



REVISED PRESS RELEASE

Temporarily Reduced Bus Service Begins April 1

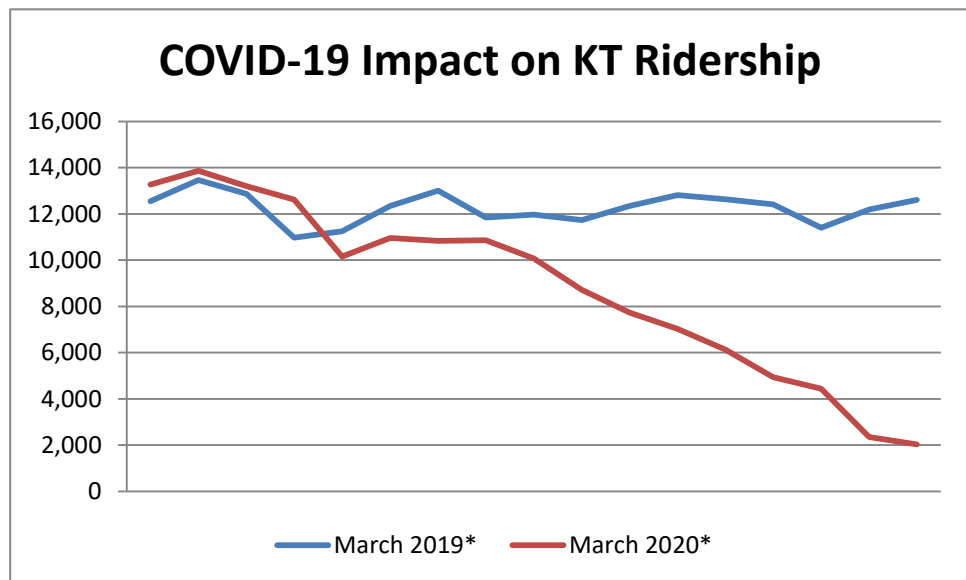
March 31, 2020

Contact: Sanjay Bhatt, Kitsap Transit Marketing & Public Information Director
360-824-4926, sanjayb@kitsaptransit.com

Note: An earlier version of this release stated the service change would begin April 6. Due to a shortage of operators, the service change has been moved up to Wednesday, April 1.

BREMERTON – Starting on Wednesday, April 1, Kitsap Transit is reducing Routed bus services temporarily by more than 30 percent until further notice in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on ridership and operations. No cuts will be made to the local or fast ferry schedules.

Just as other transits in the Greater Seattle area have seen steep losses in ridership, total weekday boardings on Kitsap Transit’s Routed buses are down about 83 percent from the last week of February, before social-distancing measures and a mandatory state-at-home order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.



“I’m committed to ensuring our transit-dependent customers, particularly those who need access to health care and groceries, are served during this public-health emergency,” said Executive Director John Clauson. “At the same time, I have a duty to operate Kitsap Transit in a fiscally responsible and environmentally sustainable manner.”

Eight bus routes will be entirely suspended, while customers will notice less frequency on the rest of the fixed routes. The following bus routes will be suspended on April 1:

- Route 22 – Gateway Express
- Route 81 – Annapolis Commuter
- Route 91 – Kingston/Bainbridge
- Route 92 – Kingston/Suquamish
- Route 229 – Trenton Commuter
- Route 234 – Kitsap Mall/Bangor
- Route 333 – Silverdale/Bainbridge
- Route 338 – Gateway/Bainbridge Express

The Park & Ride lot at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino also closes on March 31 until further notice.

The temporarily reduced service schedules are posted at <http://KitsapTransit.com/COVID-19>. Bus schedules have been adjusted to take into account Washington State Ferries' switch this week to one-boat schedules on its Bainbridge Island and Bremerton routes.

First responders and health-care workers affected by Kitsap Transit's service reduction who need transportation assistance can contact 360-479-7272.

Kitsap Transit strongly recommends customers use the Kitsap Transit Tracker mobile app to see if their bus is operating and its estimated time of arrival; customers using a web browser can visit <http://kitsap.doublemap.com/map/>. To learn how to use the app, visit KitsapTransit.com/TrackMyRide.

Kitsap Transit is issuing refunds to customers who purchased April passes. Contact Customer Service at 1.800.515.RIDE for more information.

Worker/Driver services have been operating temporary routes since March 23. Passenger loads are limited to 22 people in order to maintain 6 feet of distance between persons as recommended by public-health authorities. Additional buses can pick up anyone left behind to prevent crowding. For details on the Worker/Driver temporary routes, please visit KitsapTransit.com/service/workerdriver-buses.

The rest of Kitsap Transit's services will continue to operate their normal schedules.

As previously announced, Kitsap Transit has restricted passenger loads on all of its ferry sailings to 46 persons and is giving priority to health-care workers and first responders. The Bremerton Fast Ferry's reservations system also is suspended until further notice; customers do not need to cancel any unused reservations in the system.

The summer fast-ferry schedule (Saturday sailings) slated to begin in early May has been postponed until further notice.

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders in 2018 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Hablar español?

Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

Nagsasalita ka ba ng Tagalog?

Paki-tawagan ang numero 1-800-501-7433 normal na oras ng trabaho. Customer Service kawani ay kumonekta sa isang taga interpretor upang tulungan sagutin ang iyong katanungan.