

SKAGIT TRANSIT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

GOAL: Skagit Transit shall comply with the public participation requirements of State and Federal grantors or other authorities. Skagit Transit seeks to engage the public in an ongoing dialog regarding our operations and plans. Public participation will be encouraged through a proactive public involvement process and due consideration will be given to comments made by the public.

The “public” as used in this policy includes (but is not limited to): any interested citizen; transit users; affected public agencies; representatives of transportation agency employees; private transportation providers; nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups

USAGE: A Public Participation Process will be required

- ✓ During the development and approval of plans and programs;
- ✓ For Federal grant funded projects;
- ✓ When major reductions in service or increases to existing fare structure are proposed;
- ✓ As needed, any time public participation is sought.

PUBLIC PROCESS procedures will include:

- 1) Early and continuing involvement of the public in developing SKAT’s plans and projects through outreach to users and other affected groups.
- 2) Timely public notice of proposed plans or projects.
- 3) Wide publication of notice with additional measures taken to reach identified minority or special needs communities.
- 4) Public access to information and details regarding the proposed plans or projects.
- 5) Solicitation of public comment.
- 6) Opportunity for a public hearing.
- 7) Due consideration by SKAT of public comment.
- 8) Public access to final approved plan or decision.
- 9) Periodic review of the effectiveness of the public participation process.