Mission: WSTA advances the value of public transit through public education and outreach, advocacy of positive and effective public policy and fostering the collaboration and professional development of public transit employees.

- Formed in 1981
- 31 Members from our largest member; King County Metro to our smallest member; Garfield County Public Transportation
- Combined WSTA members provided over 240 million annual boarding and have a combined service areas covering 86% of the state’s population.
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:

Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• It is important to remember the COVID-19 Pandemic is not over and we are still responding and recovering at the same time.
  • Measures taken to protect drivers & passengers
    • Daily cleaning
    • Zero Fare
    • Rear door boarding
    • Driver barriers
    • Reduced service levels
    • Balancing between essential & non-essential riders
    • Pandemic leave
    • Food and medicine delivery
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:

Response  |  Impacts  |  Moving Forward
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:

Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• WSTA delivered 130,000 face masks to 40 transits in 3 states
• WSTA Weekly Calls with Small/Midsize Agencies
• WSTA frequent meetings with the dept. managers of:
  • HR, Finance, Operations, Maintenance, Marketing/Comms, and the General Managers
• WSTA serving as a clearinghouse of resources
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• Topline Takeaways:
  • Impacts are deep and long lasting; Ridership, Revenue, Workforce
  • Revenues unpredictable and therefore hard to budget & plan
  • Uncertainty with ridership needs/trends make for harder planning
  • Workforce shortages struggles across the organizational chart
Baseline Statewide Transit Funding Understanding

- Federal & State Sources are mostly competitive grants
- Local Source, ~70% Sales Tax & Fares
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• Sales Tax revenue fell by nearly 20% statewide and 25% in the Puget Sound in the beginning months of COVID.

• Fares fell by 80-100% in the beginning months as agencies went zero fare.

• Federal relief and recovery plan assist in keeping the doors open:
  • CARES, CRESSA and ARPA
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• Federal Government Relief and Recovery Funding
  • CARS ACT - March 2020
    • $700 Million for WA State Transits
  • CRRSAA ACT - December 2020
    • $752 Million for WA State Transits
  • ARP Act - March 2021 - ARPA:
    • $1.1 Billion for WA State Transits
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

Ridership in the first 30 days
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

Ridership in the first 4 months
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

Average Weekday Boardings - Statewide

-57%

Ridership To Date
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

The Ever-Changing Conditions and the Challenges it caused

• Wave, after wave, after wave, after wave....etc.
• Federal, State, Local - Who’s in charge?
• Mask mandates and the varied reactions.
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:

Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• Continued Safety Protocols
  • Daily cleanings, driver berries and Vaccines, etc..

• Service Levels vs. Workforce Needs
  • Statewide service levels remain 90% Pre-COVID.
  • Lagging workforce preventing agencies from bringing service levels back.
  • Vaccine Mandates may cause a temporary reduction in service.

• The future movement of people and goods still unknown
  • Ridership/movement of people/economy still not settled.
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

• Vaccine Mandates, Which Agencies?
  • Intercity Transit, Sound Transit, King County Metro, Community Transit, Pullman Transit

• Federal Mandate Is Pending
  • Impacts all private and public entities with 100+ employees

• Working Together - Sharing Ideas and Issues:
  • WSTA hosted nearly 250 various meetings in 2020, 2021
  • Webinars/Virtual Conferences and Meetings
COVID-19 UPDATE ON:
Response | Impacts | Moving Forward

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