

## Summer weather wellness

Whether you're carpooling, busing, or taking your bike to work, don't forget these summer essentials on your commute:

- **Sunglasses** don't just make it easier to enjoy the sun – they can also seriously protect your vision. Make sure to buy [UV-blocking](#) lenses for maximum protection. Further reduce glare with [polarized glasses](#).
- **Sunscreen** is essential even if you stay inside since windows don't block [UVA rays](#).
- Carrying a **water bottle** will keep you hydrated before you're [completely parched](#).



## Washington set to fully reopen June 30

The state could [reopen](#) even earlier if at least 70% of Washingtonians receive their first dose. More than [42%](#) of Washingtonians have been fully vaccinated at the time of this writing. Governor Inslee has also lifted the state mask mandate, but masks are still federally required on public transportation.



## This issue:

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## Stay cool, commuters

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

Life is finally slowly returning to a more familiar normal than the one we've been living in. While masks may no longer be required in some places for fully vaccinated individuals, please remember that the [federal order](#) to wear a mask on public transportation is still in effect.

Read on for information about Washington's ambitious Climate Commitment Act, statistics about teleworking throughout the pandemic and other transit news. Now that the weather is nicer and there is less fear about contracting COVID-19, consider checking out our featured commute mode, busing, for your next trip to the office.

Make sure to take a glance at the sidebars for light rail information, weather tips and more. Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for upcoming events like Sorticulture and the Washington State Ridesharing Conference!



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](mailto:akoerber@everettwa.gov) or by calling 425.257.7728 with any suggestions.

Stay safe!



**EVERETT TRANSIT**

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## Everett Transit receives delivery of two more electric buses

As of now, Everett Transit has a total of nine electric buses in service with nine more on order.

Each bus saves an estimated 229,286 lbs. of greenhouse gases annually compared to diesel buses. So far, Everett Transit's electric fleet has provided 229,257 miles of service and saved an estimated 1,252,000 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>.



## Rethink Transit results

After receiving public comment, Everett Transit's Rethink Transit Study has been completed and will now be presented to city council. Thank you for your input!

The study will help determine the future of Everett Transit. Everett Transit will either continue on its current path, attempt to grow through increased sales taxes, or merge with Community Transit. The results showed high rankings for both growth and merger options with no clear front-runner.

## Northgate Link officially opening Oct. 2

It's official – the new Northgate Link light rail station will officially open Oct. 2, 2021 and will coincide with service changes for King County Metro, Sound Transit, Everett Transit, and Community Transit buses.

The link extension to Everett is expected to open in 2036.



## Teleworking throughout the pandemic

Many teleworkers are beginning to return to the office after a long, arduous year.

Just how many teleworkers were there at the height of the pandemic?

According to a study by Pew Research Center, up to 71% of American workers were teleworking in October 2020. Prior to the pandemic, only 7% of private employers offered a telework option.

As of March 2021, the vast majority of large Everett employers are still allowing more telework than they were pre-pandemic according to surveys answered by Everett's Employee Transportation Coordinators. Encouragingly, 42% of employers expect their telework programs to remain permanent while the rest are either unsure, looking at hybrid telework programs, or are planning on telework being completely temporary.

While some teleworkers are overjoyed at coming back to the office, others may be facing return anxiety.

If you've been fully vaccinated, you may not be as concerned

with contracting COVID-19, but there are still questions you might want to ask your employer about new office policies before you return.

The pandemic has taken its toll in many ways, and workers who have been isolated while teleworking may be experiencing increased anxiety, especially if they live alone. Focusing on taking care of your emotional state could be helpful at this time. Most importantly, realize that you're not alone in experiencing anxiety and fear in this uncertain new world as we all adjust.

What can we do to sustain teleworking after the pandemic?

As the pandemic showed us, telework is a critical component of continuity plans. Additionally, widespread teleworking greatly decreased commute traffic and environmental pollution. Along with telework generally leading to increased productivity and cost savings, it's clear that telework should be made part of our new normal even if it's only a few days a week instead of full-time.

Even though telework has largely been successful with increased worker satisfaction, management may not have the same expectations about continuing telework as employees do. As an employee, letting management know the positive impact telework has had on your productivity may help employers see the benefits of continuing telework. Consider what strategies you can use to frame your argument to appeal to management's perspective. Now that many companies already have the technology and infrastructure for telework in place, the argument for telework is easier to make than ever since implementation costs are no longer a barrier.

To increase the success of telework, businesses can help teleworkers become more effective by providing clear expectations, regular feedback and formalized telework policies that are fair for all.



# Washington passes Climate Commitment Act

State Senate Bill 5126 is considered [by some](#) to be the most comprehensive climate legislation in the US.

The [bill](#) establishes new greenhouse gas (GHG) emission limits with a goal of getting greenhouse gases down to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050 which is equivalent to 5 million metric tons of GHG emissions.

To get GHG emissions down, the Department of Ecology will sell and track GHG [allowances](#). Higher polluting companies will be able to purchase allowances if they can't get their emissions down, and lower polluting companies will be able to sell

their allowances for a rebate. Each allowance is equivalent to one metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Revenue from the GHG allowances will be used to invest in clean energy and emissions reduction [projects](#). Transportation is the largest single source of emissions in Washington, accounting for 45%. As a result, one of the major aims of the bill will be to electrify our transportation infrastructure and encourage the use of public transit.

Some types of emissions will be exempt from the new law, most notably emissions from aviation fuels. Companies will only need to comply with the

bill if they emit over 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

In addition, because disadvantaged communities have [historically](#) been the most impacted by climate change, the bill requires that climate projects go through an environmental justice analysis to ensure that the project benefits are distributed equitably.

Washington legislators tried to stay ahead of potential problems; a similar bill in California will need to be renewed by 2030 to stay in effect, but Washington's law will be effective indefinitely.

## Washington State hits 7.7 million population

The US Census Bureau has released its [official data](#) and Washington now ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in population across the country. Washington had a growth rate of 14.6%, nearly double the national rate of 7.4%. With our growing population, our commitment to sustainability will be important than ever.



## Transit to the trails

Next time you're thinking about hiking in the Issaquah area or to Mt. Si, why not save the wear and tear on your vehicle and try [Trailhead Direct](#)? If you're looking for something more local, try taking Everett Transit to one of Everett's excellent [parks and playgrounds](#).



## Light rail rebranding

New names are coming to the [light rail lines](#). Sound Transit will also be updating the names of light rail [exits](#). Additionally, the light rail has recently gotten a few new and improved [passenger cars](#) that will have more storage space.

## Featured commute mode: **Busing**

*"Standin' on the corner, waitin' for a bus..."*

The weather is at its peak, workers are returning to the office and vaccinations are available to all who want them. It's also [Ride Transit Month](#)! Before you return to your car for your office commute, why not give the bus a try?

### Why should I ride the bus?

Bus riding lowers emissions, can improve your [health](#) and gives you a part of your day back to do other activities while you're commuting. If your employer offers a subsidy for bus passes, the savings can be quite substantial as well.

### How do I know which bus to take?

Check out the online [trip planner](#) to plan your route ahead of time. Alternatively, you can call us at 425.257.7777 for a personalized trip plan.

### How do I pay for the bus?

All buses accept cash (exact change only) at the front of the bus or at a ticket machine at the bus stop. However, buses no longer give paper transfers. To get a transfer, you will need to pick up an ORCA card at the Everett Station [Customer Service Center](#) or at participating [QFCs and Safeways](#). ORCA is widely accepted by [most agencies](#) in the region.

### What are agencies doing to protect against COVID-19?

Although Governor Inslee has relaxed mask requirements statewide, masks are still [federally required](#) on public transportation. Check out the statements by [Everett Transit](#), [Community Transit](#) and [Sound Transit](#) for more information on what agencies are doing to keep you safe.



## 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](mailto:ETmail@everettwa.gov).

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

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## Upcoming events

- **Sorticulture – June 11-13**

Sorticulture is back on for 2021! The annual [garden arts festival](#) will move to Downtown Everett this year in order to meet social distancing requirements. If you're looking to take transit to the festival, hop on Everett Transit Route 3, 7, or 29.

- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks**

The city-sponsored fireworks show is back on for 2021 and will take place at [Legion Park](#).

- **WSRO 2021 Conference – Sept. 19-21**

The [Washington State Ridesharing Organization](#) will be hosting its annual conference in Leavenworth, WA. Geared towards Employee Transportation Coordinators and Transportation Demand Management professionals, this conference covers the latest news in transit and ridesharing.

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-September.

## Commuter resources

### [Everett Transit's CTR Website](#)

Find past newsletters, trainings, RCWs and more!

### [Seattle Transit Blog](#)

For news on transit throughout the region.



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