



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Eight operators with extraordinary safe driving records to be honored**

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*NOTE: Interviews with bus operators can be arranged upon request. Photos of the bus drivers are available as well.*

BREMERTON, Wash. – At its Jan. 3 board meeting, Kitsap Transit plans to recognize eight of the agency’s bus operators who have racked up extraordinary safe driving records – 20 or more consecutive or cumulative years of preventable accident-free driving.

The drivers will receive cash awards between \$125 and \$500, depending on the number of accident-free driving years and whether those years run consecutively or are cumulative. Collectively, the eight operators will receive a total of \$1,500, as well as individual trophies and framed certificates.

“It’s so important that we recognize the exceptional driving records of these operators and express our appreciation for keeping our passengers and community safe,” said Paul Shinnors, Kitsap Transit’s finance director.

This is the first time Kitsap Transit has participated in the Accident-Free Driving Recognition Program sponsored by the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP). The average vehicle accident costs the transit insurance pool \$9,900, not including the transit agency’s burden of accident investigation costs, bus down time, service disruption, and diminished public confidence.

“This really is a remarkable accomplishment,” Shinnors said. “There are so many challenges that are inherent in operating a bus for public transit: These operators drive thousands of miles in all driving conditions, keeping constant alert for other cars and pedestrians, while maintaining a tight schedule and ensuring that our passengers arrive safely and on time.”

The eight operators being recognized for accident-free driving records through June 30 of this year are as follows:

- Valerie Quill – 29 consecutive years

- Paul Goodwin – 28 cumulative years
- Larry James – 26 cumulative years
- Douglas Bauer – 23 consecutive years
- Larry Carbaugh – 21 consecutive years
- Sandra VanWagoner – 21 consecutive years
- John Scott – 20 consecutive years
- Daniel Todd – 20 consecutive years

Under WSTIP’s program, drivers are eligible to win cash awards in progressively higher amounts based on years of service. For drivers with 20 to 24 consecutive years with no preventable accidents, they’re eligible for \$200 awards; 25-29 years, \$250; 30-34 years, \$300; and \$500 for 35 or more years of service. Those drivers who had preventable accidents but otherwise racked up a cumulative 25 to 29 accident-free years receive \$125; 30 to 34 years, \$150; and \$250 for 35 or more years of service.

“To not have an accident in 20-plus years – 29 in one case – is incredible,” said John Clauson, Kitsap Transit’s executive director. “That to me shows the professionalism we have in our operators, and certainly I am very proud to be part of that team.”

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### **About Kitsap Transit**

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The Bremerton-based transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.8 million riders last year across a multi-modal system of routed buses, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, worker/driver buses and a passenger-only ferry service.