
Central Transit



A presentation to the Washington State Joint Transportation Committee

June 26, 2018



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Public Transit in Kittitas County
- Public Transit System in Ellensburg
- Emerging Issues
- Capital Needs
- Summary



Background

- Context
 - Ellensburg's population about 20,000; 10,000 are Central Washington University (CWU) Students
- Evolution of Central Transit
 - CWU student shuttle
 - Expansion 2006 to all residents
 - Two loop routes connecting north campus and downtown
 - Initial funding provided by Associated Students of CWU
 - Fare free system
- Past service disruptions
 - Lack of sustainable funding
 - Inconsistent service delivery

Public Transit in Kittitas County

- 1990s
 - Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) Board formed (RCW 36.57a)
 - County-wide Ballot Measure Defeated (lost by overwhelming majority)
- 2000s
 - PTBA Board declines to place county-wide measure in front of the voters
 - Legislature creates opportunity for Special Needs PTBA (RCW 36.57A.180)
 - Community work to demonstrate support for Special Needs PTBA
 - PTBA Board creates Special Needs PTBA
 - PTBA Board declines to place county-wide Special Needs PTBA tax levy in front of voters
- 2010s
 - Transportation Benefit District created by City of Ellensburg specifically to support Public Transit
 - Transportation Benefit District sales tax levy passed to support Public Transit within City limits

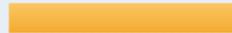


Transportation Benefit Districts (RCW 36.73)

"Transportation improvement" means a projectmay include investment in new or existing highways of statewide significance, principal arterials of regional significance, high capacity transportation, **public transportation**, and other transportation projects and programs of regional or statewide significance. Projects may also include the **operation, preservation, and maintenance** of these facilities or programs.

Public Transit System in Ellensburg

- Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)
- Transit Development Plan (2013)
- Transportation Benefit District formed (2015)
- Voter support of 2/10ths of 1% sales and use tax (special election 4/26/2016)

CITY OF ELLENSBURG Proposition 1 Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements		
Measure	Vote	Vote %
Yes 	1,553	63.41%
No 	896	36.59%
Total Votes	2,449	100%
Precinct Results »		



Public Transit System in Ellensburg (cont.)

- Commitment to the voters
 - Extend night and weekend service on fixed routes
 - Retained center of city loops (2)
 - Added two routes: one to west interchange connecting with Greyhound Bus and a second to reach Ellensburg High School
 - Offer Paratransit and Cabulance service
 - Expand Dial-A-Ride night and weekend service
 - Consider fare for service model
- City manages transit system
 - Hired Transit Manager
 - Contracted with transit service provider
- Establish regional transit network

Regional Transit Network



Emerging Issues

- Pressing factor: Ellensburg's population is growing - fast
 - US Census top ten list of micropolitan communities in the nation
- Evaluation of the Central Transit System
 - Performance and satisfaction – ridership
 - Public support (focus groups)
 - Routes, bus stop locations, service hours
 - Improve user experience
- Continue to promote and grow region's transit network
 - Ongoing and intentional
 - Currently shared stops with Grant County Transit, Yakima Transit, Appleline, Bellaire Shuttle, and Greyhound Bus



Current Central Transit System Map

Four Fixed Routes

- Two loops, clockwise and counter clockwise, in the center of town
- One loop to the I-90 west interchange
- One loop to the east past Ellensburg School District



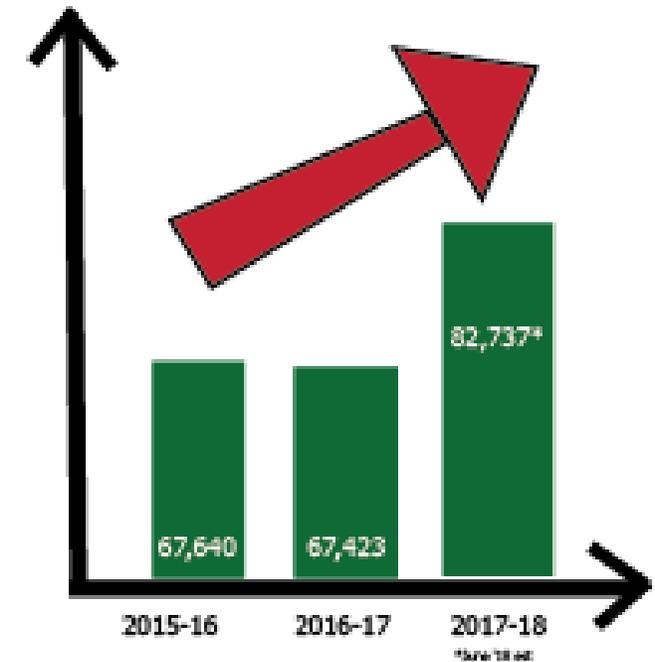
Capital Needs

- Rolling stock to accommodate
 - Additional routes
 - Increase frequency of fixed route service
 - Increase fixed route service hours
 - Add CWU shuttle and/or commuter service
- Bus shelters
- Multi-modal transit center

Summary

- Community impact of Central Transit
 - Supports businesses – customer traffic and employees
 - Provides much needed mobility options
 - CWU students
 - Ellensburg School District students
 - Non-POV owners
 - Accessible non-emergency options
 - Cabulance
 - Paratransit
 - Dial-A-Ride
- Voter's continued support (Prop 1 renewal)

CENTRAL TRANSIT RIDERSHIP



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