

Spring showers ahead

With spring on its way, make sure your chosen form of transportation is up to par:

- Now is the perfect time to check your [tire tread](#) to prevent hydroplaning and replace your windshield wipers if they've taken a beating over the winter. Don't forget to turn on your [headlights](#) during the rain!
- Bicycle [maintenance](#) is just as important as car maintenance! Bike tires can lose pressure from sitting over the winter.
- Working from home? As you change your clocks forward for Daylight Saving Time on March 14, keep your home safe by testing your smoke alarm batteries, cleaning out your dryer vent, [and more](#).



Sunday service returns to Everett Transit

After listening to the many valuable comments left by our riders on our next service change proposal, Everett Transit is pleased to announce that [Sunday service](#) will return on March 14, 2021. The schedule can be viewed [online](#).



Spring arrives

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

Spring is finally here, and with it comes hopeful news about the future. Since the last newsletter, three COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for use in the United States, much to the relief of many. We are also happy to share that Everett Transit will be bringing back Sunday service effective March 14. By summer, it's possible that we may be able to resume many of our normal [activities](#).

In this issue, we take a look at how pollutants from our car tires can affect our local salmon. We also explore when light rail might come to Everett and how agencies are changing their routes as a result of the upcoming Northgate light rail station. Now that the weather's warming up and people are beginning to return to the office, consider this issue's featured commute mode: bicycling.

Check out the sidebars for information on Washington State's Active Transportation plan, spring maintenance tips and more.

This issue:

Light rail update **P.2**

Stormwater runoff **P.3**

Events & Resources **P.4**



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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Washington State Active Transportation Plan

Washington State has released the first draft of its upcoming [active transportation plan](#).

The plan focuses on safety and mobility for bicyclists, pedestrians, and users of other [micromobility devices](#). It also describes the current state of our system and what can be done to improve it.

One of the major goals of the plan is to work towards achieving [Target Zero](#)—zero deaths or serious injuries on our roadways by 2030.

The first public comment period for the plan has already passed, but you can sign up for [alerts](#) to find out when the next public comment period will be.



Bus riders see increased mask enforcement

As a result of a new [federal order](#), customers will see stricter mask enforcement across agencies. Check out the statements on COVID-19 by [Everett Transit](#), [Community Transit](#), and [Sound Transit](#) for more information on mask enforcement.

COVID-19 vaccine

With more Washingtonians getting vaccinated every day, the future is looking brighter. Use the [Phase Finder](#) tool to find out when you will be eligible to receive the vaccine. If you're already eligible, use the [Vaccine Locator](#) tool.



Light rail expansion

As the Link light rail makes its way to Northgate and onwards toward Lynnwood, agencies are making changes to their routes in preparation for its arrival.

One of the most significant changes for Everett riders will be changes to Sound Transit's route 512.

Despite [delays](#), Sound Transit is still expected to open the [Northgate Link](#) light rail station this fall. With this in mind, agencies have begun to adjust their routes.

Beginning in September 2021, [Sound Transit](#) is expected to truncate [route 512](#) at the Northgate light rail station. Previously, this route went directly to downtown Seattle. Route 510, the early-morning counterpart to the 512, will continue direct service to downtown Seattle. Route 513, which begins at the Seaway Transit Center, will also be modified to terminate at the Northgate Station.

While this change is unlikely to affect most employees traveling into Everett, it has the potential to affect Everett employees on their commute if they live south of Northgate.

Once the light rail opens, [Community Transit](#) will also modify its [routes](#) to accommodate the Northgate Station. Fortunately, these changes are unlikely to affect Everett riders. All 800-series routes that previously terminated at the University of Washington will now terminate at Northgate. A trip from Northgate to the UW will take about 6 minutes on the Link light rail. 400-series routes will continue to run directly to Downtown Seattle, and local routes will be unaffected.



When will the light rail make it to Lynnwood?

The next major shakeup for [Community Transit](#) will likely be in [2024](#) when the light rail reaches [Lynnwood](#). At that time, [Community Transit](#) plans to discontinue all of its buses that go directly to Seattle.

When will the light rail make it to Everett?

Currently, the light rail is scheduled to make it to the Mariner Park and Ride in South Everett by [2036](#). Afterwards, it will loop around Everett's industrial center near Boeing before terminating at the Everett Station. Once complete, the light rail is estimated to arrive approximately every 5 minutes during peak hours and have a travel time of 60 minutes from Everett to Seattle.

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, it is possible that the Everett portion of the light rail may be postponed due to lack of revenue. Sound Transit refers to this postponement process as [realignment](#). According to the current schedule, Sound Transit will be engaging with the public about realignment options in April, so look out for opportunities to share your thoughts soon. For more details, check out Sound Transit's recent [presentation](#).

Stormwater runoff endangers salmon



Even if we all made the switch to electric cars, wildlife can still be threatened by another vehicle pollutant: our tires.

Like all salmon, Coho salmon are supposed to return to freshwater to spawn before they die. However, in the Pacific Northwest, [40-90%](#) of salmon that travel through our urban waters die before spawning.

After decades, scientists have finally figured out what is causing these premature deaths. A chemical in rubber tires, 6PPD, makes its way into stormwater runoff and combines with ozone to form

6PPD-quinone. We now know definitively that 6PPD-quinone is toxic to Coho salmon, and it remains to be seen if it is negatively impacting other wildlife as well.

Unfortunately, switching to electric vehicles will not solve the problem of particulate matter created from the breakdown of tires, brakes and pavement. In fact, because electric vehicles are heavier, they may be [just as bad](#) of a source of particulate matter pollution as traditional vehicles.



How can you help prevent the spread of pollutants from tires?

- **Reduce your trips:** Combine your trips when possible and ask yourself if it would be possible to walk or bike for shorter trips.
- **Switch to transit:** Reduce the number of tires on the road by taking the [bus](#) or finding a [carpool](#).
- **Build a rain garden:** If you have access to a yard, consider building a [rain garden](#) to help filter pollutants out of our stormwater. For Everett residents, the City offers a rebate for installation of approved rain gardens.

Calculate your ecological handprint

We've all heard of calculating your ecological footprint to determine where we can reduce our consumption. Many footprint [calculators](#) exist today.

Unfortunately, many people learn what their ecological footprint is and do little to change their behaviors, possibly overwhelmed with guilt or despair about the futility of decreasing their footprint.

A new concept is emerging that may make people more optimistic: the [ecological handprint](#). Instead of telling people how their actions negatively affect the environment, the handprint measures what people can do to benefit the environment. This new concept encourages people to take action in the areas they can. No simple calculators exist yet for the [handprint](#), but keep an eye out!



Commuter tips

- Miss seeing friendly faces at the office? Add some excitement to your virtual communications with emojis. Press the Windows key and period at the same time to bring up an emoji selector in Outlook, Teams, and Office. 😊👍
- Ready to get back to riding the bus after getting a COVID-19 vaccine? Make sure [your route](#) hasn't changed since you last took it!

Featured commute mode: [bicycling](#)

"I want to ride my bicycle!" - Queen

If you live close enough to your workplace, bicycling is one of the best ways to reduce your daily commute carbon footprint to zero. With the help of an e-bike, you may be able to go even further. While it's not feasible for everyone, bicycling can be a great [last-mile](#) solution for carpoolers and bus riders too. All buses serving the Everett area are equipped with bike racks.

Benefits to bicycling include:

- **Improved health:** Increases cardiovascular, muscle, and joint health which reduces risk of heart disease, high blood pressure and [more](#). Can also reduce stress, anxiety and depression.
- **Less pollution:** Since biking produces no pollution besides construction of the bike itself, the average bicycle commuter saves [4.6 metric tons](#) of CO₂ per year!

- **Cost savings:** Compared to cars, bike maintenance is significantly [cheaper](#) after factoring in the price of gas and car insurance.

• **Less congestion:** By taking your car off the road, you will not only be improving traffic, but also all of the noise pollution and parking problems that come along with it.

What basic equipment do you need to begin your bicycle journey?

- Bicycle - check out rental options if you want to try before you buy!
- Helmet – choose the [right type](#).
- Bike lock – unless your worksite has secured storage.
- Lights - a light that could save [your life](#)!
- Gloves, tools and [other accessories](#).



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:

Mimi West
425.257.8806
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Upcoming events

- **Earth Day – April 22**

Celebrate Earth Day by exploring ways to live more [sustainably](#). Be on the lookout for local events or [create your own](#).

- **National Bike to Work Month - May**

Give bicycling a try with National [Bike to Work](#) Month!

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-June.

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.

[Seattle Transit Blog](#)

For news on transit throughout the region.

[Snohomish County Bike Map](#)

This PDF map tells you which commonly used roads have shoulders or bike lanes.



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