

Public Transportation Issues: Challenges and Successes

**Karla Jacks, Executive Director
Camano Center**

*A 501c3 Nonprofit serving the community and senior population of
Camano Island and the surrounding community of Stanwood since 1984*

Introduction

- Executive Director at Camano Center since 2007
 - Nonprofit 501C3: Owned By Members
 - \$900K Budget which is raised locally to fund the Center
 - The Center receives no state or local government funding for programing
- Past-President of the Camano Island Chamber of Commerce
- Resident of Camano Island for almost 27 years
- Sibling and Parent of Two Adults with Disabilities
 - Sister-Blind and Developmentally Disabled (guardian)
 - Son- Autism
- Member, Stanwood Camano School District Truancy Board

Special Needs Population Includes

- Seniors
 - Fastest Growing Population in Island County
 - Camano Island & South/Central Whidbey Island
- People with Disabilities
- Youth
- Homeless
- Veterans

Transportation Needs & Gaps

- Areas outside Transit Service Area
 - Paratransit only going $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from service route
 - Seniors & People with Disabilities
- Evening Services
 - Entry Level Jobs/ Youth
- Sunday Services
 - Church, Social Connections, Jobs, Seniors, People with Disabilities
- Coordinating with other Service Providers
 - Community Transit, Ferries, SKAT, etc...
 - Lack of Access (all)
- Too Many Transfer Points
 - Camano Islanders, who depend on the bus, cannot arrive on time for jury duty on Whidbey Island

Lack of Access

- Medical Services
 - Diagnostic Care (blood work, imaging, dialysis)
 - Vision, Hearing, Dental, Mental Health Services
 - Veteran's Services
 - Physical and Occupational Therapy
 - Specialist and Specialty Care
- Government Services
 - Jury Duty
 - Post Office
 - Government Assistance Programs

Lack of Access (slide two)

- Community Services
 - Banks
 - Attorneys
 - Food Bank (Stanwood/Camano Food Bank-big increase in senior clients)
 - Pharmacy
 - Grocery
- Education
 - Middle Schools and High School for Camano Island is in Snohomish County
 - Community College and Running Start
- Social Activities (eliminate isolation)

Solutions (Thinking Out of the Box)

- Partnerships with:
 - State Parks, Island County, WDOT, Regional Stakeholders
- North Snohomish County Transportation Coalition
 - Collecting Data on Gaps & Maximizing Resources (Camano Island, Stanwood, Smokey Point, Arlington, Everett)
- Camano Center (no fee programs)
 - Monthly Essential Shopping Trip with lunch (Burlington/Costco)
 - Bi-Monthly Local Shopping Trip
 - Volunteer Medical Driver Program (504 last year on Camano Island)
 - Camano Connections Delivery