



Travel Washington Intercity Bus Program

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is offering new intercity bus service as part of their innovative *Travel Washington* program.

What is Intercity Service?

Intercity service is public transportation to a city with the intent of making timed connections to additional cities. Intercity transportation is not only about getting from Walla Walla to Pasco; it is about getting from Walla Walla to any place in the country. All of the Travel Washington routes make connections with other intercity carriers. This coordination means that passengers will have reliable transportation to wherever they want to go.

New Pilot Program

In 2006, WSDOT received approval from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to use private capital investment as match for the new Travel Washington routes. Traditionally, matching funds were needed for each individual route and provider. These were difficult for local communities to secure. The new funding structure follows the idea that intercity routes are part of a network.

New Contracting and New Branding

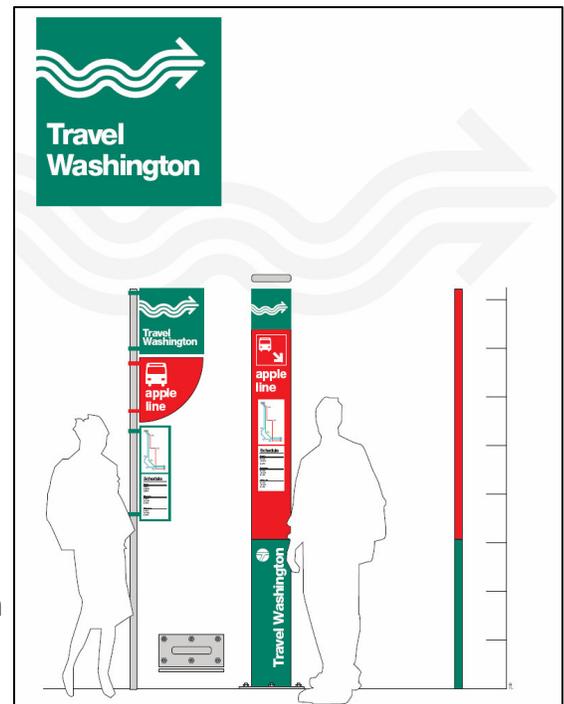
Travel Washington is using contractors to provide the transportation on the new routes. This is new for WSDOT, who used to wait for potential providers to submit a grant request. Now, through the contracting process, WSDOT is able to take the interests of the entire state network into consideration when determining which routes to fund.

Central Washington Airporthor won the contract for the Travel Washington Grape Line. It will run from Walla Walla to Pasco and will begin service to southeast Washington in fall of 2007. The next request for contract proposals will be released in 2008 connecting Omak to Ellensburg and Port Angeles to Seattle.

Travel Washington Routes

Grape Line

The initial Travel Washington service is the Grape Line. This route travels between Walla Walla and Pasco and connects with Greyhound, Amtrak, Ben Franklin Transit and Valley Transit. The Grape Line replaces the service that Greyhound abandoned when they reduced service to the region in 2005. The renewed public-private partnership will ensure a win-win for the community and the new intercity carrier. Visit the Grape Line Web site at www.grapeline.us for more specific information regarding schedules and bus stop locations.



Example of Travel Washington branding.

Apple Line

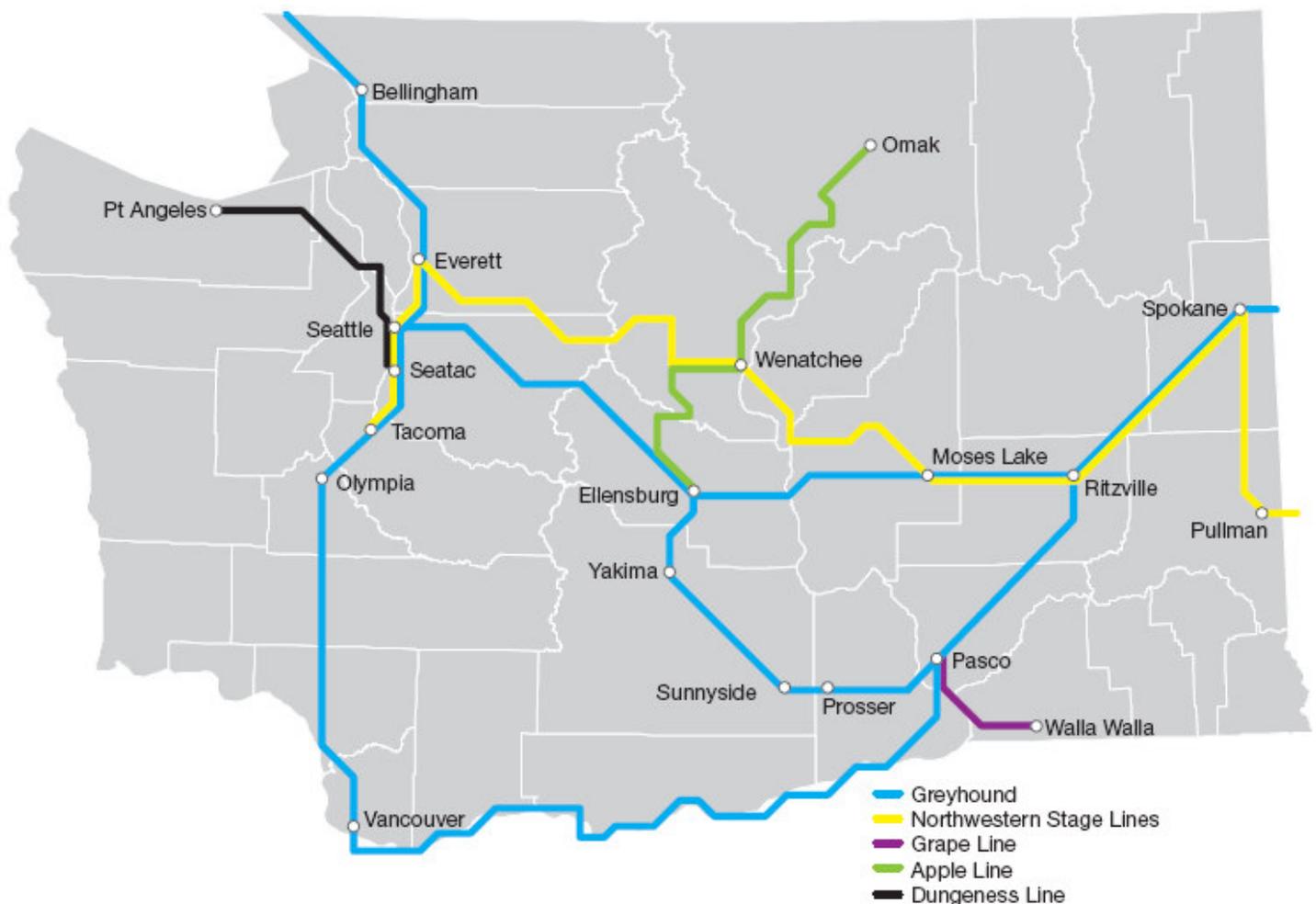
Beginning January 2008, Washington State will send out a Request for Proposal for an additional route, the Apple Line, extending from Omak to Ellensburg. This 160-mile route will provide service to the underserved area of north-central Washington along a north-south corridor, including Wenatchee.

Dungeness Line

In addition, beginning in 2008, Washington State will send out a Request for Proposal for a route on the Olympic Peninsula connecting the cities of Port Angeles and Seattle. The addition of this route will provide a vital link in connecting rural areas to the rest of Washington.

The combination of a competitive bidding process and new funding possibilities ensures that Washington State will select the best intercity provider for a particular route. Further, by making sure that the routes all have coordinated schedules, travel from rural to urban areas in Washington will become much easier.

For more information about the Washington State Intercity Bus Program, visit our Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/transit/intercity.



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**Washington State
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