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Message from PT's Board Chair



CHAIR
Claudia Thomas
Lakewood City Council
Term expires 12/31/11

It has been my honor to serve on the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners for six years, especially as Chair for the last twelve months. As I leave this Board, I must state how proud I am of the hard work and dedication of all Pierce Transit employees. Their commitment to providing quality public transportation during these challenging times has been inspiring and continues Pierce Transit's long tradition of having some of the best employees in the industry.

The Board of Commissioners had to make difficult decisions after the failure of Proposition 1 in February 2011 and the compressed natural gas station fire that occurred in late February. Pierce Transit had meaningful discussions with our citizens and riders during our system redesign and service reduction processes. We learned our communities believe it is important to have an efficient and seamless public transportation system that connects people to jobs and vital services.

Transit service has been significantly reduced or eliminated in a number of the smaller communities. The Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners believes it is important to have a public discussion about the Public Transportation Benefit Area's boundaries and whether jurisdictions no longer being served wish to continue contributing tax dollars to the PTBA. Additional information about convening a Public Transportation Improvement Conference and public hearings to discuss Pierce Transit's service area will occur over the next several months.

It has been a pleasure serving the citizens and businesses located in Pierce Transit's service district. I wish the Agency, its Board, Pierce Transit employees, and our riders the very best in the future.



A BOARD GUIDES OUR ACTIONS

A ten-member Board of Commissioners oversees the Agency. The Board is made up of elected officials representing Pierce County, Tacoma, Lakewood, Puyallup, University Place, the small cities and towns of our service area, and one non-voting Union Representative.

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| VICE CHAIR
Spiro Manthou
Tacoma 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
Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive | COMMISSIONER
Marilyn Strickland
Mayor City of Tacoma | COMMISSIONER
Rick Talbert
Pierce County Council | COMMISSIONER
Don McKnight
Union Representative |

Finding Solutions in Partnerships

Most people are familiar with Pierce Transit's bus routes, which despite unfortunate reductions this year, still serve most major communities. By Federal law, wherever bus routes operate there must be complementary paratransit transportation for people with disabilities. Pierce Transit's service is SHUTTLE. Because it is labor-intensive, SHUTTLE is costly. Pierce Transit initiated a pilot transportation service called Adult Day Health Express, which reduces costs while continuing to offer high quality. Better yet, it's a public/private partnership involving MultiCare Health System and Local Motion, a Puyallup-based private transportation company. MultiCare operates Adult Day Health in South Tacoma, providing occupational therapy, skilled nursing and nutrition services for seniors and others with needs. The Express saves money by grouping trips along efficient routes.



For more information about MultiCare's Adult Day Health Center program, visit MULTICARE.ORG/HOME/ADULT-DAY-HEALTH or call 253-459-7222

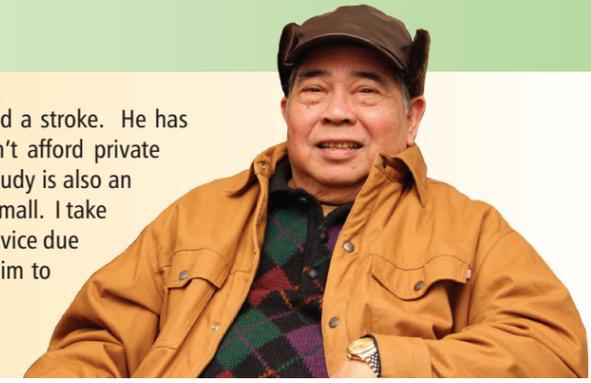
Partnerships are great, but more important, this program improves lives.

In 1975, **Douglas Roush** was run over by a stolen military vehicle while pulling guard duty at an Army base in Mannheim, Germany. "Hop," as his friends call him, detailed the long road to recovery, "I've had fourteen surgeries and came here in the 1990's to be treated at Puget Sound Hospital." The Veterans Administration gave him a power scooter but it's not his favorite way to get around. "I've owned 21 tricycles," Hop boasts, "It's the best therapy, keeps my mind sharp." Hop often rides the Adult Day Health Express with his friend Leanne who comes for arm and shoulder therapy. They appreciate the transportation and even have their favorite drivers.



Ann Wright is an energetic 91 year old, who has been coming to Adult Day Health for 14 years. "I don't know what I'd do if this center wasn't here." She is very proud that MultiCare's diet and exercise program has resulted in a weight loss of 32 pounds. "The staff takes good care of me," says Ann. She is also generous with her praise of the transportation, "The service is just as good as when SHUTTLE provided it. My grandchildren think I'm going to school." And Ann's favorite activity at Adult Day Health? "Bingo!" And then she clarifies, "When I win."

Rudy Asuncion was at work at the Sheraton Hotel when he experienced a stroke. He has been coming to Adult Day Health since 2003. "I come here because I can't afford private therapy." Prior to the start of the Health Care Express Rudy took SHUTTLE. Rudy is also an avid bus rider. "Pierce Transit is great. I take it to the grocery, to bingo, to the mall. I take it to the doctor." Rudy was one of many people who recently lost their bus service due to service reductions. Fortunately, he is eligible for SHUTTLE, which takes him to the 72nd Street Transit Center where he begins his bus rides.



Get to know
DOWNTOWN:
On the go!



Downtown On the Go is a partnership of Pierce Transit, the City of Tacoma, the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber, and downtown businesses. Together, they work to reduce drive-alone trips. Downtown On the Go encourages the use of transit, ridesharing, biking, walking, and flexible work arrangements. It advocates for transportation choices and land use policies that promote a vibrant downtown.

Meet these downtown commuters:



SHANNON PAYTON
Architectural Designer
BLRB Architects

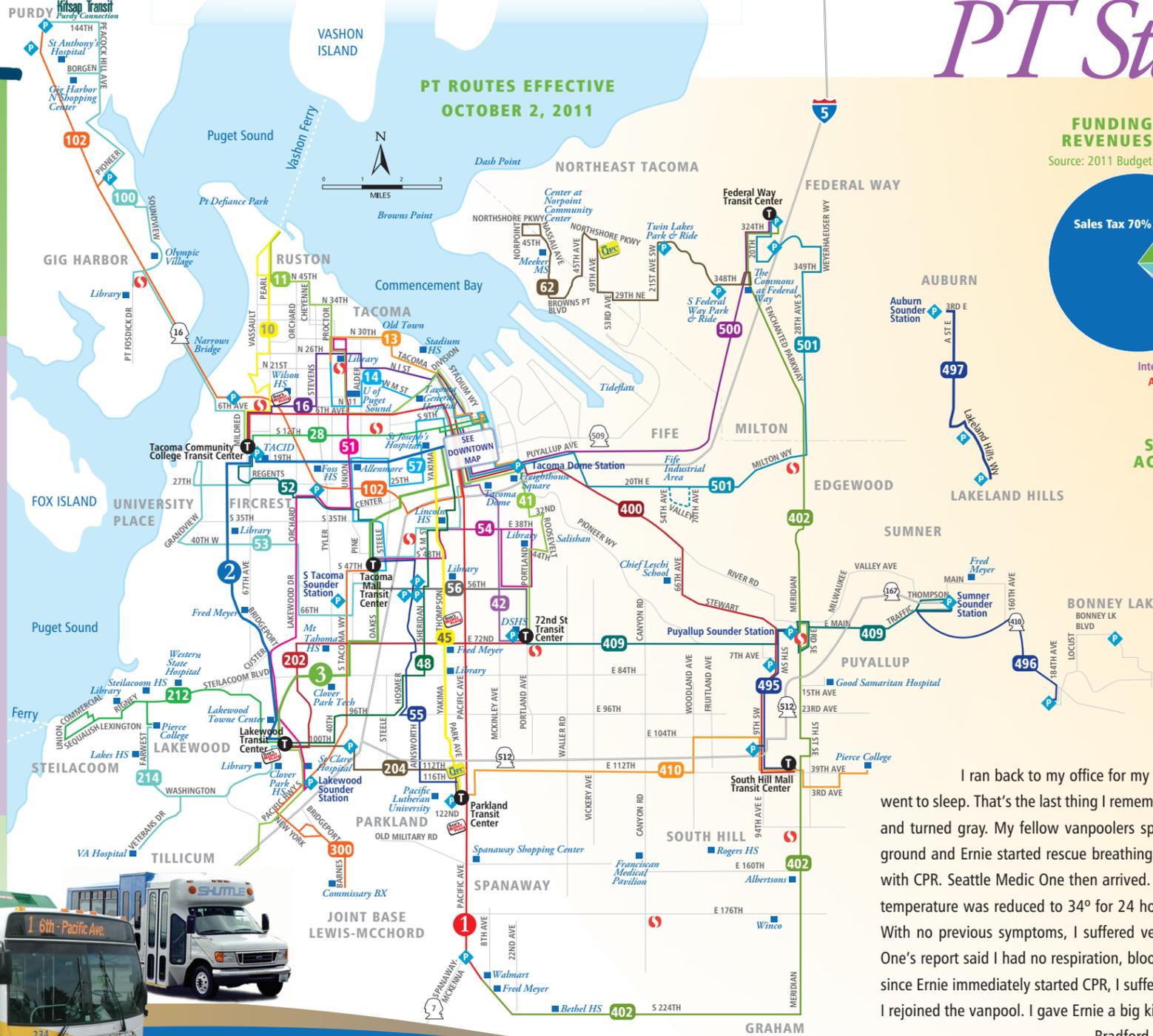
I live in Seattle and work in Downtown Tacoma. I've commuted by bus and carpool for over a year. My employer contributes \$67/month. Since selling my car, I save \$800/month in parking, gas, car payments, insurance and maintenance. I love the exposure to new experiences and couldn't be happier! Commuters would be surprised how alive their community is – if only they'd get out of their cars.



RIKKI EVANS
Student
University of Washington Tacoma

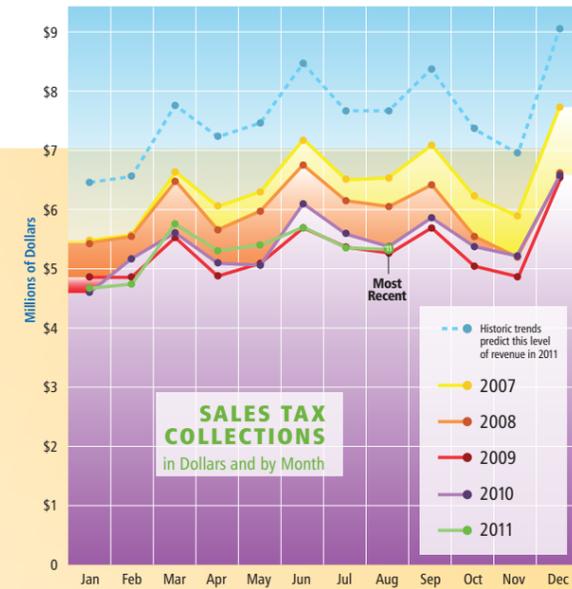
After riding the bus for seven years, I'm pretty good at it. Sometimes it's a challenge to time my trips correctly, but I use the bus about 25-50 times each week. I take Pierce Transit to UWT because it's convenient and cheaper than driving. I save hundreds of dollars each month. The bus gets me where I need to go and when.

VISIT DowntownOnTheGo.org Learn about commute options and resources to make your commute easier, including real-time bus arrivals on **OneBusAway.org**. Read about fun events like **Bike Month, Walk Tacoma, and Park(ing) Day**. Stay informed on transportation issues.



PT Stats

FUNDING REVENUES
Source: 2011 Budget



COST SAVING ACTIONS

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:

- Bus service reduced 43%
- Operational efficiencies
- 3 rounds of layoffs
- Delayed/eliminated capital projects
- Reduced management 31%
- Programs consolidated
- Adult fare increase Jan 2009 and Nov 2010
- Non-represented staff salary freeze and benefit reduction

Vanpool

It's said that vanpool is a lifestyle decision. In my case, it actually saved my life.

Scheduled to drive, I ran back to my office for my briefcase. When I returned, Pat was in the driver's seat, so I leaned back and went to sleep. That's the last thing I remember for seven days. Apparently, I began making gurgling noises, quit breathing, and turned gray. My fellow vanpoolers sprang into action. Pat pulled over and 911 was called. Heath laid me on the ground and Ernie started rescue breathing. Angie stopped cars until she found good Samaritan Ann Hume, experienced with CPR. Seattle Medic One then arrived. It took three tries with the defibrillator to revive me. At Harborview, my body temperature was reduced to 34° for 24 hours to relieve brain and organ stress. I underwent bypass surgery in Tacoma. With no previous symptoms, I suffered ventricular fibrillation arrest, a condition where the heart quits beating. Medic One's report said I had no respiration, blood pressure, or heartbeat when they arrived. I'd been dead for 22 minutes, but since Ernie immediately started CPR, I suffered no brain damage. I credit him for me being alive today. Three months later I rejoined the vanpool. I gave Ernie a big kiss on the lips, much to his dismay and embarrassment!

– Bradford Schultz

2011

JANUARY

Pierce Transit holds 6 open houses and conducts public outreach to provide factual information on Proposition 1

FEBRUARY

8 Proposition 1 fails, which would have provided expanded funding

28 PT Board of Commissioners directs staff to create a plan that reduces service by 35% by October 2011

28 Compressed natural gas (CNG) fire destroys fueling station

MARCH

CNG Emergency Weekday Service implemented because of difficulty in fueling buses

Sound Transit, KC Metro and Intercity Transit loan diesel buses to supplement PT's natural gas fleet

APRIL

Public hearings in Lakewood, Gig Harbor, Tacoma, Puyallup and Bonney Lake collect testimony regarding the October service change

MAY

9 Board approves a 20% permanent service reduction scheduled for June 12, 2011 but rejects the proposed plan for the final 15% reduction scheduled for October. Directs staff to develop a modified plan that focuses on maximum ridership

JUNE

12 20% service reduction implemented

13 Public hearing regarding the October service reduction. Board approves an additional 15% service reduction to be implemented in October, which focuses on efficiency and ridership

AUGUST

Rider outreach begins on upcoming 15% service reduction

15 Transportation Providers Summit focuses on other transportation options for individuals losing service including SHUTTLE

SEPTEMBER

Outreach for additional 15% service reduction continues

OCTOBER

2 Implemented 15% service reduction completing the 35% authorized by the Board.

NOVEMBER

31 Board study session regarding budget and boundaries

14 Board votes to initiate boundary review



Today, we have 300 vanpools on the road, serving hundreds of worksites throughout Puget Sound.



Brad's vanpool: Pat Bochenek and Joseph Jenkins Army Recruiting Command; Corps of Engineers employees David McCormack, Earnest Treadway and Angie Dexter; Staff Sgt. Heath Wright, U.S. Marine Corps