



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

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James Robert Deal, Attorney PLLC
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Dear Mr. Deal,

Thank you for your recent letter outlining solutions to provide people access, transit agencies greater efficiencies and overall reduced traffic congestion. Transportation issues are complex and implementing a solution is often challenging. It is critical that you and others continue to engage in thinking about the problems and meaningful, effective solutions.

While some of the ideas you suggest have been implemented in the Puget Sound region, as I mention below, I think that it is important to suggest ways that you can engage in the transportation dialogue and effectively offer ideas. Let me propose a couple ways through which you could participate:

1. The Washington State Public Transportation Plan is currently being developed. This plan is intended to help integrate public transportation into a comprehensive transportation system. The Washington State Transit Association (WSTA) has organized a vanpool committee which is represented in developing the plan through Carolyn Newsome (Intercity Transit). I recommend that you work with WSTA to present your ideas to the Vanpool Committee and through the committee offer recommendations for the statewide plan. I have spoken to Carolyn about your letter and she is interested in speaking with you and helping to facilitate the discussion. Her number is (360) 705-5829.
2. On your local level, Community Transit operates a vanpool program. I have also spoken with them about your letter. Dawn Kirsch, (425) 348-2311, manages their vanpool program and is the appropriate person with whom to discuss vanpool opportunities and innovation.

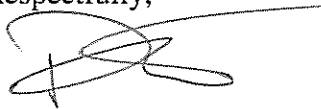
The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and our numerous partners constantly evaluate options for creating a better, more effective and efficient transportation system. Some ideas are thought to be viable and are developed into a pilot project for testing and evaluation; other ideas immediately become standard practice, still others do not lend themselves to implementation and remain interesting ideas.

An example of a pilot that moved into implementation is King County Metro's (KCM) VanShare program. This application of vanpooling uses vanpool vehicles to serve the short distance commuting needs of individuals traveling from a multimodal transit facility (e.g., ferries, park-n-rides, Sounder stations, etc.) to their employment location. This strategy has been very successful. As of May 2013, KCM operates 121 VanShare vehicles in King County.

KCM attempted this same concept for trips originating in neighborhoods and traveling to transit facilities. Even though this application has not yet proven effective, KCM continues to look for viable neighborhoods to test the concept. KCM plans on implementing again with the benefit of knowledge gained by a failed test, in one or more other neighborhoods within its service area.

Once again thank you for sharing your ideas with WSDOT. The Department appreciates your interest and thoughtful suggestions to improve mobility and expand existing transportation options for residents of our state.

Respectfully,



Brian Lagerberg, Director
WSDOT Public Transportation Division

cc: HQ Customer Service (WSDOT)
Carolyn Newsome (Intercity Transit)
Dawn Kirsch (Community Transit)