

Get Winter Ready!

Now that winter is approaching, it's time to make sure we have the supplies we need to stay safe during our commute and at home.

- Prepare emergency kits for both [your car](#) and [your home](#)
- Make sure [your car](#) is in good working order to prevent becoming stranded during a winter storm
- Be ready for a storm [at home](#) by weatherproofing your house
- Have a safety plan in place for [your commute](#). Plan alternate routes ahead of time and create an [emergency communication plan](#)



Winter Driving Tips

Commuting in the [ice and snow](#) can be challenging. Remember:

- Slow down and increase your following distance
- Build inertia steadily before approaching a hill and don't stop on hills
- Apply pressure to the gas pedal slowly to prevent loss of traction
- Stay home if possible



This issue:

Electric Fleet **P.2**

Changing Behavior **P.3**

Events & Resources **P.4**

Winter Weather Awaits

Read on for information you'll want to know as an Employee Transportation Coordinator or commuting employee – even if you're telecommuting.

As we head into winter, remember to stay safe by limiting indoor gatherings. While pandemic [fatigue](#) is setting in for many, make sure not to be [too hard](#) on yourself during this busy season.

In this issue, we dive into the progress various transit agencies have made toward electrifying their fleets. We also explore how disrupting our regular routines can help us change our habits for the better – just in time for New Year's resolutions. Take a look at this edition's featured commute mode: the compressed work week.

Don't forget to take a glance at the sidebars for winter weather tips, information on our [service change](#) proposal, and ways to improve your teleworking experience.



If there is anything you would like to see in the next edition of this newsletter, please share your thoughts by emailing akoerber@everettwa.gov or by calling 425.257.7728 with any suggestions.

Stay safe!



EVERETT TRANSIT
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Service Change Proposal

Everett Transit is seeking input on its upcoming March 2021 [Service Change](#).

- **Option A** would see the return of Sunday service. In a previous survey, 70% of respondents wanted Sunday service back.

- **Option B** would combine route 4 and route 29 into a new route 28/29. A new shuttle down Colby Ave. would provide access to both campuses of Providence. Route 12 would see increased service. Unfortunately, Sunday service would **not** return.

In both options, Route 70 will be eliminated due to low ridership.

Everett City Council will discuss this proposal at their [virtual meeting](#) at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 16th with an opportunity for public comment. You can also [submit your feedback](#) directly to Everett Transit.



COVID-19 Updates

Unfortunately, [cases](#) are on the rise again. Remember to limit gatherings and follow current [guidelines](#). Progress towards a vaccine is growing steadily and more effective treatments are being approved. Stay safe through the final stretch!

See the latest news on vaccines and treatment on the FDA's [website](#).



Currently, 17 of the 42 buses that Everett Transit uses on fixed routes are electric or hybrid.

Everett Transit has used hybrid electric-diesel buses since 2009. Currently, we have 10 hybrid buses in service. Our first all-electric buses were introduced in 2018; we have 7 in service now with plans to introduce 14 more by 2025.

How big of a difference do hybrid and electric vehicles make with regards to climate change? Compared to diesel, hybrid electric-diesel buses emit approximately 28% less greenhouse gases – that's around 66,000 lbs. less emissions annually per bus. Meanwhile, fully electric vehicles have [zero emissions](#), saving over 229,000 lbs. of tailpipe emissions per year for each electric bus. Electric buses can also offer an opportunity for cost-savings in the form of better mileage and reduced maintenance costs.

Electric Fleet

More and more public transportation agencies are switching away from fossil fuel vehicles towards electric and hybrid options.

What are other agencies doing to electrify their fleets?

Community Transit does not have any all electric buses, but does use electric-diesel hybrids for almost [10%](#) of its buses. One [challenge](#) Community Transit has had is finding a model of electric bus that can last 250 miles on a single charge.

Sound Transit also does not have any all electric buses but does have electric-diesel hybrid buses in addition to its diesel buses and compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. Additionally, Sound Transit operates the link light rail which is fully electric and scheduled to expand to Everett by 2036. In 2017, Sound Transit made an [agreement](#) with Puget Sound Energy to ensure that their light rail trains run on completely carbon-neutral energy. The ST3 ballot measure, approved by voters in 2016, ensures that all Sound Transit facilities will be carbon-neutral by 2030.

King County Metro is leading the way by planning on having a fully electric fleet by 2040. Currently, Metro has 11 battery-electric buses and 174 electric trolley buses that are powered by wires overhead. With a fleet of at least 1,600 buses, this means that [over 11%](#) of Metro's fleet is already fully electric. Metro plans to buy [120 more](#) battery-electric buses by 2022. In addition to electric buses, Metro has a sizeable number of hybrid diesel-electric buses.

With our current technology, battery-electric buses face some challenges. One of the biggest challenges is how far a bus can travel on a single charge. Hills, cold weather, and use of accessories like air conditioning can all decrease battery life substantially. As battery and charging technologies improve, the ability for all agencies to switch to fully electric fleets can become a reality.

Changing Behaviors with Pattern Disruption

As we prepare our New Year's Resolutions, what can we do to help us choose a more sustainable commute?

One of the best times to change a behavior is when a normal routine or pattern is disrupted. This "[fresh start](#)" effect is typically seen when moving, changing jobs, during life milestones such as major birthdays, and after the New Year. One unexpected effect of the COVID-19 crisis is that it too may provide the opportunity for a fresh start.

Choosing your commute mode, like many health choices, is heavily dictated by habit. We often don't actively make a choice about how we will get to work each day; we just do what we've become accustomed to doing. The significant disruptions to our commuting habits during the pandemic provide us with an opportunity to re-evaluate.

While you might not be carpooling or taking public transportation at this time due to safety concerns, now is the perfect time to plan

ahead. Committing to a more sustainable commute now may turn into a long-term habit that can lead to better health for both you and our environment.

What you can do now:

- **Personalized plans:** [Plan](#) out your transit trip or find a [carpool](#) ahead of time.
- **Commitment:** [Commit](#) now to trying out your new plan. Maybe after a trial run it will become second nature!
- **Learn:** [Read](#) about the benefits of commuting sustainably and feel good about your new choice.

Subsidized Annual ORCA Pass

King County Metro and Sound Transit have implemented a pilot program to offer a subsidized annual ORCA pass to qualified residents of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

This pass will fully subsidize fare for Sound Transit and King County Metro. Residents will still need to add funds to their ORCA cards to ride other transit systems.

Currently, residents need to be enrolled in a [state benefit](#) program to qualify. Depending on the results of this pilot program, the program may be [expanded](#) as early as 2022 to cover more residents.



Commuter Tip

Continuing to telecommute during these dark winter months doesn't have to be so dreary. Here are some suggestions for improving your workspace:

- Make sure your workspace has [adequate lighting](#)
- Add some plants to liven up your workspace and help [filter the air](#). Just make sure the plants you choose are also safe for your pets and children.
- Change up your [Zoom background](#)
- Try to take a quick [walk outdoors](#) daily or whenever possible

Featured Commute Mode: **Compressed Work Week**

Easily combined with other commute methods!

What is the compressed work week? A compressed work week allows you to work longer hours on some days in order to gain extra days off. Here are some common arrangements:

- 4/10: Work four 10-hour days to gain an extra day off each week
- 3/12: Work three 12-hour days to gain two days off but lose 4 hours of working time a week.
- 9/80: This is the most [complex arrangement](#) which allows you to work 9-hour days for eight days, one 8-hour day, and have one extra day off every two weeks.

A compressed work week can allow for many benefits:

- Extra days off for rest, childcare, errands, etc.
- Reduces pollution and can be combined with other commuting methods for even greater environmental benefits
- Less time spent commuting and better traffic getting to and from the office during off-peak hours

Before asking your supervisor if you can work a compressed week, there are some important drawbacks to consider:

- Longer workdays can become draining
- Childcare and public transportation can become more difficult during off-peak hours



Need Anything?

If you need trip-planning or transit assistance, do not hesitate to call Everett Transit Customer Service by phone at 425.257.7777 or by email at ETmail@everettwa.gov.

If you need assistance as an ETC, please reach out to either of us directly:

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Upcoming Events

● Public Hearing on Everett Transit Service Change Proposal

Everett City Council will discuss the [Service Change Proposal](#) at their virtual city council meeting on Dec. 16th at 6:30 p.m. [The meeting](#) can be viewed online or by calling 425.616.3920 with conference ID 724 887 726# to listen live. Comments can be submitted to the Council prior to the meeting [by email](#).

● Snohomish County Light Rail Virtual Workshop

Share your thoughts with [Snohomish County](#) on the development of the light rail in the Lynnwood and Everett area. The [virtual workshop](#) closes on Dec. 20th.

If you have a commute-related event (virtual or otherwise) open to the public that you'd like to see on this list, please [send us your event](#). The next newsletter will be published in mid-March.

Commuter Resources

[Trip Planner](#)

Use this to find out which bus to take to your destination.

[Rideshare Online](#)

Use this to find someone to start a carpool or vanpool with.



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