



The City is conducting this public meeting using a hybrid model. The public is welcome to attend in-person at Sumner City Hall Council Chambers, or virtually by using the Zoom platform by clicking on the link below -

<https://sumnerwa-gov.zoom.us/j/86937819681>

Or One tap mobile: US: +12532158782,,86937819681# or +16699006833,,86937819681#

Or Telephone: US: +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 869 3781 9681

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Bitetto, Brown, Cole, Hochstatter, Neuman, Reed and Stuard

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Transit in Sumner
2. AWC Conference Voting Delegates

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

AGENDA SETTING

1. Council Meeting Agenda Calendar
2. Council Committee Meeting Calendar

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. For individuals who may require special accommodations, please contact the City Clerk at (253) 299-5590, 24 hours in advance.

SUBJECT: Transit in Sumner**CATEGORY:** Presentation

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Transit Presentation Memo
2. Transit Presentation

STAFF CONTACT: Ryan Windish, Community Development Director

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

The City of Sumner, along with much of East Pierce County, was removed from the Pierce Transit Service Area in 2012. At this time the City is served by the Sounder commuter trains and by Beyond the Borders Community Connector. The City also qualifies for utilizing the Pierce Transit Vanshare/Vanpool programs.

These limited transit and transportation options are having an impact on the most vulnerable populations such as seniors and low and moderate income households who cannot afford a car or are unable or chose not to drive. There is a need for a transit connection between the Sounder station in downtown and the employers in the Manufacturing/Industrial Center (MIC). Finally, we are seeing a growing demand for parking, post-Covid, at the train station. Growth in Tehaleh, Bonney Lake, Orting, and other areas east and south of Sumner will continue to generate more traffic and congestion as commuters make their way through Sumner to jobs in the MIC and further north and to the train station. Transit is one of the solutions available to reduce the traffic congestion and parking demand at the train station.

This memo is intended to provide a summary of:

1. the history of transit in Sumner, particularly with Pierce Transit;
 2. the current transit service; and
 3. future options for Council consideration.
-

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION: Study Session MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE: 5/23/2022 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:

Staff recommends continuing to explore transit options on all three fronts as follows:

- Continue to be involved in the East Pierce County Transit discussions and budget for the \$25,000 for the Feasibility Study.
- Explore more details from a Shared Shuttle Service and return to Council with clearer budget numbers.
- Explore partnerships with Pierce County Human Services for expanding Beyond the Borders service.



DATE: May 23, 2022
TO: Mayor Kathy Hayden and Sumner City Council
FROM: Ryan Windish, Community Development Director
RE: **Transit In Sumner Past, Present and Future**

Introduction

The City of Sumner, along with much of East Pierce County, was removed from the Pierce Transit Service Area in 2012. At this time the City is served by the Sounder commuter trains and by Beyond the Borders Community Connector. The City also qualifies for utilizing the Pierce Transit Vanshare/Vanpool programs.

These limited transit and transportation options are having an impact on the most vulnerable populations such as seniors and low and moderate income households who cannot afford a car or are unable or chose not to drive. There is a need for a transit connection between the Sounder station in downtown and the employers in the Manufacturing/Industrial Center (MIC). Finally, we are seeing a growing demand for parking, post-Covid, at the train station. Growth in Tehaleh, Bonney Lake, Orting, and other areas east and south of Sumner will continue to generate more traffic and congestion as commuters make their way through Sumner to jobs in the MIC and further north and to the train station. Transit is one of the solutions available to reduce the traffic congestion and parking demand at the train station.

This memo is intended to provide a summary of:

- 1) the history of transit in Sumner, particularly with Pierce Transit;
- 2) the current transit service; and
- 3) future options for Council consideration.

History of Transit in Sumner

Wayback Machine: Blue Bird Lines—Inter-urban

There was a time back in the early 20th century and up through the 1960s that the City was served by local bus lines and the “Blue Bird Lines” and you could go from Sumner to Tacoma on a regular basis via buses. The Interurban Trolley Car line didn’t come into Sumner, but it did reach the area and provided a connection to Seattle.

Pierce Transit Service

More recently, the City was served by Pierce Transit, primarily a fixed bus route that connected to other cities in East Pierce County as well as the greater system and connections to Tacoma.

Pierce Transit was established as a public transportation district in 1979 and served approximately 70% of the population of Pierce County until 2011. In addition to bus service,

they are also required by Federal law to provide shuttle service for customers within ¾ mile of a fixed route who are unable to use the bus system due to a physical or mental disability. Pierce Transit is supported primarily through sales tax in the district. During the economic downturn in 2009, agencies such as transit that are dependent primarily on sales tax saw a significant decline in revenue. As a result, Pierce Transit went to voters in February 2011 with a ballot measure (Proposition 1) which would have increased local sales tax to support bus service. Pierce Transit was clear that failure of the proposition would mean loss or reduction of service. The ballot measure did not pass. Sumner voters mirrored the County vote, rejecting increased sales taxes at approximately a 54% to 46% margin. Bonney Lake rejected the measure at even a higher rate.

As a consequence of the ballot failure, and as a partial attempt to reduce costs, Pierce Transit moved in June 2011, to eliminate infrequently used bus routes, including routes through Sumner. Pierce Transit also convened a Public Transportation Improvement Conference with elected officials for the purpose of discussing the district boundaries. There were three public meetings and one public hearing held by the Conference from December 2011 to March 2012. Because of the very limited service provided to Bonney Lake and Sumner, both cities were openly considering withdrawing from the Pierce Transit District. Pierce Transit, at the time, was collecting \$2M in sales tax revenue from Sumner and \$2M from Bonney Lake, while providing very little service (\$600k worth of service in Sumner).

In May 2012, the cities of Bonney Lake, Sumner, Orting, Buckley, Dupont, and large portions of unincorporated Pierce County were removed from the Pierce Transit taxing district/ service area.

Present Transit in Sumner

Sound Transit

Sound Transit provides commuter rail service in the morning and evening along the BNSF railroad line. The transit center and commuter rail station in Sumner serves riders from East Pierce County, South Hill Puyallup and Auburn with about 1,700 boardings per day (pre-covid). Sound Transit also provides bus service (578) connecting Sumner with Tacoma, Puyallup, Auburn, Federal Way, and Seattle. This bus operates from approximately 8:00 am to midnight on weekdays and 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, Sound Transit continues to operate a bus connection that serves the Bonney Lake Park and Ride and connects commuters to the Sounder station in Sumner.

Beyond the Borders Community Connector

The Beyond the Borders is run by Pierce County Human Services department and connects Sumner and Bonney Lake and is primarily used by senior citizens. The route includes the Sumner Sounder Station, stores in Sumner, the Gordon Family YMCA, both City's Senior Centers, and stores in Bonney Lake. This is a program that is funded by Pierce County and provides free service to seniors, low income, the disabled, and youth under 17. It provides service 8 hours each weekday. The service also provides door pickups by arrangement for the disabled.

Ridership in 2022 is as follows:

Month of 2022	Monthly Boarding Totals
April	57
March	42
Feb	34
Jan	44
Total	177

Pierce Transit Vanshare/Van Pools

Even though the City of Sumner is outside the Pierce Transit Service Area, they still allow for employers and employees to utilize the vanshare/vanpool program if the van trip originates or terminates within Pierce County. A number of Pierce Transit vans park at the Winco parking lot that are used by local commuters. Sound Transit has premium parking for vanshare/vanpools at the Sounder Station. An employer in the MIC could utilize a van, parked at the station, to transport employees from the train to their place of businesses.

Future Transit in Sumner

Over the last few years staff has been exploring options for increasing transit service in Sumner. There has been a growing number of options that may be more appropriate for the demands and needs of residents than the fixed route bus system provided by Pierce Transit before 2012. The options are summarized below:

MIC/ST Station Connector

As mentioned previously, there is a need for a transit connection between the Sounder Station and the businesses in the MIC. Commuters will make it to the Station, often coming from as far away as Spanaway/Parkland Area, and then either bicycle or walk to their job in the northend, some times up to a mile or two away. These workers are often temporary workers who, if late to work, can lose their jobs.

Some of the options for serving this area are:

Pierce Transit Vanshare/Vanpool

We have held two invitational online webinars to promote the Pierce Transit Vanshare/vanpool program in conjunction with other entities such as the Economic Development Board (EDB) of Pierce County. Pierce Transit recently redid the billing system to a “pay-by-the-mile” approach which is much simpler and has less administrative headaches for the employers. Further marketing of the advantages of this system is needed for it to be used more.

Shared Shuttle Program (Private Shuttles)

Staff recently met with a company that provides a management service for a shared shuttle program which is a system that can operate across multiple employers, transportation suppliers (bus operators), and populations of riders all participating to reduce the risk and cost associated with operating the service. The shared shuttle program management company could contract with the City to procure private van shuttle operators, and manage the ridership, fare collection, promotion and marketing, and other functions. They do not operate the shuttles, but rather are expert in managing the shared shuttle system. They utilize a phone application for riders to

reserve and pay for a spot on the bus and bill that back to the employer. Their fee is 10-12% of the overall value of the contracts with the transit operators. The service can be used by more than one employer and the fare can go toward offsetting the cost of the service.

We are exploring the cost of this option and think that it has promise given the level of flexibility to respond to changing demands, the ease of operations from a customer side, and it keeps the city from managing a transit system directly. Early estimates for weekday service between the MIC and Sounder Station are \$250,000-\$300,000 per year.

This shared shuttle system could begin operations serving the needs of the MIC and then be expanded to serve the east/west along Main Street or other areas of the City.

East Pierce County Transit Feasibility Study

Over the last two years the elected officials from East Pierce County, including the jurisdictions of Bonney Lake, Buckley, Carbonado, Orting, South Prairie, Sumner and Wilkeson, have met under the leadership of Pierce County Councilmember David Morrell to discuss the future of transit in this area (See Exhibit A). Pierce Transit and representatives from Tehaleh have also participated in these meetings.

This group will be considering a draft Scope of Work (SOW) for a *Transit Feasibility Study* with a budget of \$250,000.

Scope of Work

The Draft Scope of Work (SOW) contains a requirement for in-depth studies, analysis, and coordination with other transit agencies to understand the demand and needs for transit in the study area and to offer alternatives. There are a variety of transit options from fixed bus routes to micro-transit and on-demand services that could be feasible. The SOW asks for a final recommended alternative and course of action from the consultants. The estimated cost is \$250,000.

Funding Proposal

The funding proposal is on a per-capita basis with Pierce County paying a little of over half the costs (\$136,000) and the remainder divided among the seven (7) jurisdictions. See Exhibit B. Sumner's share would be \$25,000.

Interlocal Agreement (ILA)

If this proposal moves forward with multiple jurisdictions, an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) would be entered into that would include the scope of work, budget, process, schedule, and which agency is taking the lead and managing this effort. The ILA would also identify the amount of funding agreed to be paid by each jurisdiction.

Pierce Transit is willing to provide guidance, advice, and some technical assistance, but they are not able to take the lead or perform the study or analysis because of a lack of capacity and this area is outside their current service area.

Beyond the Borders-Expand

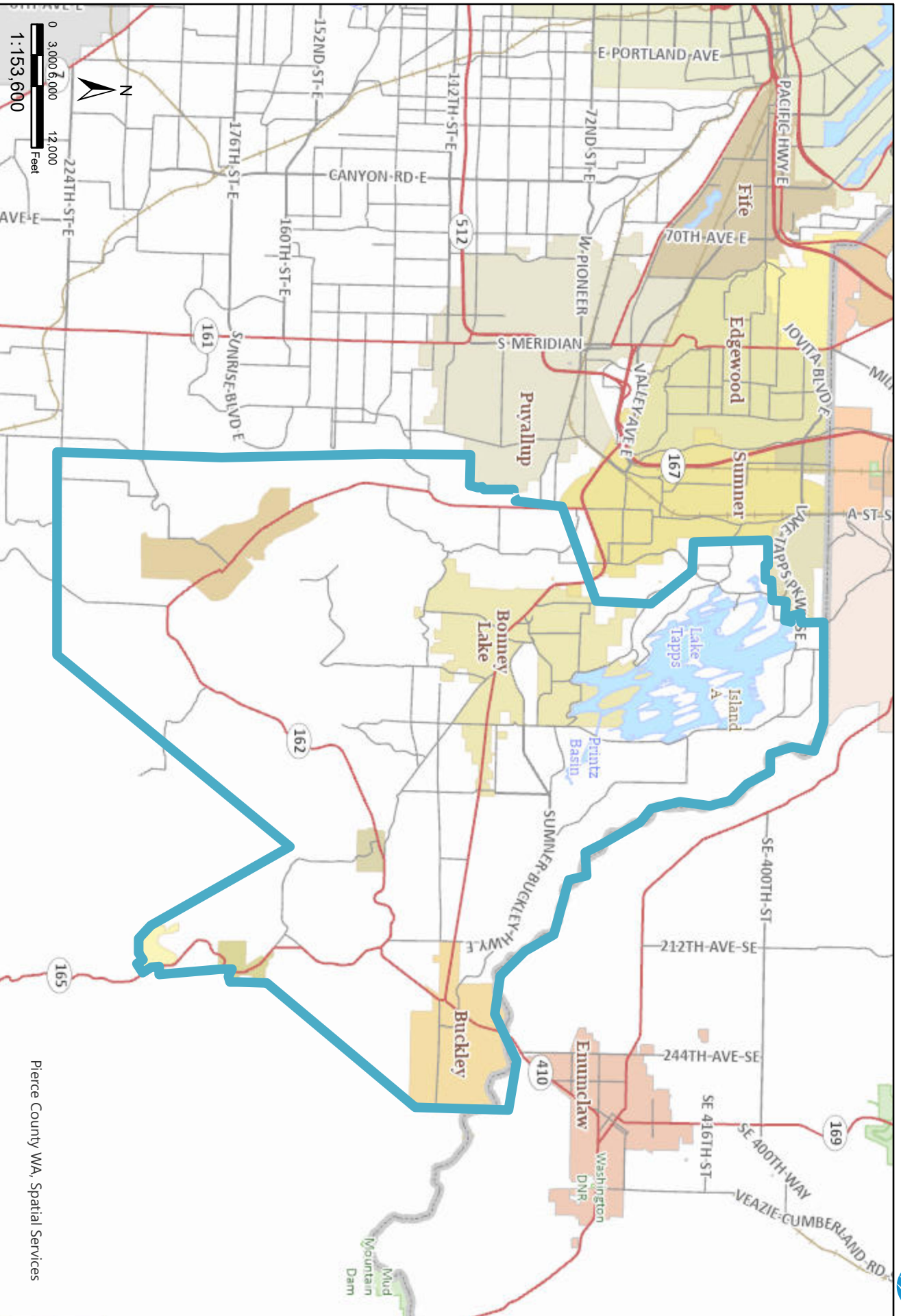
As described above, Pierce County Health Services provides limited transit service for seniors, youth 17 years old and younger, and for those with disabilities. This service requires the rider to register through Pierce County in order to access the system. Staff is exploring what it would take to expand this system to serve the general public and provide this system across the City and up the hill to stores in Bonney Lake. Another need, as train ridership continues to come back, will be a local transit service for commuters going from the east side of the City to the train station.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends continuing to explore transit options on all three fronts as follows:

- Continue to be involved in the East Pierce County Transit discussions and budget for the \$25,000 for the Feasibility Study.
- Explore more details from a Shared Shuttle Service and return to Council with clearer budget numbers.
- Explore partnerships with Pierce County Human Services for expanding Beyond the Borders service.

East Pierce County Transit Area-Draft



Disclaimer: The map features are approximate and have not been surveyed. Additional features not yet mapped may be present. Pierce County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by formal survey.

Pierce County WA, Spatial Services

Date: 10/21/2021 11:35 AM

**East Pierce County - Transit Study Area
2020 Population Estimate and Study Cost Share by Jurisdiction**

This is an estimate of the population for the draft East Pierce County Transit Study Area and a calculation of cost share for the study by jurisdiction. The total estimated 2020 population of the draft study area is 107,570. This estimate is based upon data from the 2020 Census. The cost of the transit area study is estimated to be \$250,000. Costs are allocated to jurisdiction based upon the jurisdiction's share of population in the study area. Cost share is rounded to the nearest \$1,000 increment.

Jurisdiction	2020 Population	Percentage of Total	Cost Share (Rounded to nearest \$1000)
Bonney Lake	22,487	20.9%	\$52,000
Buckley	5,114	4.8%	\$12,000
Carbonado	734	.7%	\$2,000
Orting	9,041	8.4%	\$21,000
South Prairie	373	.3%	\$1,000
Sumner	10,621	9.9%	\$25,000
Wilkeson	499	.5%	\$1,000
Unincorporated area	58,701	54.6%	\$136,000
Total	107,570	100%	\$250,000

Transit in Sumner

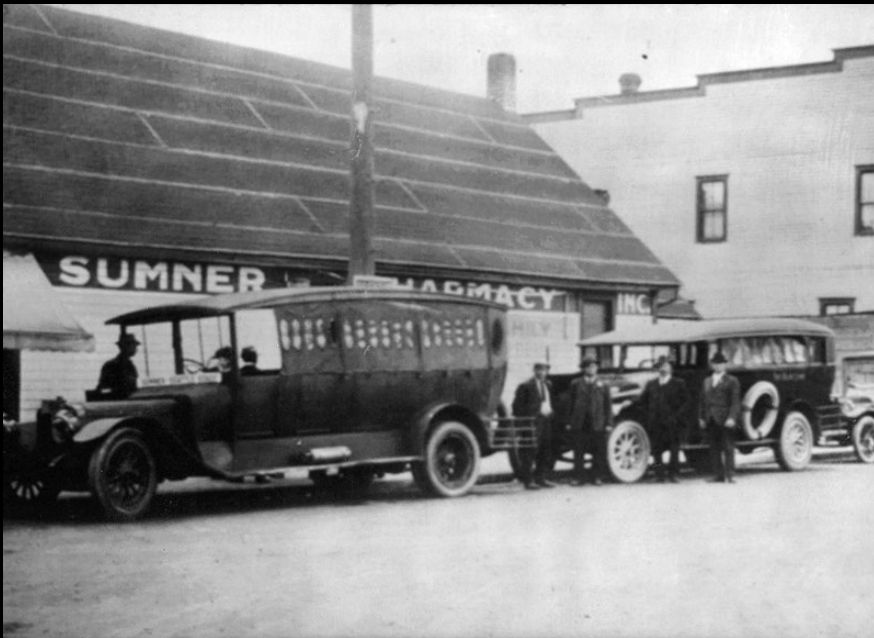
Past, Present, & Future



Objectives

- Background on the history of transit service in Sumner
- Pierce Transit Service History
- Present service levels and types
- Future Needs and Opportunities

First Sounder Commuter Train –September 18, 2000



Transit—Wayback in the early 1900s

History of Pierce Transit

- Served Sumner from 1979-2012
- Fixed bus route through Sumner served Vadis and train station
- Provided buses for connecting Bonney Lake Park & Ride to Sumner Station
- Low level of service for the \$2M in taxes
- Sales Tax of 0.6% for Transit Service
- East Pierce County removed from district in 2012



Transit In Sumner Today



SOUND TRANSIT



BEYOND THE BORDERS
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR



PIERCE TRANSIT
VANSARE/VANPOOL

Sound Transit-Trains and Buses

- 13 Commuter Trains
- 1,700 boardings per day at Sumner Station
- New Parking Garage to open in 2025 bringing a net of about 500 new parking stalls
- Sound Transit Express Bus (587) provides mid-day and weekend service to the stations
- Connector to Bonney Lake Park & Ride
- Special Events Trains (Seahawks, Mariners)



Sounder Train

Beyond the Borders-Community Connector

- Operated by Pierce County Human Services
- WSDOT Grant Funded
- Started after Sumner removed from Pierce Transit District
- Serves Special Needs Population (seniors, youth 17 and younger and disabled)
- Weekday service up to 8 hours
- Riders must register for the service
- Serves Sounder Station, Senior Center, YMCA, and Bonney Lake stores

Beyond the Borders Ridership 2022

Month of 2022	Monthly Boarding Totals
April	57
March	42
Feb	34
Jan	44
Total	177

Source: Pierce County Human Services

Pierce Transit Vanpool/Vanshare Program

- Available for employers and employees who have a trip that begins or ends in Pierce County.
- Great potential for MIC to Sounder Station connection
- Recent change in billing to a “pay-by-the-mile” service is big improvement
- Marketing and promotion efforts will continue



Future of Transit In Sumner

East Pierce County
Transit Feasibility
Study

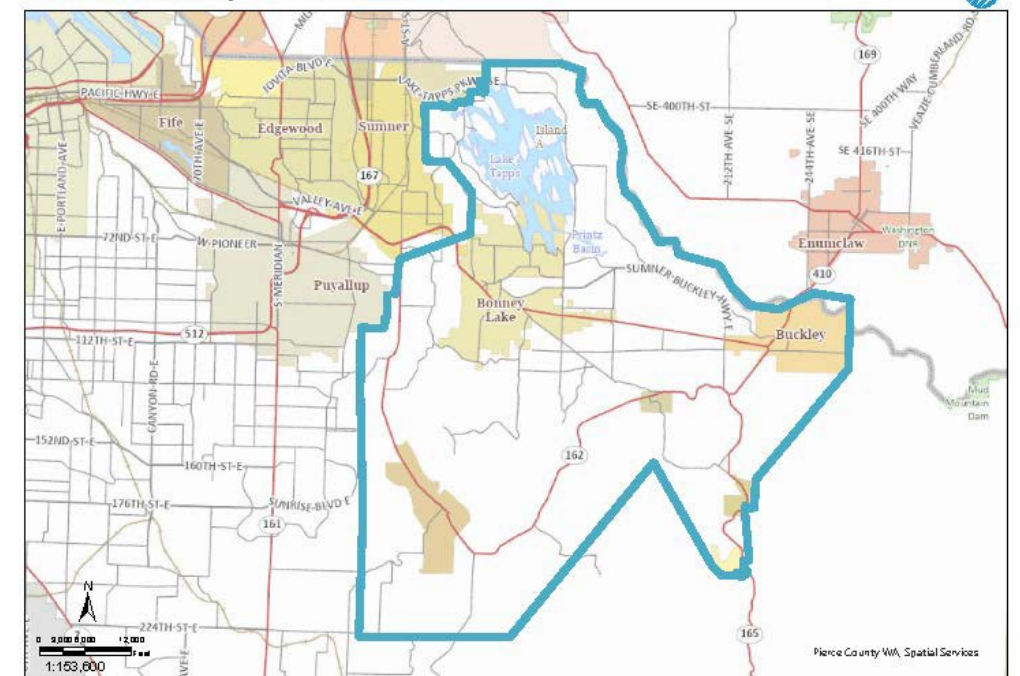
Shared Shuttle
Program

Beyond the
Borders
Community
Connector

East Pierce County Transit Feasibility Study

- East Pierce County jurisdictions have met to discuss how to get transit service back
- Transit Feasibility Study
 - Scope of Work
 - \$250,000
 - 18 months to complete
 - Who is taking the lead?
- Cost Share Per Capita—City of Sumner Share: \$25,000
- Vote to get back into Pierce Transit District

East Pierce County Transit Area-Draft



Disclaimer: The map features are approximate and have not been surveyed. Additional features not yet mapped may be present. Pierce County assumes no liability for variations and omissions from formal survey.

Date: 10/21/2021 11:25 AM

Shared Shuttle Program

- Shared Shuttle Company manages the system
- Multiple employers
- Multiple shuttle operators (private)
- Phone app for reserving seats on the shuttle
- Fares can offset costs
- Connect MIC to Sumner Station
- \$250K-\$300k per year to serve MIC
- Potential for expansion



Shared Shuttle Service

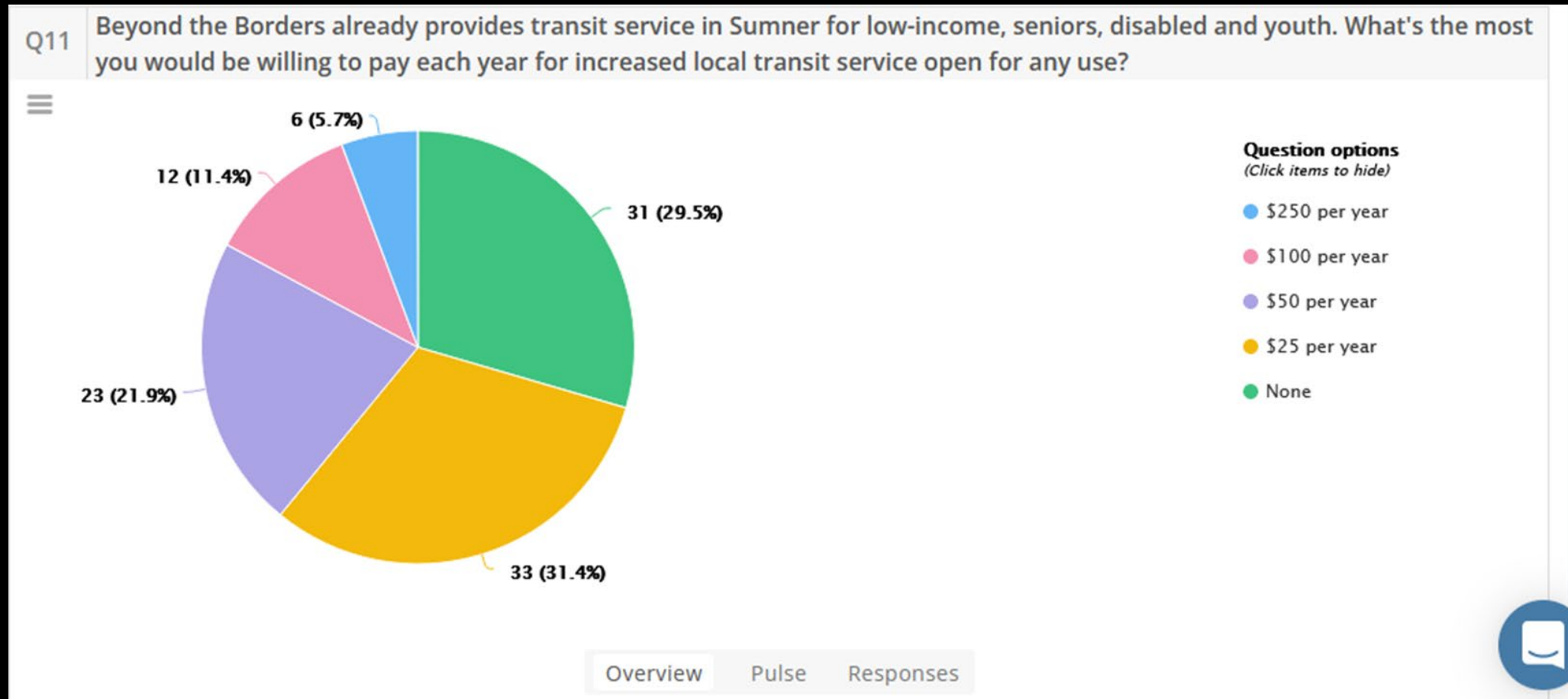
Beyond the Borders--Expansion

- WSDOT Grant Funded program
- Exploring ideas for expanding to general public with City funding
- Improve marketing and promotion of the service for Special Needs Population



Community Connector

Paying for Transit in Sumner



Source: 2022 Budget Survey, City of Sumner

Public Interest in Increasing Transit Service

Q12 Please rank the following reasons why you want increased transit service with 1 the most important:

Options	AVG. Rank
Don't need service myself but think it's important for others	1.60
Want in case I need service in the future.	2.28
Family or friend needs service.	2.52
Needs service myself.	3.55

Source: 2022 Budget Survey, City of Sumner

Staff Recommendation

- Continue to be involved in the East Pierce County Transit discussions and budget for the \$25,000 for the Feasibility Study.
- Explore more details from a Shared Shuttle Service and return to Council with clearer budget numbers.
- Explore partnerships with Pierce County Human Services for expanding Beyond the Borders service.

SUBJECT: AWC Conference Voting Delegates

CATEGORY: Motion

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF CONTACT: Jason Wilson, City Administrator

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

The Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference is scheduled for June 21-24 in Vancouver, Washington. During the conference, AWC hosts their annual business meeting. At the business meeting, up to three delegates from each City have the ability to elect representatives to the AWC Board. Voting delegates may be elected officials or staff members from member cities.

Council Rule 21.2 states: "When the Mayor and/or Councilmembers register to attend an official conference requiring voting delegates, such as the annual National League of Cities or Association of Washington Cities, the Council shall designate the voting delegate(s) and alternative voting delegate(s) during a public meeting, by a majority vote. When possible, said selection of voting delegate(s) shall be done on a rotating basis for the purpose of allowing all Councilmembers the opportunity to be an official voting delegate."

Currently, the Mayor and City Administrator are registered to attend the conference and business meeting. Councilmembers may choose to attend the AWC business meeting virtually, or request to attend the conference in person.

The purpose of tonight's discussion is to identify who the Council desires to designate as the voting delegates for the AWC Conference. The formal designation of voting delegates will be scheduled for the June 6, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION: MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE: 5/23/2022 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:
--

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:

Identify the voting delegates for the AWC Conference Business Meeting.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA CALENDAR**Updated May 17, 2022**

CA – CONSENT AGENDA	ES – EXECUTIVE SESSION	NB – NEW BUSINESS
UB – UNFINISHED BUSINESS	P – PRESENTATION	PH – PUBLIC HEARING PR - PROCLAMATION

MAY 30 (5TH Monday / Memorial Day)**JUNE 6 RCM**

- P On-line Utility Payment Program
- CA AWC Conference Voting Delegates
- CA Resolution No. XXXX – Interlocal Agreement RCC
- CA State Homeland Security Program Grant Acceptance for Small Unmanned Aerial System
- CA PSE Grant-Ammonia Sensors
- PH Multi Family Tax Exemption Target Area
- UB Ordinance No. XXXX – Amending the MFTE

- NB New Commission Appt – Planning Commission

JUNE 13 SS

- Family Center Update
- Town Center Utility Woonerf Project

JUNE 21 RCM (Tuesday)

- CA 24th St Utility Relocation - Construction Contract Award
- CA 24th St Utility Relocation - Construction Management Services
- CA Local Source Control Code Update
- CA Cemetery Facility Consultant Design Contract
- CA Sumner Texaco Heritage Park Remediation - Consultant Services Agreement
- CA Town Center: Utility & Woonerf Project - Consultant Amendment CM Services
- CA Town Center: Utility & Woonerf Project - Construction Contract Award
- CA Salmon Creek Cutover - Construction Contract Award
- NB Ordinance No. XXXX Amending the 2021/2022 Biennial Budget
- NB Resolution No. XXXX – Set hearing date for Houston Road Annexation

JUNE 27 SS

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Survey
- Comcast Franchise Agreement Renewal
- YMCA Services Agreement Amendment

JULY 5 RCM (Tuesday)

Cancelled

JULY 11 SS

- Sound Transit Presentation – Garage project update
- Parks Funding
- 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments Update

JULY 18 RCM

PH – Houston Road Annexation

JULY 25 SS

- Community Float Discussion
- Accessory Dwelling Units

AUGUST 1 RCM

NB Ordinance No. XXXX 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

AUGUST 8 SS

- Community Projects Budget Presentation

AUGUST 15 RCM

NB Ordinance No. XXXX Zoning Code Amendment-Accessory Dwelling Units

AUGUST 22 SS**AUGUST 29 SS (5th Monday)***Pending*

MISC.	MISC.	WHITE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT
ROW Vacation Code Amendment		PH - Surplus Utility Property South of 24 th Street East
Gateway Funding ILA	Bond Issuance for Operations Facility	UB - Resolution No. XXXX - Surplus Utility Property South of 24 th St E
Ordinance Insurance Requirements	Temporary Use Permit – Food Trucks	
Sign Code Update	Paper of Record	BNSF Agreement
CTR Ordinance Update		CA - Water Rights Acquisition Agreement
Development Agreement Code updates		
PC Solid Waste Plan Adoption	Heritage Park Expansion property acquisition	

May 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7
6:00PM Regular Council Meeting (Hybrid)	4:00 PM Public Works Committee (Virtual)	5:30PM Finance Committee (Virtual)	6:00PM Planning Commission (Virtual)		
9	10	11	12	13	14
6:00PM Study Session (Hybrid)		5:30PM CANCELLED American Rescue Plan Committee (Virtual) 6:30PM CANCELLED Design Commission (Virtual)	4:30PM Forestry/Parks Commission (Virtual)		
16	17	18	19	20	21
6:00PM Regular Council Meeting (Hybrid)		5:30PM Public Safety (Virtual)			
23	24	25	26	27	28
6:00PM Study Session (Hybrid)		5:00PM CD Committee (Virtual)	5:30PM Cultural Arts Commission (Virtual)		
30 Recognized Holiday City Hall Closed	31				

Meeting dates and times may change. Please contact City Hall to confirm this information prior to any meeting you plan to attend. **These meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities.** For individuals who require special accommodations, please contact City Hall at (253) 299-5500, 24 hours in advance.

Name: Michelle Converse, CMC
Title: City Clerk

City of Sumner www.sumnerwa.gov
1104 Maple Street
Sumner, Washington 98390
Ph: (253) 299-5590