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Pierce Transit's Fall 2010 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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"Thanks to all who reviewed options to help refine plans and prioritize values during this year's system redesign."

Message from Pierce Transit Board Chair Terry Lee and Vice Chair Claudia Thomas...

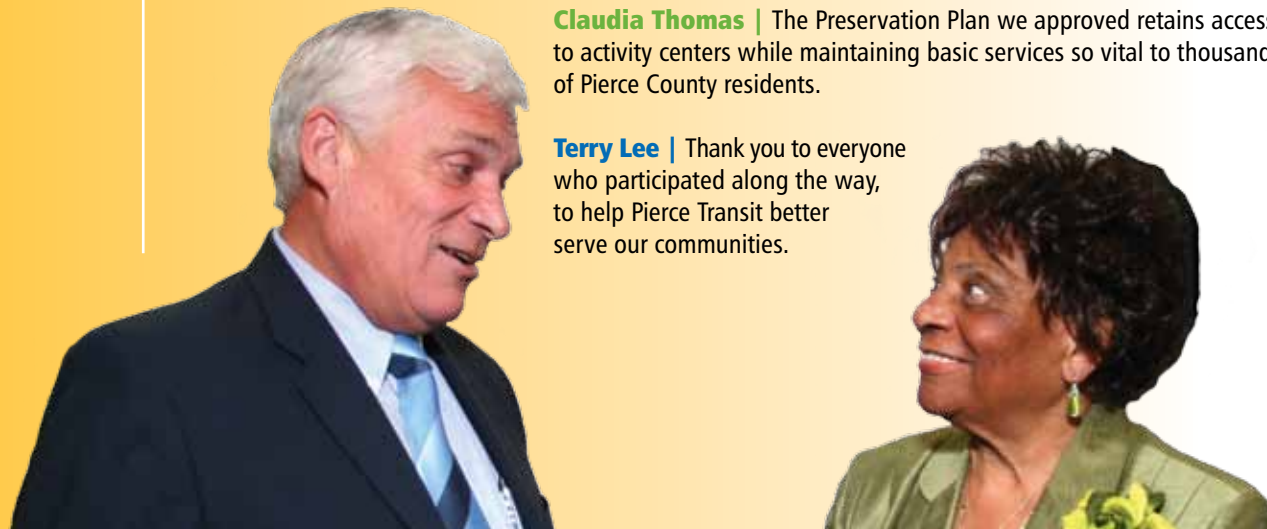
Terry Lee | Even before the start of the "Great Recession," Pierce Transit was starting to evaluate our system after 30 years of service to Pierce County residents. We adopted a vision for public transportation that promotes sound business principles and industry best practices. Be efficient, productive, and innovative.

Claudia Thomas | That direction helped us make the tough decisions because of new economic realities, just like with your family's budget. We made adjustments to address the recession's effects, saving over \$89 million from projected budgets through 2012. But Pierce Transit still has a significant shortfall.

Terry Lee | We directed staff to engage the public in developing financially sustainable plans that incorporate the values of the community. Throughout the process we heard consistent messages, loud and clear: preserve access for the disabled and those dependent on transit, and maintain commuter service to jobs.

Claudia Thomas | The Preservation Plan we approved retains access to activity centers while maintaining basic services so vital to thousands of Pierce County residents.

Terry Lee | Thank you to everyone who participated along the way, to help Pierce Transit better serve our communities.



A Board Guides Our Actions A nine-member Board of Commissioners oversees the Agency. The Board is made up of elected officials representing Pierce County, Tacoma, Lakewood, Puyallup, University Place, and the small cities and towns of our service area.



Chair
Terry Lee
Pierce County Council



Vice Chair
Claudia Thomas
Lakewood City Council



Commissioner
Tim Farrell
Pierce County Council



Commissioner
Jake Fey
Tacoma City Council



Commissioner
Neil Johnson
Small Cities/Towns



Commissioner
Don Malloy
Puyallup City Council



Commissioner
Spiro Manthou
Tacoma City Council



Commissioner
Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive



Commissioner
Marilyn Strickland
Mayor City of Tacoma

In September 2009, Pierce Transit started reaching out to our riders and the general public to help redesign our system. At the conclusion of the year long public involvement process, PT staff had conducted public meetings, community presentations and visits with riders that resulted in 28,000 face-to-face interactions. We received over 2,000 emails, phone calls and mail responses. We heard that transit's top priorities should be connecting people to jobs and meeting basic life needs for those who depend on transit. Here's one person's story who participated in that process.

"I ride Pierce Transit SHUTTLE to get to work on time."



Drew Peltier rides Pierce Transit SHUTTLE from his home in Steilacoom to the Lowe's store on Puyallup's South Hill. Drew works four days a week, through a program of Vadis, an organization dedicated to assisting businesses recruit and retain employees with disabilities.

"Drew has learned a lot and does his job well," glowed Donna Robinson, the Vadis supervisor who leads Drew and the other workers who have developmental challenges. Drew has done his job so well he was named "Most Improved Vadis Employee" at the Lowe's store for 2009.

Drew is happy to be at Lowe's. "I like working at the Lowe's store. The people here are friendly and they know me."

Drew's mom, Francie, participated in Pierce Transit's community meetings in Lakewood and Parkland, where Pierce Transit presented plans showing the reductions in service that may be necessary due to the recession.

"When I heard that Pierce Transit was considering cuts in Steilacoom as part of their reduction plan, I was very concerned and I let them know it! When the final plans were approved by the Board, I was relieved to see that Steilacoom will still have service. Drew will be able to ride SHUTTLE to work."

Drew turns 26 this year and lives with his mother and father. They have depended on SHUTTLE for 12 years. SHUTTLE provides transportation for people with disabilities who are not able to ride on our fixed route bus system. Drew experiences Down syndrome, but it doesn't keep him from leading a full and productive life.

Drew's Special Olympics basketball team took first place in the State Tournament last year in Wenatchee. His father, Pete, coaches Drew and other members of the Special Olympics golf team. This father and son duo takes it a step further; they raise money to support Special Olympics by selling programs at Seahawks games.



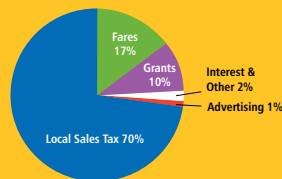
Drew Peltier
Steilacoom Resident &
works at Lowe's Puyallup

Cost Savings

Since the recession's beginning, Pierce Transit has been impacted by a sharp decline in sales tax revenue. 70% of PT funding comes from local sales tax. Since 2007 these reductions and more have been made:

- 2 rounds of layoffs
- Reduced management 22%
- Delayed/eliminated capital projects
- Bus service reduced 8%
- Adult fare increase Jan 2009
- Adult fare increase Nov 2010
- Operational efficiencies
- Programs consolidated
- Non-represented staff salary freeze and benefit reduction

Pierce Transit Funding



Source: 2009 Budget

“When I moved to Tacoma three years ago, I purposely looked for a place to live along a bus route.”



Dave Conlin is a biologist for GeoEngineers, located in Downtown Tacoma. His company works on a range of projects, including the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge and expansion of port facilities. Highly involved in Tacoma's growth and revitalization, GeoEngineers supports energy-efficient modes of transportation. Employees are encouraged to ride the bus, bicycle, vanpool, or carpool. They're reimbursed for monthly bus fare or vanpool expenses.

“I bus to work.”

Dave uses an ORCA card and usually rides the bus three times a week. “Riding the bus home from work gives me a chance to unwind and relax from the day at work.” In the morning he enjoys the short walk from the bus stop to his office. In the afternoon the bus stop is just a half block away.

Dave became comfortable riding the bus everywhere, especially to downtown Seattle. “You don't drive in downtown Seattle. The traffic is terrible, finding parking is hard, and the parking garages are way too expensive!”



“I love going places and meeting new people – it energizes me!”



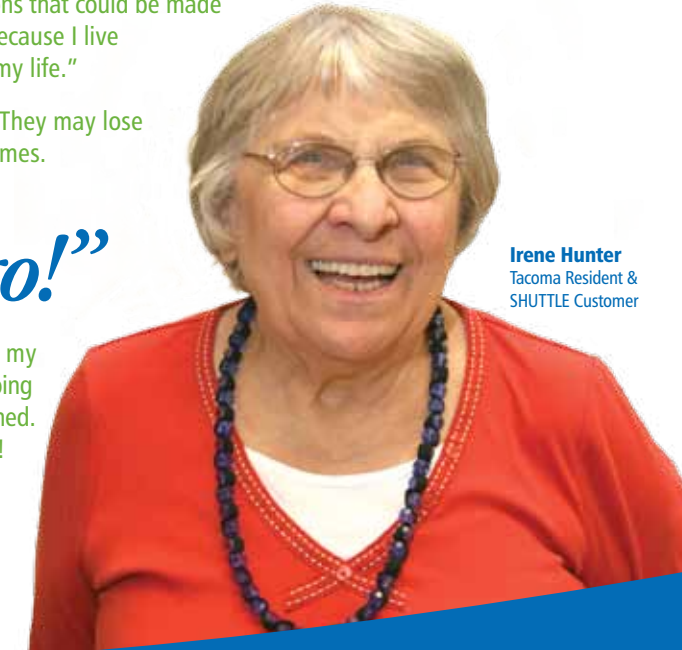
“I love to be on the go!” says 83-year-old Irene Hunter. “I can do what I want, go when I want – I'm independent!” Due to a significant vision impairment that prevents her from driving, Irene has depended on SHUTTLE for 15 years. When she rides SHUTTLE she knows she will travel safely.

Irene keeps a busy schedule. She rides SHUTTLE to exercise, to shop, to do volunteer work, and to meet with friends. When Irene attended Pierce Transit community meetings in May, she was disturbed to learn about reductions that could be made in bus and SHUTTLE services. “My services probably won't be eliminated entirely because I live in the city, but they may be significantly cut back. That would completely change my life.”

Irene also learned that people in the rural parts of the county might be worse off. They may lose their service altogether. “That troubles me. They may not be able to leave their homes. How will they get food, go to the doctor, or visit friends?”

“I love to be on the go!”

“When I'm waiting for the SHUTTLE in the lobby of my independent living complex, I tell people where I'm going and encourage those that can to join me,” Irene laughed. “Getting out and doing things is invigorating! I know they would enjoy it.” Whether you live in the city or in the country, Irene suggests that everyone buy a monthly bus pass. “You can go everywhere, and it's easy!”



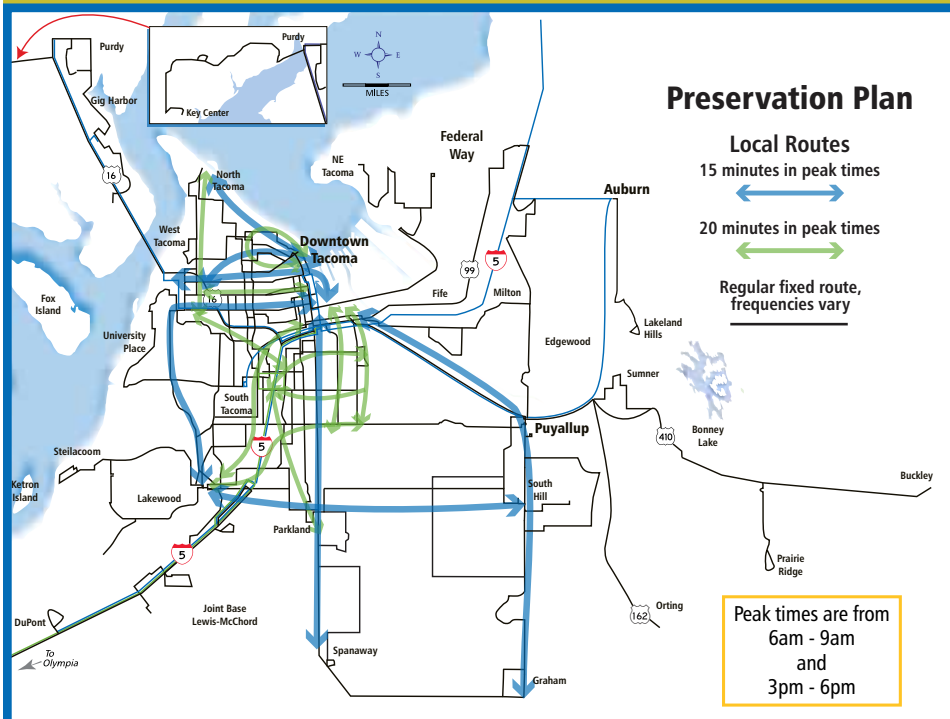
Irene Hunter
Tacoma Resident &
SHUTTLE Customer

Next Steps...

Pierce Transit's Board of Commissioners selected the Preservation Plan shown below. It preserves service levels with the goal of providing financially sustainable public transportation that the public will value and use. The Board then voted to put forward a ballot proposition on February 8, 2011 to exercise the final 0.3% sales tax authority available to Pierce Transit (0.3% is 3¢ on a \$10 purchase).

The Board's decisions were the culmination of a year of public involvement

Pierce Transit staff took draft plans out to communities, based on different levels of funding. Comments from public meetings, and through surveys, online, phone, and mail were incorporated into two final alternatives. By the time this process was complete, staff had conducted 23 public meetings, 131 community presentations and many visits with riders at transit centers. Nearly 28,000 face-to-face interactions! The results are what you see below:

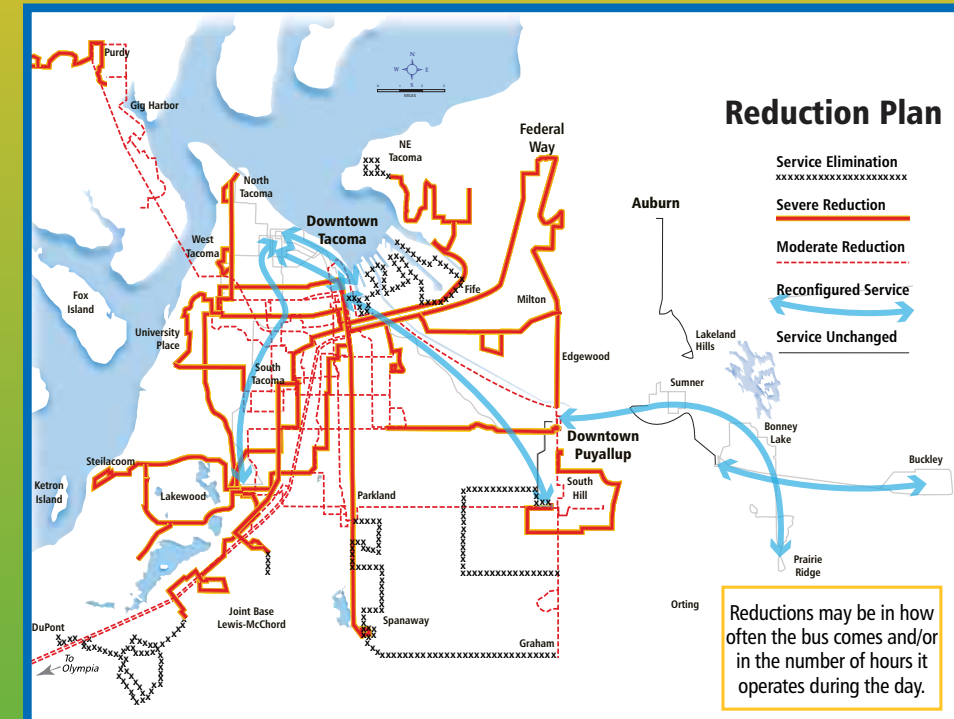


What happens if Proposition 1 passes on February 8th?

Preservation Plan:

- Preserves current service levels
- More frequent bus service during commute times
- Service to DuPont and Orting
- More direct routes

Proposition 1 calls for an increase of 0.3% in local sales tax.



What happens if Proposition 1 fails on February 8th?

Reduction Plan:

- 35% service level reduction projected
- Reduced AM/PM trips on fixed route and SHUTTLE
- Buses come less often
- Reduced weekend service
- No special event service such as Puyallup Fair and July 4th Freedom Fair

Implementation at current 0.6% local sales tax funding level.