

Short- and Long-Range Plan

Appendix C: Info Sheets

October 2018

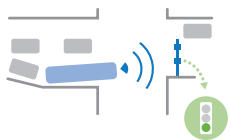


Bus Rapid Transit

What is Bus Rapid Transit?

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a high-frequency bus-based transit system that delivers fast, direct, comfortable, and cost-effective service.

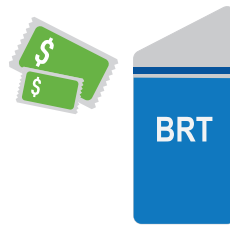
Because BRT contains features similar to rail service. It is much faster, more reliable, and more convenient than regular bus services. With the right features, BRT avoids the causes of delays that typically slow regular bus services, like being stuck in traffic and paying on board.



Smarter traffic signals



A distinct look and feel



Simpler fare payment



Vehicles with more room



Comfortable stations

What are the benefits?



Faster service that arrives on time



Buses that come more often, all day long



Service that supports economic development

What are the costs?

Martin Way corridor:



\$2.5M

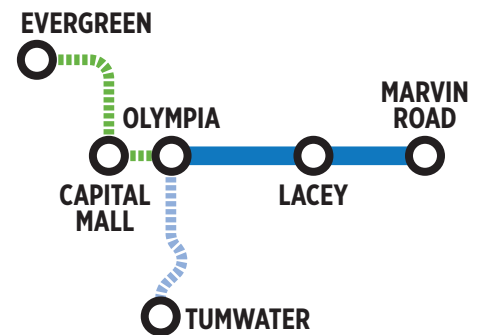
Annual operating costs (additional)



\$23M–\$30M

Capital costs

Where are the opportunities?



Extended Span of Service

What is an extended span of service?

An extended span of service means more bus routes start earlier in the morning and continue to run later at night, on weekdays and weekends.

As a result, extended service helps get you where you need to go, regardless of your schedule. This helps to accommodate early or late work schedules, as well as shopping, visiting friends, or going out at night.



Number of bus routes that currently run until 11 PM on weekdays



Number of bus routes that would run until 11 PM with an extended span

What are the benefits?



Support for irregular and late work schedules



Span is consistent for multiple routes



Later service is a community priority

What are the costs?



\$1.6M

Annual operating costs (additional)



7%

Increase in service relative to 2017 levels



None

Capital costs

Where are the opportunities?

Routes that run until 11 PM now:



Routes that would run until 11 PM with an extended span of service:

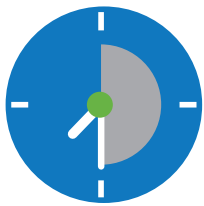


Improved Frequency

What does improved frequency mean?

Improved frequency means buses come more often, all day. In other words, buses arrive at a stop every 15 or 30 minutes depending on the route.

When buses come more frequently, you don't need to plan your day around the schedule. For the most frequent routes (13, 41, 62A/B), buses would come every 15 minutes, seven days a week.



Minimum 30-minute frequency all day



Three routes with all-day, 15-minute service



Same frequency all-day, seven-days-a-week



Simpler bus schedules

What are the benefits?



Better accommodates your schedule



More flexibility for off-peak trips



Bus schedules that are easier to remember

What are the costs?



\$4.5M

Annual operating costs (additional)



21%

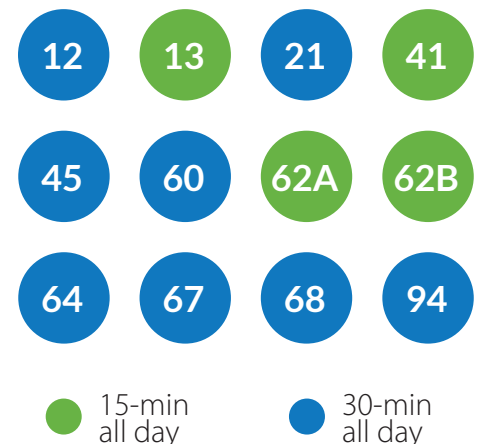
Increase in service



2

New vehicles required

Which routes would have more frequent service?



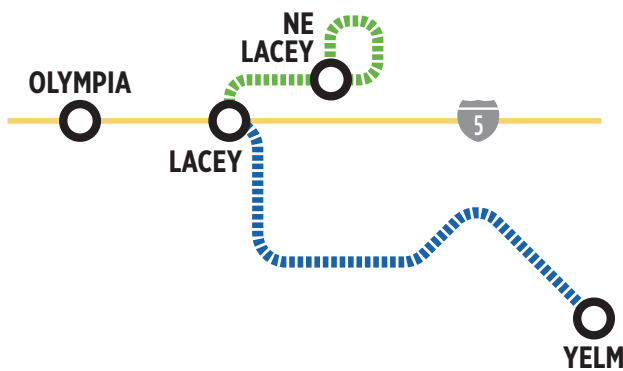
Service to New Areas

What does service to new areas mean?

Service to new areas would include routes to NE Lacey, Yelm, and possibly Innovative Service Zones for other less densely populated areas.

Growth in Thurston County is adding new destinations that are unserved by the current transit network. For NE Lacey, new service would be an all-day, standalone route between the Lacey Transit Center and job centers in NE Lacey. Service to Yelm would be an express route during rush hour to and from Lacey Transit Center. Innovative Service Zones could serve less densely populated areas until they can support bus service. Potential zones could be in Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Yelm.

Potential NE Lacey and Yelm route alignments



What is an Innovative Service Zone?



On-demand



Smaller vehicles

What are the benefits?



Better access to jobs, schools, appointments, and shopping



More flexibility for off-peak trips

What are the costs?



\$2.6M

Annual operating costs (additional)



4

New vehicles required

Night Owl Service

What is Night Owl Service?

Night Owl Service is a weekend, on-demand, late night service to and from downtown Olympia.

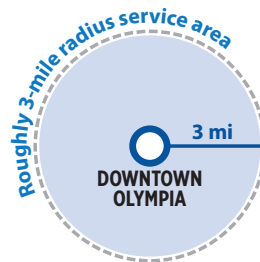
It would include three small buses leaving the Olympia Transit Center hourly. Each bus would make pickups and drop-offs in a different zone that reaches up to three miles away from downtown Olympia. Night Owl service would not replace the existing weekend service to The Evergreen State College.



On-demand



Weekend nights



Three-mile radius



Maintains late night service

What are the benefits?



Supports new trip purposes



Provides employment transportation during peak "entertainment" times



Promotes safety for riders and non-riders

What are the costs?



\$400,000

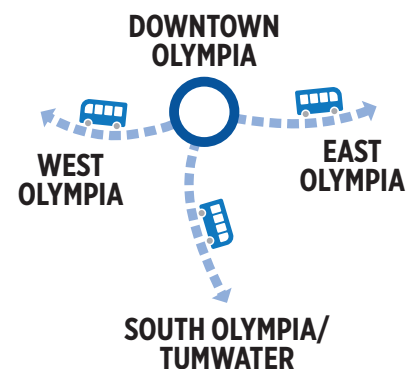
Annual operating costs (additional)



None

Capital costs

Where are the opportunities?



Maintain On-Time Performance

What does maintain on-time performance mean?

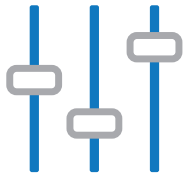
It's critical to keep buses running on time despite changes in traffic. This requires setting aside 0.5% of the operating budget to periodically adjust schedules.

Increasing traffic congestion in the future will lead to increasing delays, and increasing costs associated with those delays, for everyone including transit vehicles.

Intercity Transit can plan ahead for slowing travel times by setting aside a specified percentage of the operating budget each year for one-or-two schedule adjustments. This would allow Intercity Transit to put additional buses into service on busy routes and reduce wait times for riders.



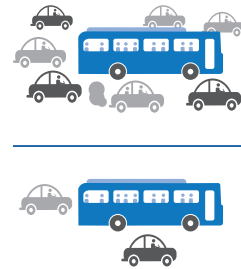
Allocates 0.5% of operating budget



Adjusts schedules periodically



Keeps buses on time



Accommodates changing traffic



Plans ahead

What are the benefits?



Establishes a savings account for on-demand service additions



Provides flexibility for changing operating conditions

What are the costs?



0.5%

Annual operating costs



None

Capital costs

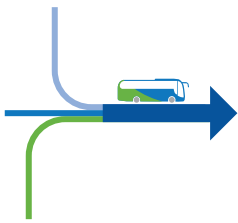
Enhanced Commuter Service

What is enhanced commuter service?

Enhanced commuter service means better express service between Olympia, Lacey, Lakewood, and Tacoma. It would make service easier to understand, faster, more comfortable, and more frequent.

Commuter service is fast service over long distances, designed to transport suburban workers to downtown jobs. This is important because Thurston County anticipates approximately 43,000* commuters traveling out of Thurston County to work by 2025, an increase of 22%. Many of these commuters will be going to Pierce and King Counties.

*Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) Countywide Employment and Commute Forecast, January 2018



*Consolidates existing
express routes*



*Increases
service levels*



*Improves speed
and reliability*



*Upgrades to
coach vehicles*

What are the benefits?



Avoids delays.



Provides flexibility for
changing operating conditions



Reduces congestion on I-5

What are the costs?



\$1M

Annual operating costs
(additional)



\$3.0M

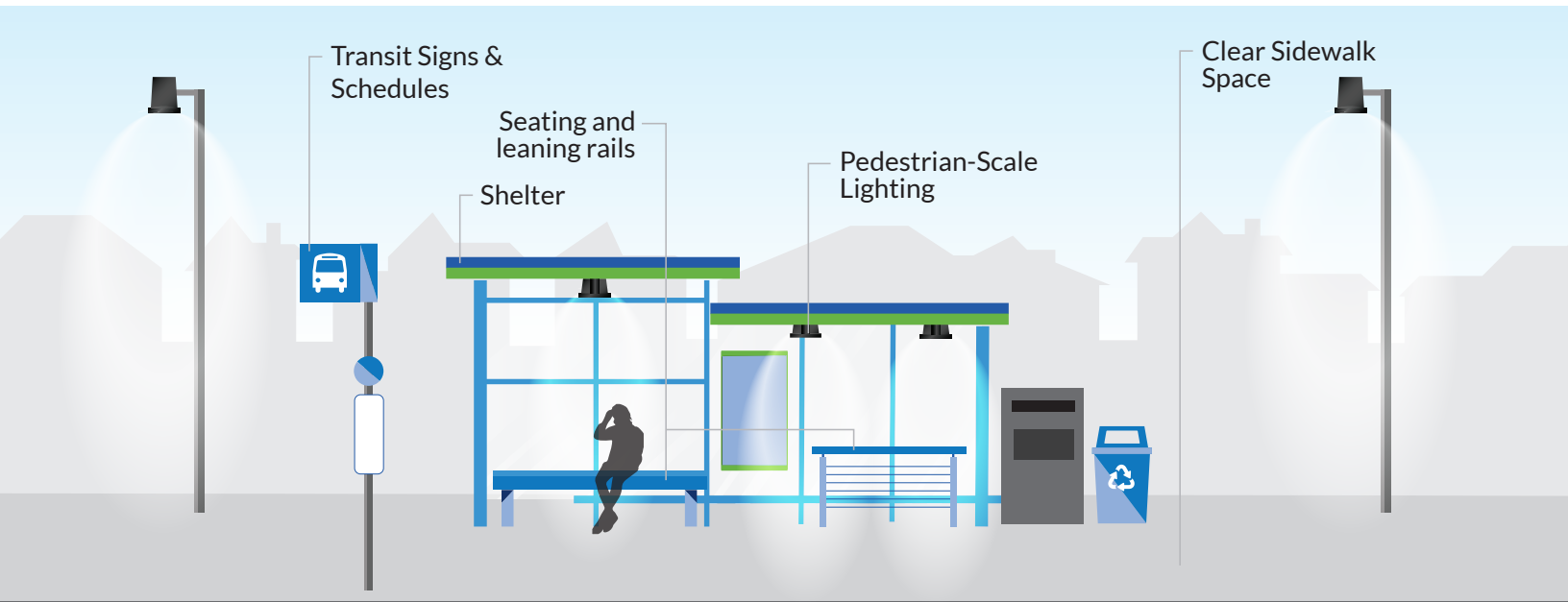
Capital costs
for new buses

Enhanced Capital Facilities

What are enhanced capital facilities?

Enhanced capital facilities mean better bus stops, with features like shelters, benches, and lighting. Together, these improve the overall customer experience while waiting for the bus.

Intercity Transit would invest in bus stop enhancements throughout its service area. Priority would be given to stops with more ridership.



What are the benefits?



Better passenger experience



Attracts and retain riders

What are the costs?



None

Annual operating costs



\$260K

Annual capital costs

Change the Way Fares Are Paid

Changing the way fares are paid means different things to different people, and can address several challenges identified by the community. There are options and opportunities that, with some additional study, can help meet our shared goals.



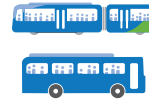
Get where they are going faster



Make it easier to pay



Make it more affordable



Encourage people to ride the bus



Reduce fare hassles and uncertainty

Implementing new fare technology and introducing an alternative fare structure are two options which could be considered.

New Fare Technology

The existing fare collection system takes cash only and is failing. There are many new technology options to consider. Part of the consideration is the cost associated with purchasing and maintaining a fare collection system, and processing the money collected.

Alternative Fare Structure

An alternative fare structure means removing the collection of fares on the bus from individual riders and replacing that fare revenue with funds generated through public/private partnerships. About 10% of transit revenues come from fares. There are several communities, like Chapel Hill NC, Missoula MT, Corvallis OR, and Cache Valley UT, that have implemented a similar alternative fare structure. They have found it:



Promotes social equity

Riders least able to afford fares are currently paying them



Increases ridership

Systems report an increase of 30–40% ridership



Makes bus service faster

3–7% speed improvement without fare collection waiting time



Lowers operating costs

eliminates costs for fare collection, fare equipment, ticket management, and administration



Removes barriers

Increases convenience and removes the hassle of finding cash to ride the bus



Reduces traffic congestion

gets more people riding the bus leaving fewer cars on the road



Environmentally friendly

gets more people riding the bus leaving fewer cars on the road