Transit, ferry and vanpool ridership

Light rail leads increase in transit ridership

Total boardings on all fixed route transit continued to increase in the first three months of 2017, marking the seventh straight year of increased transit ridership in the central Puget Sound region.

In all, first quarter boardings were 2.5% higher than the first three months of 2016 and are up over 16% since 2010.

Sound Transit’s Link light rail boardings increased 66% in the first three months of 2017, a result of the three additional station openings at Capitol Hill, University of Washington and Angle Lake. Total bus boardings across the region declined slightly in the first three months of 2017.

How are the ferries doing?

Ferry ridership is seasonal in nature and is also heavily influenced by recreational use. The record-setting wet weather during first three months of 2017 likely was a factor in a 3.7% decline in ferry ridership.

The decrease follows five straight years of ridership growth on the regional ferry system. Winter is generally the lowest ridership period for ferries and we will continue to track ferry ridership through the busy spring and summer months to see if this early trend continues.
What about vanpools?

Vanpool use in the central Puget Sound region is higher than any other place in the country and increased approximately 2.6% in the first three months of 2017. Vanpool use is heavily influenced by gas prices and was down slightly in 2015 but has continued to rebound upward in the past few years. In all, vanpool use in the first three months of 2017 was up almost 11% since 2010.

What’s next?

In summer we will see what ridership looked like for the first half of 2017 compared to years past. With the wet weather finally wrapping up, we will see how regional ferry and transit use has changed.