

For Immediate Release

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**WTA ASSIGNS LARGER BUS TO ROUTE 71X
TO EVERSON, NOOKSACK AND SUMAS**

BELLINGHAM, October 22, 2008—WTA's Route 71X to Everson, Nooksack and Sumas will now feature a 30-foot, 30-seat bus on all departures.

Previously, 17-seat minibuses were used on several runs per day of Route 71X. WTA decided to dedicate a larger bus after sustained ridership increases caused overcrowding on some departures.

WTA's fixed route ridership for September 2008 is 46 percent higher than ridership in September 2007. Route 71X has seen a 54 percent increase in that same time frame.

Route 71X makes five trips per day to Bellingham. Like Route 72X which offers service to Kendall, Route 71X was introduced in 2002.

Prior to introducing these routes, WTA worked with community members to design a service particularly suited to Foothills communities. As a result of community input, Routes 71X and 72X became WTA's first "flex routes," or routes with timed stops at designated locations as well as built-in time to flex within a defined service area. For those who live within the defined area, flexing allows for WTA to pick people up and drop them off closer to their homes.

For route and schedule information, call 676-RIDE (7433).

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