

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia County Rider Begins New Inter-City Service Between Rainier and St. Helens

Beginning February 1st, Columbia County Rider began operating a Flex-Route between St. Helens and Rainier. The decision to start this new intercity service was based on the updated Community-wide Transit planning, rider requests and increasing demands by riders to get from North County to medical appointments, state services and fixed route service in St. Helens.

The Flex-Route bus operates on a 90 minute schedule beginning at 8:30 am serving stops at the Rainier Transit center, Rainier Senior Center, Lindberg Store, Prescott, Goble Marina, Deer Island Store, Columbia City Mini-Mart, Columbia City Hall, Columbia Commons – St. Helens.

This FlexRoute connects at the Columbia Commons stop with our South County FlexRoute serving 14 stops in the Scappoose and St. Helens areas. Transfers between the two routes are free. FlexRoutes have a small amount of extra time built into their schedules to allow for short trip deviations to better serve the elderly and disabled passengers who may have difficulty getting to the FlexRoute bus stops. In addition, this new service offer connections to our Fixed Route buses from St. Helens to Portland and PCC Rock Creek/ Willow Creek, and our Westport to Longview / Kelso route, which offers connections to the Oregon Coast via Sunset Empire Transportation.

The cost for riding our FlexRoute buses is \$1.50 per boarding. For further information you can visit our website at www.columbiacountyrider.com or call our dispatch center at 503-366-0159.