

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SPOKANE TRANSIT

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STA TO REDUCE BUS SERVICE BEGINNING APRIL 6

Service Level 3 Suspends Express Routes

Spokane, WA – Beginning Monday, April 6, Spokane Transit (STA) will reduce service by moving to Service Level 3 of its Emergency Response Plan, effectively suspending express routes that typically carry morning and evening commuters. Ridership reduced significantly in the initial days of Governor Inslee’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” executive order, leaving system-wide ridership at about 30% compared to March 2019.

Express routes impacted by implementing Level 3 Service include:

- Route 124 – North Express
- Route 144 – South Express
- Route 172 – Liberty Lake Express
- Route 173 – Valley Transit Center Express
- Route 190 – Valley Express

Alternate routes remain available for STA customers whose express routes are impacted. The service level reduction will result in limited trip cancellations on some routes. All Service Level 3 details are available at www.spokanetransit.com/tempervice.

STA had previously transitioned from regular service levels, or Service Level 1 in its Emergency Response Plan, to Service Level 2 (Non-School Day Service) when local colleges and universities sent students home to prevent the spread of the virus on regional campuses.

“STA’s ridership levels continue to be a metric demonstrating public adherence to the Governor’s executive order. Based on recent data, we feel comfortable adjusting to Service

Level 3 because lower ridership will still allow proper social distancing between those making essential trips,” said E. Susan Meyer, STA’s Chief Executive Officer. “We will continue to monitor this service reduction and adjust as needed according to our emergency response plan.”

As a designated essential public service, STA may implement up to five levels of transit service during the COVID-19 outbreak as outlined in their Emergency Response Plan. Ridership and operator availability are the primary variables that indicate the need to adjust service.

STA Emergency Response Plan Service Level Summary for Buses

SERVICE LEVEL	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	SERVICE REDUCTION
Level 1 Service	Regular Service	0%
Level 2 Service	Non-School Day Service (EWU/CCS)	4%
Level 3 Service	No Peak-Hour Express Service	11%
Level 4 Service	Saturday Service	42%
Level 5 Service	Enhanced Sunday/Holiday Service	66%

While Paratransit ridership is down about 80 percent, the ADA required service is not impacted by the transition to Service Level 3 because the total span of service hours from morning to night remains the same. STA is utilizing the additional Paratransit service capacity to support temporary relief efforts like Rides for Seniors, a program for people 60 and over to take essential trips in Paratransit vans, and food delivery for local organizations like Meals on Wheels.

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STA provides public transportation services through fixed route (bus) service, paratransit operations and vanpool to the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Spokane and Spokane Valley and parts of the unincorporated County. The organization employs more than 600 people and is overseen by a 12-member regional board: nine voting elected officials from Spokane County and cities in the Public Transportation Benefit Area, two non-voting elected officials from area small cities, and a non-voting labor member. For more information about STA, please visit www.spokanetransit.com.