

Community Transit and Highway Efficiency

Community Transit buses are a key component in maintaining our current traffic flows on our state's highway system. The agency transports more than 2.4 million people a year between Snohomish and King counties, serving important destinations like downtown Seattle, the University of Washington and the Eastside.

Transit use of HOV lanes is the backbone of this program's success. Currently, Community Transit and Sound transit provide nearly 500 bus trips each weekday in the I-5 HOV lanes, carrying nearly 13,000 passengers per day.

Buses using HOV lanes ease congestion for single-occupancy vehicle drivers. A Washington State Department of Transportation study showed 15 percent of all travelers on I-5 at Northgate during morning rush hours are on transit, and 25 percent are in a carpool or vanpool. Assuming most of the vehicles carrying those people are using the HOV lane, up to 40 percent of travelers are using just 25 percent of available road space.

Buses using an HOV lane are an attractive option for commuters, allowing them to work, relax or rest during the commute. With ever-increasing traffic flows in the Puget Sound region, buses use HOV lanes to maintain schedules when freeways are clogged with cars.

In addition to bus service, Community Transit facilitates transportation options like vanpools and carpooling, which reduce the number of vehicles on the road. Community Transit's vanpool program is one of the largest in the nation.

Transportation options remove tens of thousands of cars from the roads every day. Whether it's a bus passenger, a vanpool member or a single occupancy vehicle driver, transit helps everyone who uses our highway system.