



Snoqualmie Valley Transportation  
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### **Valley cities celebrate launch of Duvall-Monroe Shuttle**

With plenty of praise and applause to go around, the cities of Duvall and Monroe, King County Metro and several local agencies celebrated the launch of the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle Friday morning, Aug. 17.

At gatherings in Duvall's Depot Park and the Monroe YMCA, officials including King County Metro General Manager Rob Gannon, Snohomish County's Community Transit CEO Emmett Heath, Hopelink CEO Lauren Thomas, Duvall Mayor Amy Ockerlander and Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas welcomed the new bus service, connecting the two cities since Aug. 1.

The long-awaited service is a one-year pilot project of the Snoqualmie Valley Transportation Coalition, and it has already served more than 35 people, event organizer Brittany Krein of Hopelink announced at each celebration.

Hopelink CEO Lauren Thomas was outspoken about the improvement the service represented to public transportation users, who previously took several buses, and many hours to travel between the two cities.

"It used to be four hours – half a day," she said. "Now, it's 15 or 20 minutes, and it costs a dollar... If that isn't the definition of access, I think it should be."

Metro General Manager Rob Gannon also had praise for the service, and the cooperative effort it represented, bringing agencies from two counties together to solve this problem. Connecting larger communities that already have lots of service is what people know Metro for, he said, and "It's a special kind of challenge for us to think about how we connect the places that aren't already well-connected, and more importantly, the people."

Gannon particularly thanked King County Councilwoman Kathy Lambert for her tireless advocacy on behalf of the Snoqualmie Valley and her largely rural district, saying her demands for improved service in the area were "a wake-up call" for him.

He also thanked Snoqualmie Valley Transportation Director Amy Biggs for helping him to better understand the needs of the Snoqualmie Valley. Snoqualmie Valley Transportation operates the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle.

Gannon said, "She really described the transportation challenges that the area was experiencing, but also the real people who relied on us," which highlighted the need for improved services.

The new shuttle, he concluded, "is what Metro service should look like here."

Instead of a ribbon-cutting to commemorate the service's launch, both celebrations featured the shuttle bus driving through a banner, held by key officials involved in creating the route.

The Duvall-Monroe Shuttle is one of the first projects of the Snoqualmie Valley Transportation Coalition, a joint venture of Hopelink, Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, Easterseals, King County Metro Transit's Community Access Transportation program, SNOTRAC, the Snoqualmie Tribe and the valley cities of Monroe, Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie and North Bend. The coalition, funded by an Easterseals grant, formed in the fall of 2017 to improve public transportation options in the Snoqualmie Valley.

NEW: In order for the coalition to continue operations and develop a five-year strategic plan for transportation in the Snoqualmie Valley, additional support must be secured. Find out how you can support the coalition and its work at [www.svtbus.org](http://www.svtbus.org).

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For more information about the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle, including a route schedule and map, visit [www.svtbus.org](http://www.svtbus.org). Find maps and schedules at [www.svtbus.org](http://www.svtbus.org), or call 425-888-7001.

#### PHOTOS AND CUTLINES:



Amy Biggs, Director of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, speaks with Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas during the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle launch celebration Friday. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



Duvall Mayor Amy Ockerlander, left, addressed a small group at the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle launch celebration Friday. Also pictured are Brittany Krein, Hopelink, and Rob Gannon, King County Metro General Manager. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



King County Metro staffers Dani Hurla and Penny Lara offer giveaways and information to guests at the launch party. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



Officials hold a banner for the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle bus to drive through. Pictured from left are Duvall Mayor Amy Ockerlander, Hopelink CEO Lauren Thomas, and right, King County Metro General Manager Rob Gannon and Snoqualmie Valley Transportation Director Amy Biggs. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



Staff and officials from Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, King County Metro, the Snoqualmie Tribe, Hopelink and the city of Duvall celebrate the launch of the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



Holding the banner welcoming the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle are from left: Everett Transit Director Tom Hingson, King County Metro General Manager Rob Gannon, Monroe City Councilman Jim Kamp, and Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, and Community Transit Director Emmett Heath. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



Staff and officials from Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, King County Metro, the Snoqualmie Tribe, Hopelink and the city of Monroe celebrate the launch of the Duvall-Monroe Shuttle. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)



King County Metro General Manager Rob Gannon spoke at both the Duvall and Monroe celebrations of the new Duvall-Monroe Shuttle Friday. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Valley Transportation)