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System Snapshot



- Operating Name: Pierce Transit
- Service Area: Central and northern Pierce County, including the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas
- Congressional District: 6, 8, and 9
- Legislative Districts: 2, 25-29, and 31
- Type of Government: Public Transportation Benefit Area
- Governing Body: Nine member board of directors comprised of two Pierce County council members, the Pierce County executive or designee, three Tacoma council members, one Lakewood council member, one elected official representing the cities of Puyallup and University Place, and one elected official representing the cities of Bonney Lake, Buckley, Dupont, Edgewood, Fife, Fircrest, Gig Harbor, Milton, Orting, Ruston, Steilacoom, and Sumner.
- Tax Authorized: 0.6 percent sales and use tax—0.3 percent approved in November 1979 and an additional 0.3 percent approved in February 2002.

Performance Measures for 2006 Operations

	Fixed Route Services		Demand Response Services	
	Pierce Transit	Urbanized Averages	Pierce Transit	Urbanized Averages
Fares/Operating Cost	13.01%	16.18%	1.76%	1.93%
Operating Cost/Passenger Trip	\$4.88	\$4.84	\$34.23	\$28.91
Operating Cost/Revenue Vehicle Mile	\$6.78	\$7.74	\$4.69	\$4.95
Operating Cost/Revenue Vehicle Hour	\$104.79	\$110.67	\$74.94	\$72.16
Operating Cost/Total Vehicle Hour	\$91.72	\$96.64	\$64.17	\$63.95
Revenue Vehicle Hours/Total Vehicle Hour	87.52%	88.30%	85.63%	88.56%
Revenue Vehicle Hours/FTE	920	907	2,807	1,496
Revenue Vehicle Miles/Revenue Vehicle Hour	15.45	14.61	15.99	14.80
Passenger Trips/Revenue Vehicle Hour	21.5	23.5	2.2	2.5
Passenger Trips/Revenue Vehicle Mile	1.39	1.70	0.14	0.18

Pierce Transit

- Types of Service: 42 local fixed routes, three locally funded express routes, three deviated routes, four express routes operated under contract with Sound Transit, vanpool service, one general public dial a ride service, and complementary SHUTTLE Specialized Transportation Service (paratransit) for persons with disabilities who are not able to use fixed route services.
 - Days of Service: Weekdays, generally between 5:00 a.m. and midnight; Saturdays, generally between 6:00 a.m. and midnight; and Sundays between 7:00 a.m. and midnight.
 - Base Fare: \$1.50 per boarding for fixed route and \$0.75 per boarding for SHUTTLE Specialized Transportation Service.
- ### Current Operations
- Pierce Transit provides a variety of fixed route services:
- Three express commuter routes (Purdy/Tacoma, Puyallup/Tacoma, and Tacoma/Olympia).
 - One suburban commuter route between Pierce County and King County destinations as a contractor to Sound Transit (Pierce County/Sea-Tac Airport).
 - Two suburban intercity routes between Pierce County and King County destinations as a contractor to Sound Transit (Pierce County/Seattle, Pierce County/University of Washington).
 - One suburban commuter route between Bonney Lake/Sumner and Downtown Tacoma as a contractor to Sound Transit.
 - 28 Tacoma core-city local routes.
 - Seven suburban local routes (Tacoma urbanized area).
 - Five suburban intercity routes (Lakewood/Tacoma, Tacoma/Sumner, Purdy/Tacoma, Lakewood/Parkland, and Federal Way/Graham).
 - Two rural routes (Bonney Lake/Buckley, and Bonney Lake/Prairie Ridge).
 - Three deviated routes (Key Peninsula, Northeast Tacoma and Mid-County/Parkland).
 - One general public dial a ride service (Mid-County).



Pierce Transit operates 33 local and three contracted intercity routes seven days a week.

Pierce Transit also provides SHUTTLE Specialized Transportation Service (paratransit) for individuals living near the fixed route system who are unable to use the fixed route system. In addition Pierce Transit contracts with a private operator for SHUTTLE Specialized Transportation Service.

Pierce Transit also provides vanpool, rideshare, and employer commute trip reduction assistance.

Revenue Service Vehicles

Fixed Route – 174 total, all equipped with wheelchair lifts; model years ranging from 1997 to 2006.

Paratransit – 103 total, all ADA accessible; model years ranging from 2002 to 2006.

Vanpool – 300 total, one equipped with a wheelchair lift; model years ranging from 1992 to 2006.



Facilities

Pierce Transit’s Central Base Facility, including administration, operations, and maintenance functions, is located on a 31-acre site in Lakewood. Pierce Transit also has a layover facility at 17th and Broadway in downtown Tacoma and leases a training facility in Lakewood. Pierce Transit also leases a facility for its contracted SHUTTLE services.

Pierce Transit operates through seven transit centers: Lakewood Mall, 72nd Street, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma Mall, Parkland, Tacoma Dome, and South Hill Mall.

Pierce Transit uses 21 park and ride lots; three of these are owned and ten are maintained by Pierce Transit. Major (more than 150 spaces) park and ride facilities operated by Pierce Transit include: Tacoma Dome Station, SR 512 (Lakewood), South Hill, Bonney Lake South, Kimball Drive in Gig Harbor, Narrows, and North Purdy. In addition, there are 534 bus shelters located along fixed routes.



Intermodal Connections

Pierce Transit supports intermodal coordination through adopted policies that emphasize access between modes to encourage the use of alternatives to single occupant vehicles. Examples of these policies are:

- The Tacoma Dome Station serving as a regional express bus, local bus, and rideshare facility, and the passenger terminal for Greyhound. The station also serves the Sounder commuter rail and Link light rail.
- Coordinated schedules with King County Metro Transit in Federal Way and Intercity Transit in Olympia.
- Operation of a joint-use passenger terminal with the Washington State Ferry System at Point Defiance.
- Connections with the Pierce County Ferry at its Steilacoom facility.
- Bicycle transport racks on all buses and storage facilities at transit centers and some park and ride lots.

Pierce Transit continues to work closely with local jurisdictions to ensure proper pedestrian access to new developments becomes a condition of environmental review for issuing land use permits and building permits.

Pierce Transit connects with: Sound Transit at Sounder stations and regional express bus stops throughout Pierce County; Intercity Transit at several Pierce and Thurston County locations; King County Metro Transit at several locations in King County; Pierce County Ferry to Anderson and Ketron Islands at Steilacoom; Washington State Ferries at Point Defiance; Amtrak in downtown Tacoma; and Greyhound at the Tacoma Dome Station.



2006 Achievements

- Installed a replacement paratransit dispatch system.
- Purchased five replacement buses.
- Purchased 44 replacement vanpool vans.
- Purchased ten replacement SHUTTLE paratransit vehicles.
- Pierce Transit provided a range of public information materials including schedules and promotional brochures. During the year, more than 100,000 targeted mailings were sent to neighborhoods near under performing routes.
- Pierce Transit continued and expanded its comprehensive long term planning efforts and actively participated in a number of local and regional planning efforts.
- Working in conjunction with Pierce County and WSDOT, Pierce Transit continued its efforts to utilize State Special Needs Transportation funds to finance a major expansion of Pierce County's 'Beyond the Borders' program that transports residents of Southern Pierce County who live outside Pierce Transit's boundary.
- Converted portions of the Midcounty Bus PLUS service that previously operated as demand responsive service into a deviated route service.

2007 Objectives

- Purchase ten expansion buses.
- Purchase 20 expansion vanpool vans.
- Continue to implement and publicize minor route and schedule changes that optimize the system's effectiveness.
- Reconstruct the Parkland Transit Center.
- Upgrade and improve security systems at transit facilities.



Long-range Plans (2008 through 2012)

- Expand the network of trunk routes in urban areas.
- Expand Pierce Transit's network of express routes.
- Emphasize innovative non-traditional (Bus PLUS) services in low-density emerging suburban neighborhoods.
- Emphasize vanpool services as a cost effective commute option.
- Construct a new/expanded park and ride facility on the Gig Harbor Peninsula.
- Work with county and city governments to foster transit oriented development patterns.
- Implement Regional Fare Coordination/ Smart Card.
- Replace radio system with a system that features automated vehicle locator equipment and the capability of offering real time customer schedule information.
- Provide improved passenger amenities.

	2004	2005	2006	% Change	2007	2008	2009	2012
Annual Operating Information								
Service Area Population	702,060	705,018	721,445	2.33%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Fixed Route Services								
Revenue Vehicle Hours	662,245	669,186	669,826	0.10%	682,944	716,178	7,363,947	753,024
Total Vehicle Hours	739,973	758,986	765,339	0.84%	780,327	818,300	8,414,000	860,400
Revenue Vehicle Miles	9,957,192	10,465,364	10,348,687	-1.11%	10,409,945	11,016,703	11,334,745	11,597,048
Total Vehicle Miles	12,126,398	12,520,711	12,625,043	0.83%	12,699,776	13,440,000	13,828,000	14,148,000
Passenger Trips	13,992,713	14,258,080	14,384,320	0.89%	14,792,933	15,263,000	15,635,000	16,432,000
Diesel Fuel Consumed (gallons)	548,547	511,708	599,389	17.13%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Gasoline Fuel Consumed (gallons)	10,486	30,879	36,138	17.03%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
CNG Fuel Consumed (Therms)	3,307,395	3,434,041	3,325,409	-3.16%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Fatalities	0	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Reportable Injuries	27	28	28	0.00%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Collisions	7	4	10	150.00%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Employees FTEs*	772.0	549.7	728.0	32.44%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Operating Expenses	\$59,821,695	\$66,649,987	\$70,194,033	5.32%	\$80,003,446	\$89,648,569	\$93,861,739	\$112,866,846
Farebox Revenues	\$7,358,403	\$7,215,241	\$9,133,510	26.59%	\$9,176,431	\$9,791,171	\$12,129,192	\$12,674,717
Demand Response Services								
Revenue Vehicle Hours	168,196	160,352	185,269	15.54%	669,826	669,826	669,826	669,826
Total Vehicle Hours	175,901	186,147	216,361	16.23%	210,663	216,300	223,000	243,000
Revenue Vehicle Miles	2,436,197	2,463,722	2,962,075	20.23%	2,930,841	3,008,740	3,089,070	3,351,970
Total Vehicle Miles	2,778,330	2,878,673	3,427,225	19.06%	3,391,086	3,481,218	3,574,163	3,878,347
Passenger Trips	476,712	415,621	405,610	-2.41%	401,333	412,000	423,000	459,000
Gasoline Fuel Consumed (gallons)	349,200	107,884	124,618	15.51%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Fatalities	0	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Reportable Injuries	13	20	10	-50.00%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Collisions	1	1	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Employees FTEs*	170.0	51.8	66.0	27.41%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Operating Expenses	\$12,746,753	\$12,328,130	\$13,883,923	12.62%	\$14,249,582	\$15,193,604	\$16,244,390	\$20,230,042
Farebox Revenues	\$348,235	\$238,559	\$244,056	2.30%	\$240,800	\$247,200	\$253,800	\$275,400

*Differences in FTE count represent methodology changes.

Pierce Transit

	2004	2005	2006	% Change	2007	2008	2009	2012
Vanpooling Services								
Revenue Vehicle Miles	3,732,861	3,868,419	4,142,489	7.08%	4,315,254	4,495,225	4,682,702	4,877,997
Total Vehicle Miles	3,782,025	3,908,989	4,188,323	7.15%	4,363,000	4,454,000	4,648,000	5,150,000
Passenger Trips	690,500	734,430	815,139	10.99%	859,000	902,000	947,000	1,096,000
Vanpool Fleet Size	284	293	300	2.39%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Vans in Operation	246	261	264	1.15%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Gasoline Fuel Consumed (gallons)	285,187	292,243	301,608	3.20%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Fatalities	0	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Reportable Injuries	2	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Collisions	1	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Employees FTEs*	23.0	19.9	28.0	40.70%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Operating Expenses	\$2,919,760	\$2,974,805	\$3,026,575	1.74%	\$3,382,207	\$3,658,774	\$3,952,528	\$4,705,567
Vanpooling Revenue	\$1,661,814	\$1,642,478	\$2,137,441	30.14%	\$2,300,000	\$2,904,279	\$3,238,902	\$4,626,495

*Differences in FTE count represent methodology changes.



	2004	2005	2006	% Change	2007	2008	2009	2012
Annual Revenues								
Sales Tax	\$61,770,952	\$69,126,119	\$74,593,386	7.91%	\$79,366,242	\$83,731,000	\$87,918,000	\$101,776,022
Farebox Revenues	\$7,706,638	\$7,453,800	\$9,377,566	25.81%	\$9,417,231	\$10,038,371	\$12,382,992	\$12,950,117
Vanpooling Revenue	\$1,661,814	\$1,642,478	\$2,137,441	30.14%	\$2,300,000	\$2,904,279	\$3,238,902	\$4,626,495
Federal Section 5307 Operating	\$0	\$2,291,627	\$1,883,501	-17.81%	\$9,238,212	\$5,315,200	\$3,692,764	\$4,253,523
Federal Section 5307 Preventive	\$2,675,000	\$2,675,000	\$2,675,000	0.00%	\$5,259,085	\$7,466,666	\$7,466,666	\$7,157,463
FTA JARC Program	\$550,000	\$378,832	\$177,207	-53.22%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Needs Grants	\$292,706	\$1,957,162	\$2,293,109	17.17%	\$0	\$2,300,000	\$0	\$2,300,000
Other State Operating Grants	\$84,510	\$29,127	\$0	N.A.	\$709,960	\$685,000	\$630,000	\$450,000
Sound Transit Operating	\$13,495,528	\$15,376,345	\$15,091,605	-1.85%	\$16,289,258	\$17,173,462	\$18,150,914	\$20,952,524
RTA Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	N.A.	\$2,101,657	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$3,503,392	\$0	\$0	N.A.	\$5,208,446	\$3,082,538	\$2,626,509	\$1,872,586
Total	\$91,740,540	\$100,930,490	\$108,228,815	7.23%	\$129,890,091	\$132,696,516	\$136,106,747	\$156,338,730
Annual Operating Expenses								
Annual Operating Expenses	\$75,488,208	\$81,952,922	\$87,104,531	6.29%	\$97,635,235	\$108,500,947	\$114,058,657	\$137,802,454
Other	\$234,989	\$242,246	\$0	N.A.	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total	\$75,723,197	\$82,195,168	\$87,104,531	5.97%	\$97,785,235	\$108,650,947	\$114,208,657	\$137,952,454
Debt Service								
Interest	\$130,548	\$118,000	\$103,543	-12.25%	\$90,857	\$79,726	\$69,958	\$0
Principal	\$365,000	\$365,000	\$380,000	4.11%	\$392,143	\$403,274	\$413,042	\$0
Total	\$495,548	\$483,000	\$483,543	0.11%	\$483,000	\$483,000	\$483,000	\$0
Annual Capital Purchase Obligations								
Federal Section 5309 Capital Grants	\$2,951,036	\$3,330,356	\$343,103	N.A.	\$1,872,178	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
FTA JARC Program	\$550,000	\$70,000	\$177,207	N.A.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CM/AQ and Other Federal Grants	\$879,574	\$0	\$658,693	N.A.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Needs Grants	\$2,115,638	\$679,005	\$2,293,109	N.A.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Section 5307 Capital Grants	\$7,060,452	\$13,170,987	\$4,029,217	N.A.	\$9,238,212	\$5,315,200	\$3,692,764	\$4,253,523
State Vanpool Grants	\$0	\$50,577	\$0	N.A.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other State Capital Grants	\$0	\$844,800	\$344,798	N.A.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$463,880	\$154,311	N.A.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	N.A.	\$2,101,657	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund	\$0	\$3,592,107	\$0	N.A.	\$72,205,273	\$13,234,480	\$18,961,445	\$13,398,426
Total	\$13,556,700	\$22,201,712	\$8,000,438	-63.96%	\$85,417,320	\$20,549,680	\$22,654,209	\$18,651,949
Ending Balances, December 31								
Unrestricted Cash and Investments	\$27,800,262	\$32,621,506	\$51,509,359	57.90%	\$51,344,438	\$52,178,598	\$50,456,866	\$24,459,566
Capital Reserve Funds	\$34,463,716	\$46,501,165	\$43,438,373	-6.59%	\$4,944,327	\$5,147,620	\$3,580,603	\$4,701,113
Insurance Fund	\$6,503,290	\$5,585,483	\$5,573,358	-0.22%	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Total	\$68,767,268	\$84,708,154	\$100,521,090	18.67%	\$60,288,765	\$61,326,218	\$58,037,469	\$33,160,679

