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## All transit routes now free for youth riders

SHELTON, WA—Mason Transit is now fare free to riders 18 years and younger on all routes including those that go beyond Mason County.

People of all ages ride fare free within Mason County, but the new policy provides youth with free transit to Bremerton, Olympia and other out-of-county destinations. Previously youth had to pay \$1.50 one-way for out-of-county trips.

"The fare change encourages young people to use transit and improves their access to schools, jobs and other resources," said Amy Asher, general manager of Mason Transit. "It's an immediate benefit to young people and offers long-term benefits to the community by helping create life-long transit habits that reduce traffic and infrastructure demands."

The fare change was funded by a state transportation package approved earlier this year which provides long-term support to make transit free for Washington youth. Other local transit agencies, including Intercity Transit and Kitsap Transit also are fare-free for young riders.

More information Mason Transit's routes and fares can be found at MasonTransit.org.

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<u>Mason Transit Authority</u> serves the Mason County community and connects with area transit systems including Grays Harbor Transit, Intercity Transit (Thurston County), Jefferson Transit, Kitsap Transit, Squaxin Island Transit and Sound Transit, which in turn provides connections to the ferries, Amtrak and Greyhound service. **You can go anywhere from here!** Mason Transit Authority is a partner in the Health & Safety Commitments Program of The American Public Transportation Association.