

For Immediate Release

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WTA RIDERSHIP CONTINUES TO RISE

BELLINGHAM, November 11, 2008—WTA's Fixed Route ridership for October 2008 increased by 26 percent compared to October 2007. This represents an additional 120,490 boardings in 12 months.

October of 2007 was itself a record-breaking month for the agency, in which ridership increased by 27 percent. Therefore, when comparing October 2008 to October 2006, ridership has risen by 68 percent. During this same time period, WTA has increased service hours by 13 percent.

A review of October 2008 ridership data reveals that the smallest increase (22 percent) was on routes serving Western Washington University (WWU). Ridership on rural routes increased by 40 percent, and ridership on "GO Lines" increased by 24 percent. Ridership on all other routes—those in Bellingham which do not serve WWU and which do not offer 15-minute (or GO Line) frequency--increased by 36 percent.

In August of 2008, the Federal Transit Administration announced that WTA showed the highest ridership increase in the United States.

For route and schedule information, call 676-RIDE or visit www.ridewta.com .

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