January 1 to June 30, 2017** for joining, starting, or referring someone to a vanpool.

- Join an existing vanpool and Intercity Transit will send you a **\$50 gift card**.
- Start a new vanpool group and Intercity Transit will give you your **first month free or a \$100 gift card**.

Already vanpooling, or it's not for you? No problem! Refer a new vanpooler to Intercity Transit and earn a **\$25 gift card** for **each new rider** you recruit!

But wait...there's more! All recruiters and new riders get entered for a chance to win **\$500 cash!**



We Can Help

Thurston Regional Planning Council

Holly Gilbert

Paul Brewster

Burlina Montgomery

www.thurstoncommutes.org

360-956-7575

- State & Local Requirements & Compliance
- Training & Technical Support
- SAFE Ride Home
- Surveys & Annual Program Reports
- Networking & Promotions
- Rural & Tribal Transportation Material

WA State Department of Transportation (for state worksites)

www.ctr.wa.gov

stateagencyctr@wsdot.wa.gov

360-709-8088

- State Agency CTR Program
- STAR Pass

Intercity Transit

www.intercitytransit.com

Stefanie Randolph

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360-705-5891

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

Carolyn Newsome

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360-705-5829

- Vanpools

RideshareOnline

Find a Rideshare Partner

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Rural & Tribal Transportation*

www.thurstonRT.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.*