



Snoqualmie Valley Transportation
PO Box 806
1308 Boalch Ave NW
North Bend, WA 98045

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Free bus trips; Snoqualmie Valley Transportation launches Summer Freedom program again this year

Summer weather may not have arrived yet, but Summer Freedom, the free-rides-for-youth program from Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, is here, and has been in operation since June 1. The program, which provided more than 1,200 rides to Valley students last year, allows anyone 18 or younger to take any of the buses in the system at no cost.

“They can use the entire system, the Valley Shuttle, door-to-door service, or the circulator [Loop] routes to downtown, Cedar Falls, and Rattlesnake Lake,” said SVT Director Amy Biggs. “The goal of this is just to help Valley youth get to where they need to go.”

Right now, all SVT bus services are fare-free, in response to the area’s shutdown for public health concerns. Following King County Metro’s example, SVT stopped collecting fares March 30, and won’t re-instate the fare collections until Metro does so. Donations are still accepted, however.

Regular ridership on SVT buses is actually down about 30 percent from typical for this time of year, Biggs said, possibly because business shutdowns for public health concerns have reduced the number of commuters. She expects ridership to increase, though, as people look for ways to save money during extended unemployment, while others will be going back to work soon, as King County re-opens.

Even with the ridership decrease, Biggs said, “We do have a lot of new riders. It’s definitely cheaper to take a free bus than it is to fix your car.”

All riders will be asked to wear a face mask while on the bus, Biggs said, also for public health reasons.

“We are strongly advising folks to wear a mask,” she said. The SVT drivers will provide masks for riders if they don’t have them, she added. SVT has received 500 disposable surgical masks from Metro and 250 cloth masks from Seattle Mask Brigade, to distribute to riders who will use them.

For more information on Snoqualmie Valley Transportation, route maps, and schedules, visit www.svtbus.org. For help scheduling a trip, call 425-888-7001.

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About Snoqualmie Valley Transportation: Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (SVT), is the local bus system serving Snoqualmie Valley. Funded by King County Metro Transit, Snoqualmie Tribe, WSDOT, and donations, SVT provides a variety of local-only bus services, in North Bend, Snoqualmie, Fall City, Preston, Carnation, Duvall and Monroe. More information about Snoqualmie Valley Transportation can be found on at: <http://svtbus.org> or by calling 425-888-7001.