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NEWS RELEASE – APRIL 3, 2020

Island Transit to Further Reduce Services on Monday, April 6

Coupeville, WA -- Beginning Monday, April 6, Island Transit will once again reduce service as a result of the evolving COVID-19 outbreak and Governor Jay Inslee's [Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#) initiative. This is the second reduction in service in as many weeks. The agency has been operating under its Emergency Service Plan since March 23, 2020.

The revised Emergency Service Plan calls for bus and paratransit services to operate Monday through Friday only. All Saturday service will be suspended effective April 11 until further notice. Additionally, the number of trips on the current routes will be reduced, and two routes will be suspended entirely. Routes that will be affected include:

On Whidbey Island:

- Route 1 From Oak Harbor to Clinton and to the Coupeville and Mukilteo ferries.
- Route 60 Connects Langley and Bayview and the Clinton ferry dock.
- Route 22 Oak Harbor city service.
- Route 411W Connects Whidbey Island to Skagit Transit in Anacortes.

On Camano Island:

- Route 1 Serves the north and west sides of Camano Island.
- Route 2 Serves the south and east sides of Camano Island.
- Route 3 Connector route from Camano Island to Stanwood.
- Route 411C Service to Mount Vernon and connections with Skagit Transit.

Additionally, the NASWI route on Whidbey and the connector route from Camano to Everett will be suspended until further notice.

“The safety of the traveling public and our employees is the number one priority of Island Transit,” according to Island Transit Executive Director Todd Morrow. “We wish that we did not have to make these service cuts, but given the challenges presented by the COVID-19 challenge, we have no choice.”



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Detailed information on route and schedule changes are available now on [Island Transit's website](http://www.IslandTransit.org) at www.IslandTransit.org. Island Transit staff will work with customers to find alternative routes or methods of transportation. If you need assistance, please call Island Transit at 360-678-7771.

We highly recommend all transit riders sign up for [Rider Alerts](#) through the agency's website at www.IslandTransit.org to continue to stay informed on services changes as they may continue to be modified in the next several months.

With people now complying with Governor Inslee's [Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#) order, ridership on Island Transit has dropped dramatically. Whidbey Island ridership dropped by 79% last Friday compared to the same day one year ago. Camano Island ridership dropped by 76% for the same period. This drop is consistent with ridership levels across the state. Revising Island Transit's routes and trips to reflect this decrease in ridership provides the opportunity to reduce the number of transit employees working out in the public.

Those who are traveling should be doing so only for essential purposes under the Governor's order. Those purposes include going to work at an essential work place, traveling to a pharmacy or grocery store for food and medicine, and routine medical appointments. Island Transit is asking the public to limit their travel to those purposes. Signs on our buses and facilities remind the public of the Governor's order.

Island Transit is working with public health authorities to make sure that these bus trips can be as safe as possible for its riders and employees. Those practices are outlined on the agency's webpage.

The mission of Island Transit is to provide safe, accessible, convenient, and friendly public transportation services which enhance our Island quality of life.

Contact: Meg Heppner at 360-678-9501 or Todd Morrow at 360-678-9500



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Richard Dugger, Island Transit Facilities Maintenance, cleaning an Island Transit bus with disinfectant on March 10, 2020. Photo courtesy of Island Transit.