



Fact Sheet: Clark County High Capacity Transit - Study Process

What is the Clark County High Capacity Transit System Study?

The Clark County High Capacity Transit (HCT) System Study will analyze a range of possible transit corridors and types of High Capacity Transit that could operate within those corridors. HCT includes bus rapid transit, streetcar, light rail, monorail, commuter rail, and other types of transit that move large numbers of people quickly and efficiently. All these types of HCT use a fixed guideway system, which means they use a track or lane that is separated from automobile traffic or – in the case of streetcars – use a defined track in a lane shared by automobiles. In Clark County, HCT can provide residents with an alternative to backups on congested roads and highways by traveling in an exclusive transit right of way. The study will take a fresh look at transit needs and possibilities in Clark County and find the most promising corridors and types of HCT: those that most effectively connect the community with the most important destinations.

Why is the study needed?

Clark County has grown significantly over the past 25 years and that growth is expected to continue. Although growth has resulted in economic prosperity, it has also outpaced transportation investment. This has resulted in significant increase in roadway congestion and travel delays throughout the county. This study will find ways to help maintain the growth and prosperity of Clark County by providing new options for travel between major population, employment, and activity centers.

Who is conducting the study?

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), along with local jurisdictions, is conducting this study of transit options for Clark County. The RTC Board is seeking a broad range of new ideas by gathering

input from Clark County residents, elected officials, community groups, and other interested parties.

How is the study funded?

The Clark County HCT System Study is funded by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant, with matching funds contributed by local jurisdictions and partner organizations. To assure eligibility for future funding from the FTA, this study follows FTA guidelines. These guidelines include finding feasible corridors for HCT, identifying transportation problems in those corridors and their underlying causes, finding options for addressing those problems and analyzing their costs and benefits.

How will the study be conducted?

The study will consider a wide range of HCT options and narrow them down to the most promising choices to meet Clark County's transit needs. To accomplish this, the study team will seek community ideas for new transit corridors and types of transit and identify the crucial connections needed between destinations in the county. The study will also analyze possible HCT types and produce a guide for local decision-makers that shows different transit types and locations and their associated benefits and costs.



Exclusive Bus Ramp in Puget Sound

The following steps will be included in the study process:

- Collect existing population, employment, land use and transportation planning, and other data to form a base of information about Clark County's transportation needs and challenges.
- Consult the project task force, other transit agencies, local elected officials, and Clark County residents for suggestions of corridors, types of transit, and community values to be considered in the study.
- Analyze travel patterns and find the best corridors for future transit options.
- Examine possible HCT choices and their opportunities and challenges if used along different corridors. Use both input from citizens and technical information to understand the pros and cons of different transit types.
- Provide decision-makers in Clark County with the knowledge they'll need to plan for the future. Present a fresh and updated guide to HCT options shaped by both technical analysis and community values.

How can I learn more or become involved with the study?

Input from the Clark County community is essential to the success of this study effort. You can get more information and share your comments in the following ways:

- Visit our Web site for an online comment form, fact sheets and other project information.
- Request a study briefing for your business or community group.
- Attend Sounding Board meetings and share your comments.
- Join the study e-mail list and receive periodic updates

Contact Information:

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Light Rail



Commuter Rail