

Whatcom Transportation Authority

August 7, 2024 CTAG Meeting



WTA Rapid Transit Study





What is Rapid Transit or "BRT"?

- High-frequency bus service that provides a fast, reliable and convenient transit experience
- "Rail on Wheels"
- Innovative and unique to each community and context
- Significant infrastructure improvements to improve speed and reliability





Typical Rapid Transit Elements



Advance fare collection



Custom buses

BUS PRIORITY

SIGNAL

Transit spot improvements



Dedicated lanes



Enhanced stations

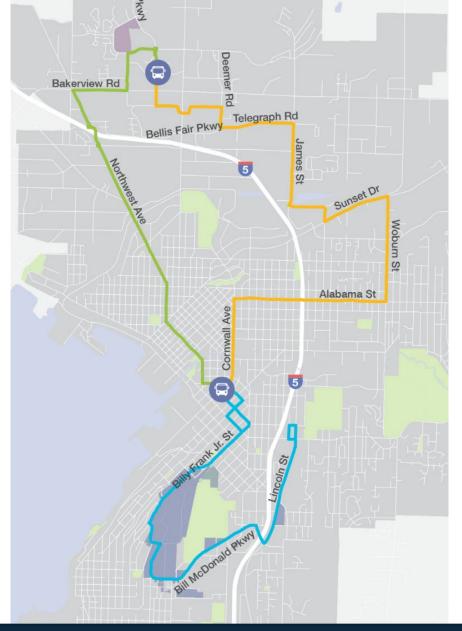


Unique branding



WTA Rapid Transit Study Alternatives

- Green/Blue corridor:
 - Limited ROW
 - More direct alignment
 - Major constraint is thru WWU
- Gold corridor:
 - Limited ROW
 - Transit supportive development opportunities
 - Will need substantial street improvements





Project Timeline



Rapid Transit Feasibility Study (Completion August/September 2023) 30% Design and **NEPA** Analysis

Entry into FTA Project **Development Phase** (potential funding)

Near-Term Enhancements

Bellingham Station Construction 2027-2028 (earliest)













Construction



Line Open

Planning Phase 2

Conduct Outreach and Refine Alternatives

15% Design

60% and Final Design

FTA Small Starts Grant Submittal

Environmental Impact Screening

WTA Board and Bellingham City Council Approvals of Locally Preferred Alternative

Determine Project Organizational Structure



CTAG Opportunities to Participate

 Phase II of the Rapid Transit Study includes Stakeholder input and interviews prior to selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative

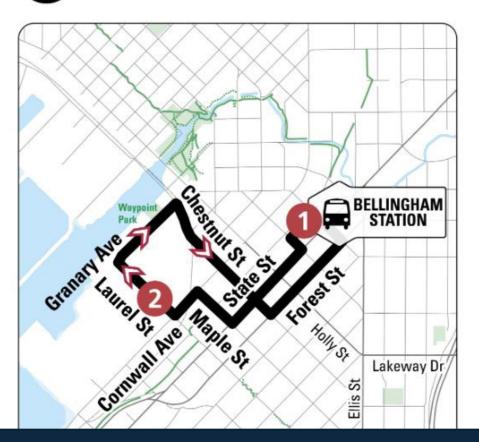
 WTA Staff and consultants will provide more detailed information and discussion questions during the next CTAG meeting

 More information about Phase I and Phase II of the study can be found at www.engage.ridewta.com/rapid-transit-study



September 2024 Service Changes





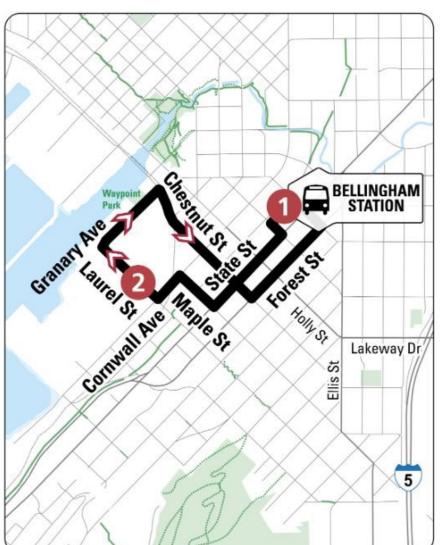


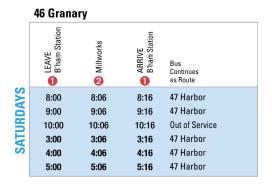






- WTA is proposing interim service to the Downtown Waterfront and Squalicum Harbor areas
- Route 46 proposes hourly service from BTS to Millworks



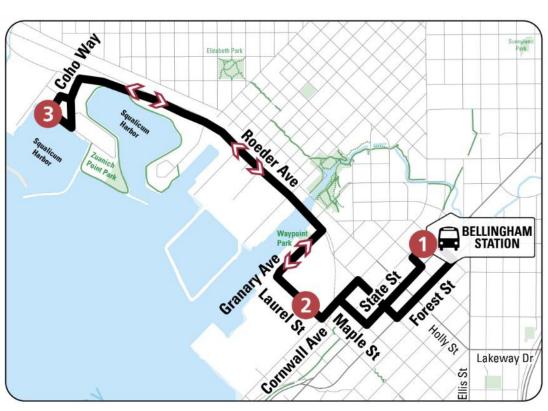


	46 Grana	ıry			
	LEAVE B'ham Station	(S) Millworks	ARRIVE B'ham Station	Bus Continues as Route	
SUNDAYS	8:00	8:06	8:16	47 Harbor	
	9:00	9:06	9:16	47 Harbor	
핔	10:00	10:06	10:16	Out of Service	
S	3:00	3:06	3:16	47 Harbor	
	4:00	4:06	4:16	47 Harbor	
	5:00	5:06	5:16	47 Harbor	





Proposed Route
 47 would provide
 service from BTS
 to Squalicum
 Harbor through
 the Downtown
 Waterfront



	47 Harbor			47 Downtown			
	EAVE B'ham Station	8 Millworks	Squalicum Harbor	Squalicum Harbor	8 Millworks	ARRIVE B'ham Station	Bus Continues as Route
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47 Harbor			47 Downtown				
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17 Harbar



Public Hearing Information

 A Public Hearing will be held by the Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) Board of Directors during their meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024 at WTA, 4011 Bakerview Spur, Bellingham, WA.

• For more information please visit www.engage.ridewta.com/waterfront





whatcom council of governments

The Whatcom Crash Test is a community survey that will help inform the development of a **regional safety action plan** for the Whatcom region.

To learn more about WCOG's regional safety action plan, please visit:

wcog.org/regional-safety-action-plan

