



Pierce Transit 2016 Annual Report





Dear Community Members,

The year 2016 was one of planning and progress for Pierce Transit. We spent much of the year conducting a comprehensive review of the agency's bus route network and planning a restructure that provides more frequent bus service, serves customers later in the evening and makes the entire system more efficient. As tax revenues have returned, we have focused on providing more bus service on the street. Between 2015 and 2017, Pierce Transit will have restored 71,500 hours of service – a 16 percent boost.

Also in 2016, Pierce Transit adopted its first long range plan, Destination 2040, with input from riders, the general community, stakeholders and planning partners. We also launched a concerted effort to undertake repairs and upgrades at several transit centers and a Park & Ride, giving Pierce County residents the high-quality transit facilities they deserve in their neighborhoods.

These are just a few examples of the work your local transit agency conducted in 2016 to better serve you. In this annual report you will find more details about the agency's 2016 priorities, and information about services we have planned for you in the future.

Thank you for riding!

With regards,

Sue Dreier
Pierce Transit CEO



Welcome to Pierce Transit

VISION

Your preferred transportation choice for today and tomorrow.

MISSION

Pierce Transit improves people's quality of life by providing safe, reliable, innovative and useful transportation services that are locally based and regionally connected.

Pierce Transit has been providing transportation for people in our community for 37 years. The agency's service covers 70 percent of the county in 13 cities and towns, as well as portions of unincorporated Pierce County. Pierce Transit also provides connections with other local and regional transportation providers.



How We Serve You

LOCAL BUS ROUTES

- 37 routes with 195 buses
- 8.6 million boardings
- 4.5 million revenue miles

SHUTTLE PARATRANSIT

- 5,243 clients and 97 vehicles
- 348,000 boardings
- 2.3 million revenue miles

VANPOOL

- 2,400 customers and 439 vans
- 828,000 boardings
- 4.7 million miles

WORKFORCE

- 918 employees

Did you know? Pierce Transit offers a host of rideshare services, including vanpools, carpools and Park & Ride lots. We also work with nearly 180 employers to assist them with their ridesharing needs.

TRANSLATION SERVICE

is available in more than 200 languages, by calling 253.581.8000.

Llame al 253.581.8000. Habrá un representante y servicio de traducción en español disponible para atenderle.

Заказать услуги представителя с переводом на русский язык можно по телефону 253-581-8000.

Xin gọi 253-581-8000 để nói chuyện với Nhân Viên Đại Diện Ban Phục Vụ Khách Hàng là người sẽ cung cấp dịch vụ thông dịch Việt Ngữ.

Tawagan ang 253-581-8000 upang makipag-usap sa Representatibo ng Pangserbisyong Kustomer na magbibigay ng serbiyong pagsasalin ng wika sa Tagalog.

한국어 번역 서비스를 제공하는 상담원과 통화하시려면 253-581-8000 으로 전화하십시오.

អាចទំនាក់ទំនងភ្នាក់ងារសេវាកម្រៃភាសាខ្មែរ (កម្ពុជា) ។
ដោយហៅតាមរយៈ លេខទូរស័ព្ទ ២៥៣-៥៨១-៨០០០ ។

Rufen Sie 253.581.8000. Ein Mitarbeiter wird zur Verfügung sein, um Sie mit Übersetzungen in Deutsch zu unterstützen.

Reinventing Routes & Restoring Service

In 2016 Pierce Transit conducted a comprehensive analysis of its existing bus service and gathered the public's ideas for improvements and efficiencies. That feedback, along with growth projections and other research, resulted in a more efficient routing plan with 30-minute peak and mid-day service on nearly all urban routes and many non-urban routes, service until 10 p.m. on many routes, and faster service between destinations. The Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners adopted the new routing system in December 2016 for implementation the following March, along with 35,000 hours of restored bus service.

2016 
ROUTE ANALYSIS
MOVING FORWARD

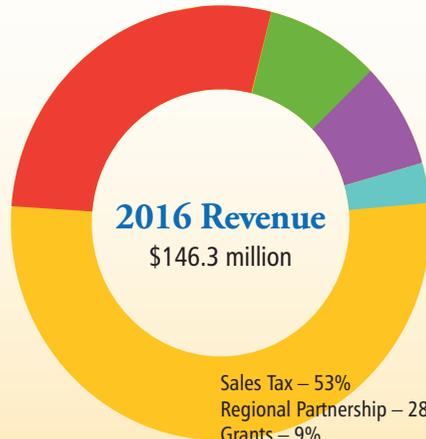


Budget

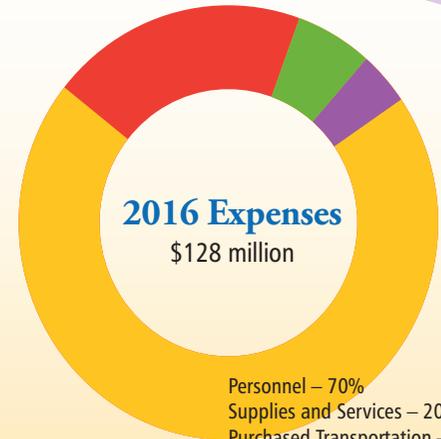


Pierce Transit operates as a fiscally responsible, debt-free agency. As revenues have returned following the recession, Pierce Transit has placed those dollars into more service on the road, restoring 15,000 service hours in 2015 and another 11,500 hours in 2016, with more planning completed in 2016 for additional 2017 enhancements.

For the thirty-second year, Pierce Transit received a Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.



Sales Tax – 53%
Regional Partnership – 28%
Grants – 9%
Fares – 8%
Miscellaneous – 2%



Personnel – 70%
Supplies and Services – 20%
Purchased Transportation – 6%
Fuel – 4%



Special Events & Services

In 2016 Pierce Transit was honored to provide express bus service to several major community events.

TACOMA FREEDOM FAIR AND AIR SHOW

On Independence Day, Pierce Transit provided community members with more than 12,200 express bus rides to the Freedom Fair along Ruston Way. The rides were free, thanks to a sponsorship by the Tacoma Events Commission.

WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

Pierce Transit provided our community with 49,119 rides between the Fair and the Tacoma Mall, Lakewood Towne Center and South Hill Mall. The agency also offered a “train to bus to door” service that took Sounder train passengers from the Puyallup Station directly to the Fair’s Red Gate.

JBLM AIR SHOW & WARRIOR EXPO

People in our community enjoyed having an easy way to get on and off base to attend this event. In fact, people rode Pierce Transit’s express service to and from the JBLM Airshow & Warrior Expo 6,400 times.

2016 Board of Commissioners



PIERCE TRANSIT IS GOVERNED BY A NINE-MEMBER BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

made up of elected officials representing thirteen cities and towns, Pierce County, and one non-voting union representative (vacant).
Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 4:00 pm and are open to the public.



Don Anderson
Mayor of Lakewood



Daryl Eidinger
Mayor of Edgewood
Representing Fife,
Milton & Edgewood



Nancy Henderson
Steilacoom City Council
Representing Auburn,
Fircrest, Gig Harbor, Pacific,
Ruston & Steilacoom



Kent Keel
University Place
City Council



Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive



Ryan Mello
Tacoma City Council



Heather Shadko
Puyallup City Council

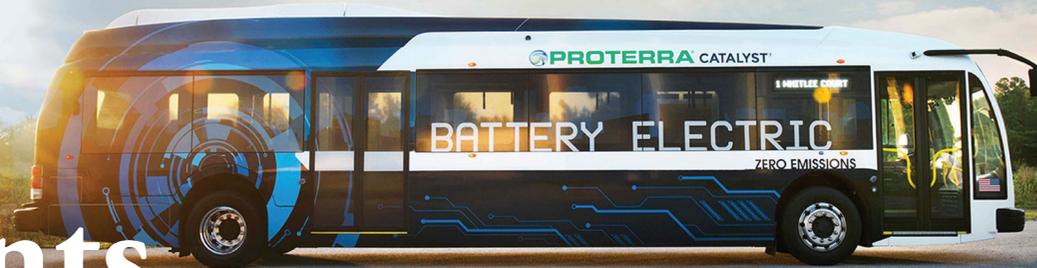


Marilyn Strickland
Mayor of Tacoma



Rick Talbert
Pierce County Council

Grants



PARTNERING TO INCREASE ORCA CARD USE

In 2016 several Puget Sound transit agencies, including Pierce Transit, received a state grant to help raise regional awareness of the One Regional Card for All (ORCA) card, strategically distribute ORCA cards in underutilized areas and generally increase ORCA card use. There are many benefits to turning cash riders into ORCA card users, including fewer delays as riders don't have to stop to pay a cash fare. ORCA is also a convenient way for new riders to try the system. The response was overwhelming, with almost 30,000 cards requested, and 26,000 distributed.

COMMERCE "PLACEMAKING" PROJECT

Pierce Transit owns the Theater on the Square, the open space located atop the agency's bus tunnel in the heart of Tacoma's Theater District. With receipt of a \$50,000 National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" grant, Pierce Transit is leading the effort to plan a redesign of this gathering and transportation hub. Goals include improving its use for cultural activities, retaining transit connections, and improving the look and feel of the space through quality design and public art. The planning work is scheduled to conclude in summer 2018.

ELECTRIC BUSES

In the 1980s, Pierce Transit was one of the first transit agencies to run the majority of its fleet on clean-burning compressed natural gas. We are building on that tradition of environmental stewardship with the introduction of the South Sound's first all-electric buses, which are expected to hit the streets in the fall of 2018. This leap forward is made possible by a \$2.55 million federal grant to help purchase three electric buses and related infrastructure, received by Pierce Transit in 2016.



Crowding out Congestion

In 2016 Pierce Transit provided rideshare services for nearly 180 employers in our region, helping with vanpools and carpools, transit passes, One Regional Card for All (ORCA) accounts, and educational materials. Among other groups, we reached out to college administrators and students, school districts and major employers, creating customized transportation programs to help them access transit.

Care a van

When Pierce Transit's vans and paratransit vehicles have reached the age of retirement from transit, they can still provide a valuable service to our community. The Pierce Transit "Care-a-van" program, launched in 2016, grants retiring vehicles to qualifying not-for-profit and government organizations that provide rides and services for people in need. In 2016, six agencies received Care-a-van vehicles.



Looking Forward



2017 IS BRINGING EXCITING OPTIONS TO PIERCE TRANSIT'S CUSTOMERS. AMONG THEM:

- 45,000 hours of restored bus service on a newly-restructured routing system
- A new Community/Technical College Student Bus Program aimed at getting local bus passes in the hands of students
- A mobile ticketing feature that allows riders to purchase and use a Pierce Transit bus ticket or pass on their smart phones
- Planning for a High Capacity Transit corridor along Pacific Ave./SR 7 from Tacoma to Spanaway
- New features for SHUTTLE users, including new ways to schedule, confirm and check on rides
- New partnerships for providing mobility options

