



THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

POSTED: Friday, Mar. 18, 2011

WTA board approves route, service changes

JARED PABEN - THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Whatcom Transportation Authority board members voted to approve various route and service changes Thursday, March 17, including the resumption of Sunday service in Bellingham.

The board voted 9-0 to approve the following changes, in addition to restoring Sunday buses. The changes will go into effect June 12.

- Route 3 Maplewood/Cordata: Add a 7:40 a.m. departure that goes out of service at Cordata Station at 8:05 a.m. This is to better meet the Bellingham Technical College class times.
- Route 50 Gooseberry Point: Eliminate service on Bayon Road and on Marine Drive between Bayon and Country Lane. This is to improve on-time performance.
- Route 55X Blaine/Birch Bay: There are numerous changes to this "flex" route, which deviates from a fixed route, upon request.

They include: Expand the route south to Alderson Road; change the route's local service from on-demand flex, where the bus doesn't run a fixed route but responds to calls for service, to routed flex service, where it runs a fixed route but still responds to calls for route deviations; cut Portal Way just north of Ferndale as a flex area (routed service would remain); cut the route along Portal Way between Grandview and Birch Bay-Lynden roads because the narrow, bumpy stretch poses safety issues when passing large trucks or during icy conditions (the flex service to this area would remain); the first trip daily from Blaine will depart 20 minutes earlier.

- Route 70X Bellingham: The second morning arrival's end point will be at Bill McDonald Parkway and Samish Way, instead of Western Washington University's Viking Union.
- Route 72X Kendall: Serve Kendall-area neighborhoods in a consistent order regardless of time of day, starting with Oregon Trail, Peaceful Valley and then Paradise Lakes.

- Route 512 Sudden Valley: End the special service to the Whatcom Hills Waldorf School that's done on the 2:40 p.m. weekday trip, because of on-time issues with the route.

Reach JARED PABEN at jared.paben@bellinghamherald.com or call 715-2289. Read his Traffic Blog at blogs.bellinghamherald.com/traffic.

Read more: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/03/18/1921711/wta-board-approves-route-service.html#ixzz1GycBa4Ie>