

July 2025



# MONTHLY UPDATE



## News & Announcements



### CEO Announcement

On Thursday, July 17, the STA Board of Directors voted to confirm Karl Otterstrom as the agency's next Chief Executive Officer. Otterstrom, who currently serves as STA's Interim Co-CEO and Chief Planning & Development Officer, will assume his new role in August.

[Read more](#)



# Double Deckers Roll Toward Service

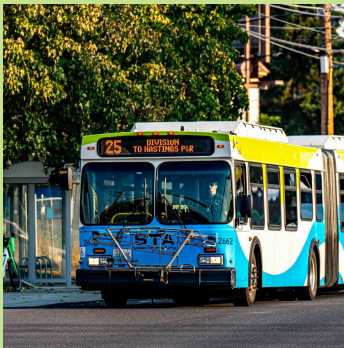
STA's double deckers are rolling closer to service following a summer of community connection, including a "Golden Ticket Hunt," the Cheney Rodeo Parade, and a special tour with members of STA's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

[Read more](#)



## Division Street BRT Update

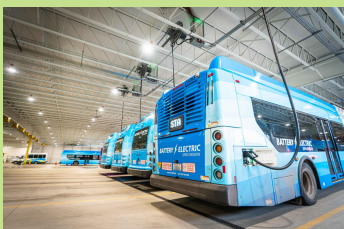
In August, STA will submit its request for evaluation and rating for a federal 5309 Capital Investment Grant Small Starts project to secure additional federal funding. Additionally, the FTA will review the project's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and conduct Simplified Trips-on-Project Software (STOPS) modeling to evaluate the corridor's current and future ridership. At their July 24 meeting, the STA Board approved an amended Locally Preferred Alternative and advanced the project's initial phase while further refining the scope of the project's future phases.



## TDP Adopted

The STA Board adopted the 2026-2031 Transit Development Plan (TDP) by resolution on July 24, approving the Capital Improvement Program and Service Improvement Program within it. Many of these investments are delivering on initiatives within STA's strategic plan, *Connect 2035*. This action will advance programs, projects, and service plans into the next budget cycle. Highlights include:

- Delivering the first phase of Division Street BRT between downtown Spokane and Hastings Park & Ride to improve mobility and safety while supporting economic development in the corridor.
- Construction of Argonne Station Park & Ride followed by service revisions in Spokane Valley to extend service to new areas.
- Investments in employee facilities, including a training facility and bus operator restrooms at key locations.
- On a pilot basis, introducing service to new areas using smaller vehicles ("mobility on demand").
- More charging infrastructure for battery-electric buses.
- Design and construction of a new clean energy campus to prepare for STA's next phase of



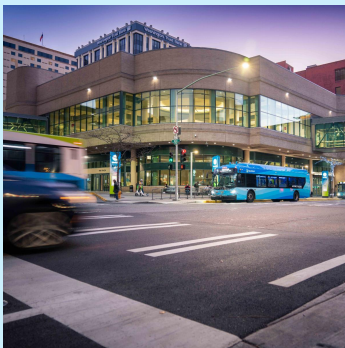
## Rider Interest



### Into the Fire

What seemed like another ordinary shift for Coach Operator Michelle “Shelly” Beach quickly became an afternoon of quick decisions and quiet heroism. After brush fires broke out near Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC) on Tuesday, July 8, Beach was on standby when STA’s Dispatch called on her to help with evacuation efforts.

[Read more](#)



### Roof Construction at Plaza

Construction on the roof at STA Plaza will start August 11 and last until late September. The project will give STA another 30 years of protection and increase insulation, leading to reduced energy consumption and maintenance costs while improving efficiency. Construction will occur between 10 pm and 4 am and will not impact late-night riders.

**Stay up-to-date here** and sign up for **STA Notifications** to receive text or email alerts about the routes that are important to you.



### Cooling Centers / Smoke

Spokane Transit offers fare exceptions to customers without fare payment who are traveling to and from support centers when the temperature reaches 95°F or higher and/or when the air quality index is at 201 or above. For more information, visit [spokanetransit.com/extreme-weather-conditions](http://spokanetransit.com/extreme-weather-conditions).



## Hoopfest Recap

This year, STA had strong ridership during Hoopfest weekend, June 28-29, with a total of 32,500 system-wide rides. The Jefferson Park & Ride shuttle ran every 15 minutes, serving attendees from early morning to evening. The Hoop Loop shuttle alone provided 1,163 rides: 770 on Saturday and 393 on Sunday. Saturday saw the highest transit use overall, with 19,556 rides recorded across the system.

## Feedback



### Open Positions for STA's Citizen Advisory Committee

STA is looking for proactive, community-minded individuals to join our Citizen Advisory Committee. This volunteer group provides input on important transit projects and initiatives and often has exclusive, early opportunities, such as a **recent tour on STA's double decker**, ahead of service launch in September. STA values diverse perspectives and encourages applicants from all backgrounds to apply. If you're engaged in your community and passionate about public transportation, visit [spokanetransit.com/cac](http://spokanetransit.com/cac) to learn more and submit your application.

## Transit Education



### Improvise, Adapt, Overcome: Maintaining a Zero-Emission Fleet

Learn what it takes to maintain zero-emission buses and infrastructure and why STA is a leading transit agency in the transition to a clean fleet.

[Read more](#)

## Multimedia



## Double Decker “Blockbuster” Commercial

This September, the ride gets taller! Check out STA’s new double-decker TV commercial.

## Employment



# JOIN STA’S TEAM

Join one of the best employers in the region and advance your career. Visit our [careers page](#) to view all open positions.

**General Repair Vehicle Technician**  
**Coach Operator (Bus Driver)**  
**Servicer**  
**Facilities Laborer**  
**Paratransit Van Operator (Driver)**  
**Paratransit Dispatch**

**Associate Transit Planner - Service Development**  
**Senior Information Security Administrator**



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