WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Western Washington University / Whatcom Transportation Authority Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Update

Board of Trustees
August 14, 2009

This universal bus pass program provides a quarterly bus pass to all WWU students enrolled with 6 credits or more (Viking Xpress Pass). This program was implemented in the 2007/2008 academic year. The universal bus pass program is a part of the Alternative Transportation Program that also provides the late night shuttle and administrative staffing through the Alternative Transportation Fee, approved by the Board of Trustees in 2007.

The agreement is for three academic years beginning September 1, 2009 and ending August 31, 2012.

The agreement continues to provide the WWU Student Late-Night Shuttle a specific public right-of-way corridor approved by WTA.

Payments are as follows for the next three years:

2009/2010 = $606,527 (7.9% Increase)
2010/2011 = $660,043 (8.8% Increase)
2011/2012 = $731,844 (10.7% Increase)

WWU paid WTA its first year 2007/2008: $535,170, and in 2008/2009: $561,928.

The agreement followed a difficult and protracted negotiation between WTA and Western (including representatives from the Associated Students Board of Directors and Business and Financial Affairs), due to the sizeable fare increase at issue. A 25% increase goes into effect October 1, 2009 for WTA general fares. This will allow the student fee to remain at $25 per quarter for the duration of the three year contract. The negotiated agreement guarantees no fare increases in 2010/2011 or 2011/2012, and achieves a roughly equivalent fare increase to the general fares over three fiscal years.