

SHIFTING TO A MOBILE WORK ENVIRONMENT

In 2016 Governor Inslee issued Executive Order 16-07, directing state agencies to build modern, physical work environments that improve workplace flexibility and create a more resilient, mobile workforce.

The order shifted the focus for state employees from where and when the work occurs to what and how work is accomplished.

Of the eligible positions identified in 2017, approximately 40 percent are occupied by 36,000 employees who telework, use flex time, and/or compress their work week.

“The Bottom Line on Telework”, a report commissioned by TRPC in 2013, explored a theory: What if 30 percent of Thurston County’s public-sector workforce opted to telework or employ flexible schedules just two days a week? The results:

- Could save the state approximately \$58 million a year.
- Could reduce vehicle-miles traveled by 14 million miles per year.
- Could eliminate over 1 million vehicle trips per year.
- Could match the effect of greenhouse gas reductions created by planting more than 100,000 trees.
- Could help the state meet its Target Zero goals for reducing accidents and fatalities by reducing trips.

2017 State Agency Commute Trip Reduction Report to the Legislature

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT* IS TO:

- Increase awareness and acceptance of commute alternatives among state-agency employees.
- Standardize guidelines that promote program flexibility tailored for a variety of worksite locations and amenities.
- Improve recruitment and retention of state-agency employees by offering better commute options.

STATE AGENCIES LEAD THE WAY

In 2009, the Legislature passed the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) for State Agencies Act (RCW 70.94.549) to increase the leadership role of state agencies in reducing drive-alone commute trips.

The goals of the state agency CTR program are to reduce congestion, vehicle miles traveled and energy consumption by encouraging state-agency employees to use commute options such as transit, vanpooling, carpooling, flexible work scheduling, walking, biking and teleworking. These options provide numerous benefits to employees, such as improved physical health, better work/life balance, and decreased stress. The benefits for state government include reduced needs for office space and parking facilities, and additional strategies for recruiting and retaining a highly skilled workforce.

CREATING STANDARD POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

State agencies need standardized guidelines for policies and programs that would make CTR implementation equitable among all state employees and promote interagency ridesharing. Standardization would reduce the administrative burden and focus resources on strategies and solutions for each state agency CTR program.

During the 2017-19 biennium, the Interagency CTR Board will explore ways to update guidelines, working toward the goal of standardization among state agencies.

MORE INFORMATION

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For more information on the statewide CTR Board report, see ctrboard.ning.com



* This report fulfills the reporting requirements in RCW 70.94.551.

STATE-AGENCY CTR BY THE NUMBERS

6,095
state employees used **ALTERNATIVES TO DRIVING ALONE** AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK IN 2015/16

IN THURSTON COUNTY
1,222
STATE EMPLOYEES **TELEWORKED** IN 2015/16—COMPARED TO **1,057** IN 2013/14—AN INCREASE OF **165 EMPLOYEES**

Average of nearly **21,000** transit trips per month provided by **THE STAR PASS PROGRAM** IN **2016**

BUILDING ON PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with local planning organizations, state agencies, cities, and transit agencies are vital to the success of CTR. These partnerships create a network of contacts that provide assistance to employers. Three groups that work toward the common goal of improving CTR:

- **The State Agency CTR Board** – Composed of representatives from state agencies and other organizations, the board meets regularly to refine policy, determine best practices, and provide direction to state agencies.
- **The Capitol Campus CTR Coalition** – Formed in 2017, the coalition continues to drive CTR initiatives among state government agencies located in downtown Olympia.
- **Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)** – TRPC helps local employers—including state agencies—administer their CTR programs. TRPC also hosts networking sessions for employee transportation coordinators (ETCs) at state agencies. TRPC works with elected officials at the local, state and federal level to move CTR programs forward.

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT STATE-AGENCY CTR

The State Agency Rider (STAR) and State Agency Free Emergency (SAFE) Ride Home programs are provided to state-agency employees stationed in Thurston County.

Through a contract with Intercity Transit, the STAR Pass allows state-agency employees to ride Intercity Transit services fare-free. The SAFE Ride Home program ensures that employees who carpool, vanpool, walk or bike to work have a ride home in the event of an emergency or unscheduled overtime during their work day. The state partners with the private sector to provide taxicab services for the SAFE Ride Home program.

Both programs are funded by the parking account as directed by RCW 43.01.225.

To offset the cost of living in King County, the Legislature approved funding that provides ORCA passes to more than 8,000 employees stationed in King County. Although this benefit is not part of the state agency CTR program, it is an important element in reducing drive-alone commutes.

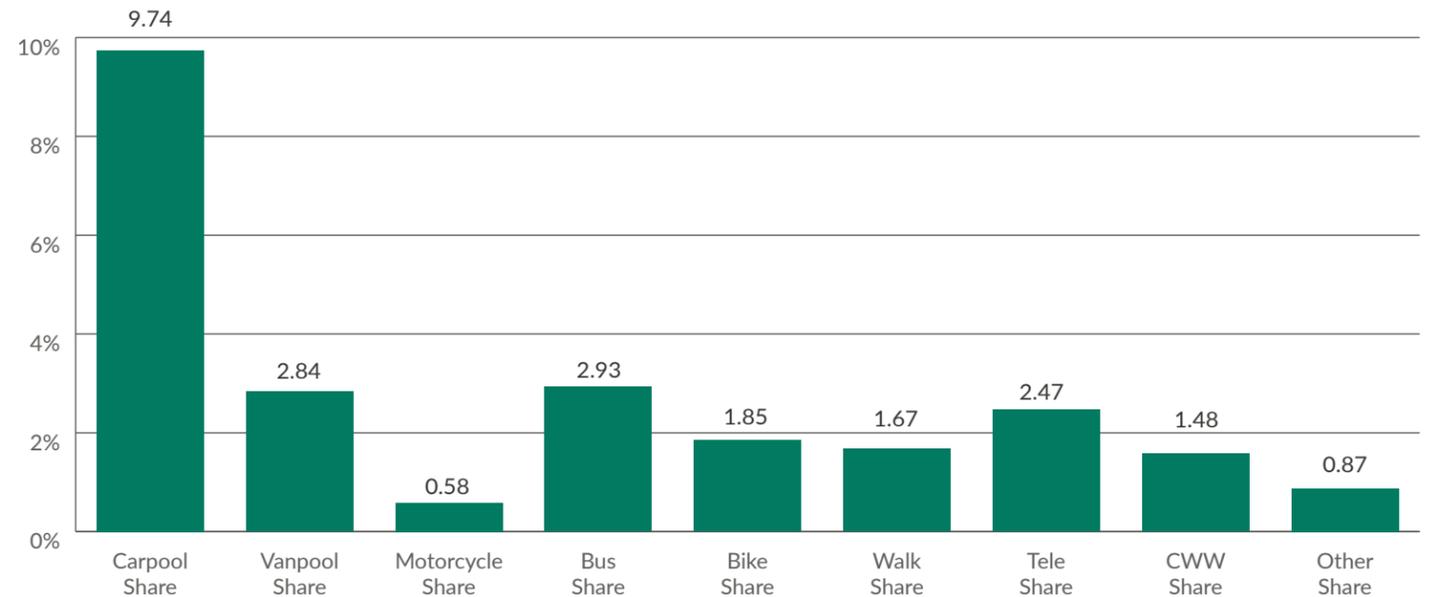
Mobile Work Environment Participation Statewide



GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- Increase programmatic and managerial support for the Governor's Executive Order for building a modern work environment.
- Align and standardize state agency CTR program guidelines in order to provide greater flexibility for all state agencies.
- Enhance interagency coordination, promote managerial support, and provide resources and tools for ETCs that help them adapt to new technologies and changing workforce dynamics.
- Clearly define the role of state agencies in reducing drive alone trips.

2015/2016 Thurston County State Agency Mode Split



This chart does not include drive alone rate.

Source, CTR Employer Survey Data