



# 2015 State Agency Commute Trip Reduction Program Report

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## Goals of the program:

- Reduce drive alone trips and vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Reduce congestion
- Reduce energy consumption

## Strategies to improve state agency CTR programs in 2016:

- Evaluate SAFE Ride and STAR Pass programs
- Engage community partners to determine how best to promote reductions in drive alone and congestion levels
- Partner with agencies to promote telework and the mobile workforce

In 2009 the Washington state legislature passed the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) for State Agencies Act, (RCW 70.94.547) which aims to increase the leadership role of state agencies in reducing drive alone trips. Since this legislation, state government has seen many positive changes. In support of these efforts, Governor Inslee issued Executive Order 14-02, relating to telework policies and new technologies being implemented in state agencies. The intent is to reduce travel – either while working or by commuting. Less travel leads to less congestion and cleaner air, supporting many of Governor Inslee’s goals in Results Washington.

Two programs that have consistently supported state agency implementation of CTR are the State Agency Rider (STAR) Pass and the State Agency Free Ride Home (SAFE) program. Both programs are funded by the parking fees paid by state employees.

**SAFE Ride Home** supports employees who choose alternatives to driving alone. It provides a taxi ride in the event that the employee must leave work unexpectedly due to a personal emergency during the work day. Personal emergencies include a sick child, unscheduled overtime, or the illness of a carpool or vanpool driver. SAFE Ride provided 155 rides in 2014 to state employees in Thurston County.

**The STAR Pass** is available to all employees who work at state agencies located in Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater, allowing them to ride fare-free on any Intercity Transit route.

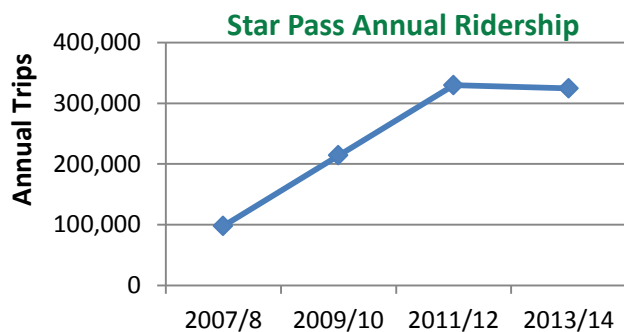
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For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO’s Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7082.

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The chart at the left shows the number of annual trips taken by STAR Pass holders. The data is provided by Intercity Transit and is based on a count that is done three times a year and then averaged out to get the annual number of trips taken.

WSDOT along with our partners plans to evaluate both the STAR Pass and SAFE Ride programs, to ensure they are serving the needs of employees and the goals of the CTR program.

## Partnership & Innovation

### Strategies that contribute to reduced trips

The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) serves as the lead agency for CTR on behalf of the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, as well as Thurston County. TRPC, WSDOT and Intercity Transit work together to support both Employee Transportation Coordinators and managers at state worksites. TRPC provides training and networking opportunities, data and analysis, marketing and promotional activities, presentations to state employees and to management. Intercity Transit also hosts “here to there” fairs for hands-on trip planning and information.

In addition, TRPC supports initiatives such as the update of the Public Transportation Plan, the Governor’s Executive Order on Telework, and other regional trip reduction strategies.

### Telework

In March 2014, Governor Inslee issued Executive Order 14-02, Expanding Telework and Flexible Work Hours Program. This executive order calls for state agencies and higher education institutions to take a leadership role in increasing employee use of telework and flexible work hours arrangements. It sets statewide targets for employee participation in telework and flexible work hours programs. Agencies are required to have telework and flexible work hour policies, and to provide copies of these policies to the State Department of Enterprise Services.

To support this effort, several statewide tools and resources were developed for agencies and institutions, including policy and program recommendations. Many agencies are in the process of developing or updating their policies and programs, and reporting on successes and barriers. A biennial report to the Governor in 2016 will assess progress towards the participation rate targets, agency policies, and successes and barriers.

### The Mobile Workforce

The state is striving to create efficient, purpose-driven, and modern workplaces. The state’s Office of Financial Management has pulled together a cross-governmental team of leaders and experts from around the state, providing guidance and expertise on subjects like facilities, information technology, and human resources to support this effort.

About a dozen agencies are implementing pilots focused on people, place and connectivity. Strategies like full time teleworking, mobile work centers, shared workspaces, workspaces designed for collaboration and use of online tools and mobile technologies are being considered. These strategies can contribute to an efficient government workforce that doesn't rely on drive alone trips to get to the office.

These innovative approaches can help agencies achieve organizational goals like recruiting and retaining employees, increasing productivity and performance, fostering an engaging work environment, supporting health and wellness, ensuring continuity of operations, and reducing facilities costs and our environmental footprint.

## State employees commuting by the numbers

WSDOT collects and analyzes data from the biennial CTR survey. This survey shows how state employees get to work. The primary measurements are vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and drive alone rates; however, WSDOT measures much more. The 2013/14 survey cycle contains the most complete set of data, which is reported below.

According to data, drive alone rates and vehicle miles traveled remained steady for state employees in 2014.

Telework is one element of CTR that continues to grow as managerial support for its expansion increases. The increase of technology in our daily lives also points to the idea that remote working can support additional trip reduction.

WSDOT will continue to partner with agencies to promote telework and other innovative approaches to reducing trips.

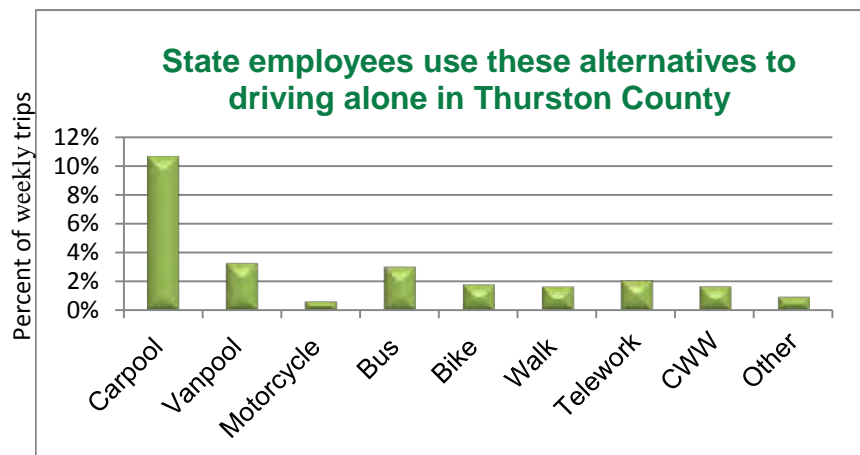


Chart does not include drive alone trips



26 percent of state employees used alternatives to driving alone in 2014

State employees biked 21 percent more than they did in 2007



Telework increased from 1.37 percent to 2.10 percent from 2007 to 2014

1,465 (10.67 percent) of employees who responded to the survey reported carpooling to work

