![Kitsap Transit - Connecting Communities]

PRESS RELEASE

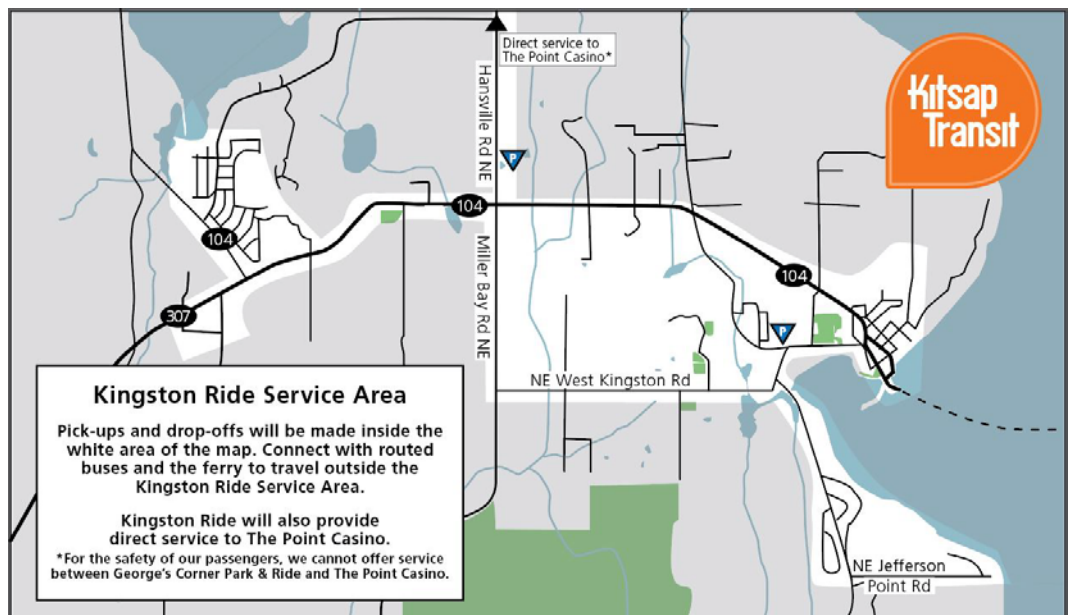# New Kingston Ride service builds on success of BI, SK Rides

May 15, 2017
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BREMERTON, Wash. – Kitsap Transit will debut a new dial-a-ride service in the Kingston area that builds on the success of pilot projects elsewhere in Kitsap County where the agency does not run routed service.

Kingston Ride, which launches on June 5, is a shared-ride transit option serving areas of North Kitsap, including downtown Kingston, George's Corner, Gamblewood and The Point Casino. Like Kitsap Transit's BI Ride and SK Ride, Kingston Ride offers the public on-demand transit with curb-to-curb service during off-peak hours. Regular fare is $2, while reduced fare is $1.

The new service will run Monday through Friday. Service starts at the Kingston Ferry at 8 a.m. with the last pick-up at 4 p.m. Riders can call 1-844-475-7433 to schedule a ride up to seven days in advance, or use the TapRide mobile app to hail the bus driver within one

Kingston Ride Service Area

Pick-ups and drop-offs will be made inside the white area of the map. Connect with routed buses and the ferry to travel outside the Kingston Ride Service Area.

Kingston Ride will also provide direct service to The Point Casino.

*For the safety of our passengers, we cannot offer service between George's Corner Park & Ride and The Point Casino.

to two hours of their planned departure.

The community can learn about the new service, watch a demonstration of the TapRide app, and meet the driver of the new bus service at a meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Village Green Community Center at 26159 Dulay Road Northeast.

The bus will meet riders at the closest intersection to their requested pick-up spot but will not go up driveways or dead-end streets. Stops are made only within the service area, and all rides must start and end within the service area. Kingston Ride also connects riders to the Kingston Ferry Terminal, #91 Kingston/Bainbridge and #92 Kingston/Suquamish; routed bus riders can transfer to Kingston Ride at those connection points as well.

During the month of June, the public can try Kingston Ride without having to pay the fare, as is the agency's policy whenever it launches a service after the first of the month.
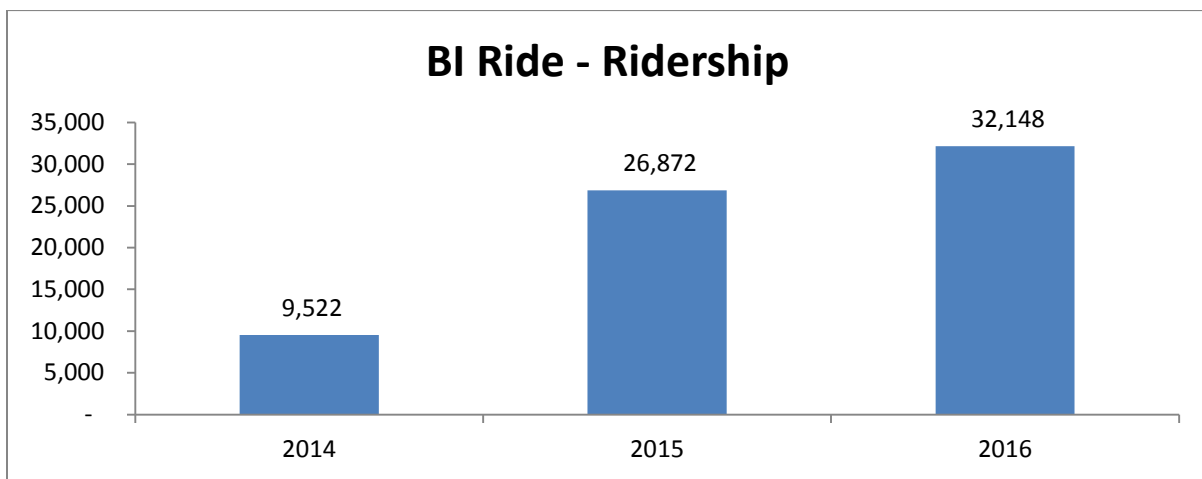
Kitsap Transit is launching Kingston Ride following the success of its BI Ride and SK Ride services.

BI Ride

BI Ride runs on Bainbridge Island, meets mid-day Bainbridge ferries, and makes scheduled stops at the ferry terminal (departures only), Bloedel Reserve and Lynwood Center. Launched in 2008, the service initially ran Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and required customer registration and reservations the day before.

In June 2014, the service was re-launched to allow same-day scheduling of rides without registration, and hours were expanded to run Monday through Saturday. The City of Bainbridge Island promoted the new service. Riders hail the service by hopping on the bus or calling 1-844-4BI-RIDE. On weekdays, pickups begin at 9:15 a.m. and on Saturdays, 10:35 a.m.

Ridership on BI Ride has grown exponentially since its re-launch. In the first three months of this year, the service's ridership was 7,947, compared to 6,847 in the same period last year.

For more information, go to http://www.kitsaptransit.com/service/routed-buses/bi-ride.

SK Ride

This South Kitsap dial-a-ride service was launched in November 2015, building on the lessons of BI Ride but with a new twist: SK Ride users can hail their bus using a mobile app called TapRide, available for download from Google Play Store or Apple AppStore.

On weekdays, SK Ride operates from 5:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., with direct trips to the Port Orchard foot ferry before 8 a.m. On Saturdays, SK Ride runs from 10:25 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stops are made only within the service area, which includes McCormick Woods, Sunnyslope, Bremerton National Airport, Olympic View Industrial Park, The Ridge, and McCormick Meadows. SK Ride also connects riders to the #4 Tremont, #5 Sidney, #8 Bethel, and the Bremerton Airporter at Sedgwick 76 station. Routed bus riders can transfer to SK Ride at those connection points as well.

Ridership on SK Ride has been growing: In 2016, its first full year, the service had 3,164 riders. In the first three months of this year, ridership was 1,494, compared to 659 in the same period a year ago.

For more information, go to http://www.kitsaptransit.com/service/routed-buses/sk-ride.

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 3.5 million riders last year across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

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