



WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSIT STUDY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

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We Want to Hear from You about Washington County Transit Service Improvement Concepts!

The Washington County Transit Study project team has been hard at work evaluating the current transit services and identifying the unmet public transportation needs in Washington County. These efforts, along with information gathered from surveys, Washington County community characteristics such as housing density, population, major activity centers, etc. and meeting with

the study stakeholders, transit staff and drivers, led to the preliminary transit service improvement concepts that we want to share with you for your input. What you think of the concepts? How can the concepts be improved? Do the concepts meet your needs? We want to hear from you!



Community outreach will take place in August to involve local citizens in the evaluation and refinement of transit service improvement concepts. Visit our website for more detailed information about the transit service improvement concepts and to provide your comments, www.spcregion.org/wcts or call Carol Uminski at 412.391.5590, ext. 363 for more information.

To provide a transit system that efficiently meets the needs of Washington County's citizens and employers, a significant amount of information has to be collected and evaluated. Your ideas are important to the success of this effort to reorganize public transportation services in Washington County.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

See the outreach schedule on the last page of this newsletter to find a date and location where you can talk to the project team.

Visit our website for more detailed information about the transit service improvement concepts and to provide your comments

www.spcregion.org/wcts

or call Carol Uminski at 412.391.5590, ext. 363 for more information.

Preliminary Transit Service Improvement Concepts Have Been Developed For Public Review

The preliminary study and evaluation has been completed and the result is a set of preliminary transit service improvement concepts. These concepts are separated into 1) low or no cost restructuring, and 2) service expansion. The low or no cost restructuring options involve ideas that improve existing services, increase utilization of transit and encourage ridesharing programs. The service expansion concepts focus on increasing or improving existing routes, giving Paratransit riders the ability to ride the fixed route system and providing more residential areas, employment and planned activity centers with new service routes.

LOW/NO COST RESTRUCTURING

Washington City

- 1 New route to replace three existing routes; will have an expanded service span (7AM-5PM)
- 2 Bus service to either South Hills Village T station (more frequent service – 10 round trips vs. 6 currently) or use I-79, I-279 to Port Authority west busway (20 minutes savings in travel time); serve existing park-and-ride lots
- 3 Undertake public information/marketing campaign

- 4 Encourage Paratransit riders to transfer to fixed route; change local route to 'route deviation' service – curb to curb

Mon Valley

- 1 Add a midday trip to green line (Belle Vernon to Donora) (provides better midday service and more convenient for transfers)
- 2 Add more peak period trips (provides more peak period service into Pittsburgh and Mon Valley regional route)

SERVICE EXPANSION CONCEPTS

Washington City

- 1 Two new local routes: 1) south Main Street – shopping area and 2) North to south
- 2 Expanded commuter service to Pittsburgh: improve peak period I-79 corridor regional service
 - Use I-79 to South Hills Village T Station, or use I-79, I-279 to Port Authority west busway
 - Serve existing park-and-ride lots

I-79 Corridor Options

- 1 New local/commuter route (that connects with local Washington City route) between Southpointe, Canonsburg, Houston, Meadows Racetrack/Casino, and Washington City

- Connects with local Washington City Route
- Possible connections to Peters Township and to South Hills Village T Station

Rural service options

- 1 New rural fixed route service – 'rover' bus concept where service is provided one day a week – possible rover destinations include
 - From Washington: Midway/McDonald, West Alexander/Claysville, Bentleyville, Burgettstown, and Marianna
 - From Charleroi: Venetia and Marianna

Contact your local service provider and give them your comments about the preliminary transit service improvement concepts!

- City of Washington / GG&C Bus Company at 1-888-811-9704 or 724-222-2320 or www.ggcbusrides.com
- Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority at 724-489-0880 or www.mmvta.com
- Washington Rides at 1-800-331-5058 or www.washingtonrides.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSIT STUDY GOALS

The Study goals are:

1. Through public outreach, develop feasible strategies to achieve greater efficiencies in providing transit services using public input.
2. Develop feasible strategies to address unmet needs for transit services, including underserved groups and locations with input from the public.
3. Update routes and levels of service to reflect current travel needs and transit user expectations.
4. Understand growth trends in the county and the related transit service implications.
5. Develop transit strategies for areas targeted for investment in the Washington County Comprehensive Plan.
6. Identify model ordinances to help ensure that major travel destinations such as office/ industrial parks, The Meadows, etc. are accessible by transit.
7. Develop study recommendations that are consistent with recent developments in State and Federal transportation policy, especially regarding funding for transit.



Study Schedule

The purpose of the Washington County Transit Study is to provide efficient, quality transportation services that contribute to the human, social, and economic vitality of Washington County and the surrounding area. The study is being sponsored by City of Washington/GG&C Bus Company; Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority; and, Washington County Transportation Authority (Washington Rides) in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC); and, Washington County Planning Commission. The study will be completed in October 2007.

Public input will guide the development and implementation of improved transit service for Washington County. August public outreach will involve local citizens in the evaluation and refinement of the transit service improvement concepts. More information on public meetings and the concepts are on the study website. We're looking forward to hearing your ideas!

See the full details of the public outreach plan on page 4 of this newsletter.

Project Schedule	2006		2007									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	
Project Initiation/Kickoff												
Base Conditions/Inventory												
Intergovernmental Outreach & Policy Analysis												
Outreach & Communications												
▶ Stakeholder Committee Meetings		●			●				●			●
▶ Public Officials Meeting/Public Meetings												
▶ Intercept Surveys												
▶ Newsletters							◆					
▶ Website												
Preliminary Recommendation												
Final Recommendations												

We Want
to Hear
from you!

LOOK FOR US

You have many opportunities to talk to the project team and share your thoughts about the transit service improvement concepts for Washington County!

TALK TO THE PROJECT TEAM

Location	Date	Time
Burgettstown Senior Citizen Center	Thursday, July 19	11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wal-Mart, Belle Vernon	Wednesday, July 25	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Washington Crown Center	Wednesday, July 25	3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Shop N Save, Canonsburg	Thursday, July 26	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Washington County Agricultural Fair	August 11 – 18	Please call for specific times if you are interested in learning more about when representatives will be at this location.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

Meeting	Location	Date	Time
Washington Public Meeting	South Strabane Township Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall	Monday, August 20	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Charleroi/Monongahela Public Meeting	Monongahela Fire Hall	Tuesday, August 21	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Burgettstown Public Meeting	Burgettstown Senior Citizens Center	Wednesday, August 22	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Additional information and directions to the meetings can be found at the study website, www.spcregion.org/wcts. You can view the transit service improvement concepts in more detail and provide your comments directly through the website. For more information or special requests please contact Carol Uminski at 412.391.5590, ext. 363. Also, if you have other suggestions about expanding outreach about the study to the public please contact us so we can schedule the event. Thank you.



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