



GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGY

Federal Transit Administration's
Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge
April 2022

Island Transit serves Whidbey and Camano Islands in Island County. The mission of Island Transit is to provide safe, accessible, convenient, and friendly public transportation services which enhance our Island quality of life.

ISLAND TRANSIT GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGY

Commitment to Decarbonization: Island Transit is a signatory to the Federal Transit Administration's *Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge*. As such, Island Transit is committed to achieving significant greenhouse gas reduction goals. This commitment includes developing a plan to achieve a complete transition to a zero-emission fleet no later than July 2040. Island Transit recognizes that time is of the essence to address climate change. Accordingly, Island Transit will work to complete this transition as soon as possible.

Planning underway: Island Transit has begun the work to decarbonize its bus fleet. Island Transit recently issued a Request for Proposals to complete a zero-emission vehicle feasibility study in the next few months. This study has several purposes:

- To evaluate which zero-emission propulsion system will work best for Island Transit's unique operating needs and rural, island environment.
- To develop a Fleet Transition Plan to achieve a 100% zero-emission fleet as soon as possible, but no later than July 2040. This completion date will be adjusted forward to reflect the timeline developed in the Fleet Transition Plan and is subject to Board approval.
- To set forth the procurement schedule and zero-emission vehicle type/s for future vehicle purchases which will be used to update Island Transit's *Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP)*. Island Transit will resume vehicle procurements once this plan is in place and will procure zero-emission vehicles according to its schedule.
- To provide a baseline and criteria to measure progress towards this zero-emission vehicle goal.

Investments to support this strategy: Island Transit has the capacity to complete this transition over time. This includes:

- The **reserves** to fund the local match required for anticipated federal grants, for the purchase of zero-emission vehicles and supporting infrastructure.
- Several federal and state **funding opportunities**, including low-no and bus and bus facilities grants awarded annually, as well as new state funding, to implement this transition.
- **\$7 million** in state funds specifically awarded to Island Transit to support the agency's transition to zero-emission vehicles. These project-specific funds were awarded in the Move Ahead Washington investment package signed into law earlier this year.

- Island Transit **funds budgeted** for bus replacements and to build a new zero-emission vehicle transit center on the south end of Whidbey Island.
- The installation of **solar panels** at the two Island Transit operating bases. These panels will significantly reduce the agency's need for electricity from the local grid. Ellensburg Solar has been retained to complete this work, which will begin this spring. Island Transit received a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to fund a portion of this work.
- The establishment of an employee-led **Green Team** which focuses on ways to increase the sustainability of our day-to-day in-house business practices.
- The planned acquisition of **two battery-electric vehicles** and charging facilities to implement the agency's first new on-demand service pilot. The lessons from this pilot will inform future purchases of zero-emission vehicles for this new service type.