

# WASHINGTON STATE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Justin D. Leighton  
Executive Director



Washington State Transportation Commission  
January 12, 2016

# Mission:

Promote and enhance public transit for the citizens of the state of Washington. WSTA advocates for state legislation beneficial to public transit, fosters the professional growth and development of transit professionals, and provides outreach and education about public transportation on behalf of our members.



## Governance:

WSTA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the general managers of each of our member agencies along with the Director of WSDOT's Public Transportation Division.



### 2016 WSTA Officers:

**President:** Tom Hingson, Transportation Services Director, Everett Transit

**Vice President:** Ann Freeman-Manzanares, General Manager, Intercity Transit

**Treasurer:** John Clauson, Executive Director, Kitsap Transit

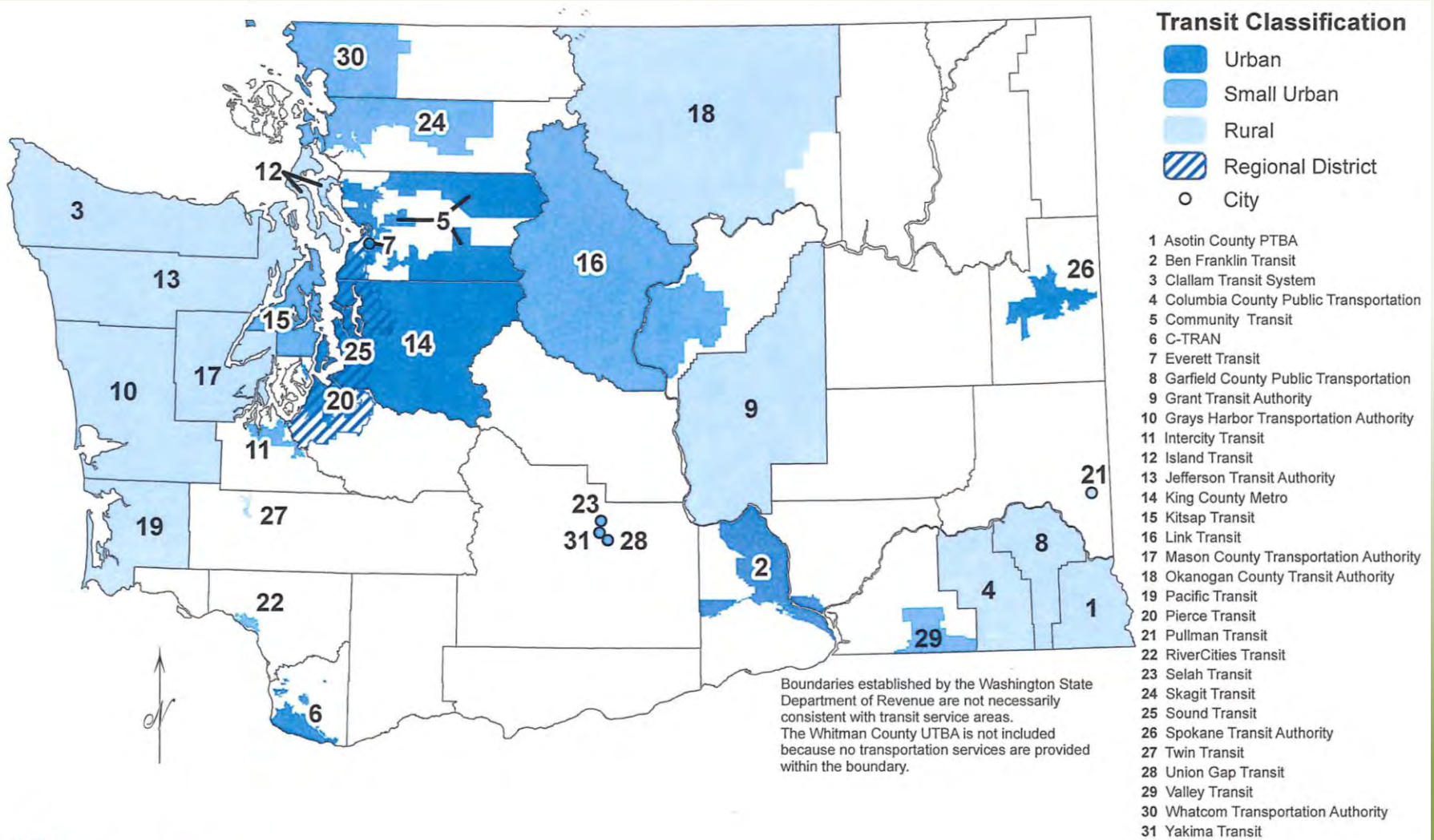
**Secretary:** Justin D. Leighton, Executive Director, WSTA

# Our Members

Asotin County PTBA  
Ben Franklin Transit  
Clallam Transit System  
Columbia County Public Transportation  
Community Transit  
C-Tran  
Everett Transit  
Garfield County Public Transportation  
Grant Transit Authority  
Grays Harbor Transportation Authority  
Intericty Transit  
Island Transit  
Jefferson Transit Authority  
King County Metro  
Kitsap Transit

Link Transit  
Mason County Transportation Authority  
TransGo  
Pacific Transit System  
Pierce Transit  
Pullman Transit  
RiverCities Transit  
City of Seattle DOT  
Skagit Transit  
Sound Transit  
Spokane Transit  
Twin Transit  
Valley Transit  
Whatcom Transportation Authority  
WSDOT – Public Transportation  
Yakima Transit

# Washington State's Public Transit Authorities



# Transit Service Overview:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2014</u>	
Fixed Route Bus	192M	199M	
Route Deviation	2.3	2.3	
Demand Response	4.8	4.4	
Commuter Rail	2.5	3.7	
Light Rail	3.8	12.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>+7% increase</b>



# 2016 Legislative Agenda



# 2016 Legislative Agenda

## MAINTAINING EXISTING STATE FUNDING

- Maintain existing state funding and support codification of public transportation revenue and programs including Regional Mobility, Rural Mobility, Vanpool Investment, Special Needs, Capital Grants and Commute Trip Reduction

**State funding for transit accounts for only  
2% of state budget**

**National average between 20%-25%**

**4% of the 2015 State Transportation Revenue Package  
went to transit spending**



# 2016 Legislative Agenda

## Streamline SEPA review and Transit Mitigation

- The transportation revenue package passed in 2015 includes many projects that may negatively impact transit during and after construction. WSTA request that transit mitigation be included in the environmental review process for WSDOT transportation projects that may impact transit services.

**Every second of operational delay  
cost agencies millions**

# 2016 Legislative Agenda

## Grant program to address aging transit fleets

- WSTA's members need capital funds to replace rapidly aging bus fleets. Many were forced to use their capital reserves to weather the Great Recession, sacrificing fleet replacement in order to keep service. A grant program that targets this important capital need would help transit riders throughout the state.

**Some agencies have a 16 year replacement cycle**

**Without state or federal funding agencies will use local dollars, taking away from operations**

# 2016 Legislative Agenda

## Dedicated funding for regional services by rural and small urban transit

- Many of the rural and small urban transit systems around the State provide regional services outside of their own boundaries that provide benefits to the state highway system at a modest cost. In many cases, this regional service provides the only public transportation connection between communities. Dedicated state support of these regional services would provide reliable access to jobs, medical services and other needs for citizens across the state.

## **Provide seamless access for users across county lines**

### **Adding capacity without adding lanes**

# **2016 Legislative Agenda**

## **Extend exemptions and lower rates for transit agencies paying DNR lease fees for waterborne actions**

- Washington State Ferries (WSF), public ports, and certain other government entities are currently exempt from paying or pay significantly-reduced rates for DNR lease fees on waterfront property owned by DNR but used and maintained by the local government for waterborne uses. WSTA supports members' efforts to extend current exemption language to PTBA's.

## **Assist in the maintaining expansion of transit modes offered by transit agency providers**

# **2016 Legislative Agenda**

## **Support effective and efficient delivery of transit**

- WSTA supports efforts that facilitate safe, cost-effective and efficient delivery of transit services and projects; and an improved, integrated, multimodal transportation system

## **Ensure efficient delivery of transit projects and services**

- WSTA opposes legislation that would negatively impact the oversight, financing, construction, delivery and operation of transit projects and services

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