



REPORT TO COUNTY AND CITIES

May 2010

Board Goals:

"Improve ridership/Be good stewards of public funds"

- **Local bus and DART fares increase June 1**
Fares for Community Transit local bus service and Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART) paratransit service will increase by 25 cents effective June 1.

Information on the fare increase is on the agency's website, www.communitytransit.org, and a Rider Alert about the fare increase is on all buses. Riders who purchase monthly passes will need to be sure to get the correct denomination pass on their ORCA card beginning in June. In addition, riders who use the ORCA "autoload" feature will need to cancel their current automatic pass transaction and create a new automatic pass transaction for the new fare.

The new local bus fares will be: Adult - \$1.75, Youth - \$1.25, Reduced (senior/disabled) - 75¢. The new DART fare will be \$1.75.

- **Service change outreach begins; Sunday service suspended starting June 13**
Community Transit is engaging in a full-court press to educate riders and the public about the upcoming service cuts, which take effect June 13. Staff will be riding buses to talk to customers and staffing tables at park & ride lots and transit centers to answer questions and help people plan their trips for after the service change.

Detailed route-by-route information about the service change is available on the agency's website at www.communitytransit.org/servicechange. New route maps and bus schedules are also available online, giving riders a full six weeks to make plans if their trip is being affected.

The Bus Plus schedule book will be on buses at the beginning of June. To save money, only one edition of Bus Plus is being printed rather than separate books for local and commuter service.

Community Transit is cutting 15 percent of its service due to budget shortfalls. Most routes are affected, including eight routes that are being eliminated. In addition, all bus service will be suspended on Sundays and major holidays. The agency is working with community partners to coordinate Sunday transportation resources. The Volunteers of America 2-1-1 Hotline is available to help match people to rides.

- **Community Transit mechanics among nation's best**
When you're the champions, you always want to defend your title. Unfortunately, with the budget cuts Community Transit has dealt with recently, the agency had no budget to send its 2009 International Bus Maintenance Roadeo championship team to this year's competition.

But when you want something enough, you make it happen. Community Transit mechanics Howard Evans, Steve Hanks and Joe Hulett offered to pay their own way to the competition. They made the most of it, too, with a third-place finish out of 25 teams at the 2010 International Bus Maintenance Roadeo, part of the American Public Transportation Association's annual Bus and Paratransit Conference this week in Cleveland.

"We are all extremely proud of Howard, Steve and Joe. It's quite an accomplishment to finish in the top three two years in a row," said Community Transit CEO Joyce Eleanor. "Our roadeo teams always put in a lot of their own time to get ready for the event, but the fact that they were willing to cover the costs as well makes this high finish even more special for them."

The team members have a lot of experience: Evans, of Stanwood, has been with Community Transit for 25 years; Hanks, of Everett, has been with the agency for 24 years; and Hulett, also of Everett, has been here 16 years.

The Maintenance Roadeo is designed to test teams on skills they use every day working in the shop. It consists of seven challenges: a written test, a bus inspection, two engine-transmission combinations, a brake system, a heating-air conditioning system and an electronic controls system. Defects are put into the six hands-on challenges for the teams to find.



Steve Hanks, Howard Evans and Joe Hulett have a combined 65 years of experience maintaining Community Transit buses.

Evans, Hanks and Hulett had the top overall score in the written test and tied for the highest score in the electronic controls system. They also had the second-highest score on the brake system and third highest in air conditioning. The team ended up with a total score of 1575 points. LYNX from Orlando, Fla., won the competition with 1,642.5, and VIA Metropolitan Transit of San Antonio, Texas, finished second with 1,622.5.

Of the 25 teams competing in the Maintenance Roadeo, Community Transit's team was the only one among the top 10 that is not a large urban transit provider.

Report to County and Cities is produced by Community Transit to inform members of the Public Transportation Benefit Area about agency news.

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