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Island Transit Earns Safety Stars Award

Coupville, WA – Island Transit is a winner of the 2019 Safety Stars Award given by the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) to agencies with an impressive and stable safety record.

“The Safety Stars Award means the transit agency is consistently the best performer for their size in terms of agency auto losses,” says Tracey Christianson, Executive Director of WSTIP. “Through the hard work and dedication of their employees, award-winning agencies consistently operate their vehicles safely, year after year. Their performance makes them the best of the best.”

As a performance-based award, WSTIP looks at the transit agency’s risk profile for a five-year period and actuary’s underwriting loss reports for the agency over a ten-year period. Both reports help determine which agency is performing the very best over a longer period of time. The 2019 award was based off performance for the years 2014 – 2018.

WSTIP honors agencies in three categories based on the transit agency’s size: large, medium and small. Island Transit won in the medium-sized category and received $3,500 cash to recognize employees.

“Our operators really are the ‘best of the best’. They greatly deserve this recognition, not just for their past performance, but for their ongoing commitment to safety for our passengers, vehicles and others they share the road with daily,” says Todd Morrow, Executive Director of Island Transit. “Driving a large bus is challenging enough, but they’re doing it in all kinds of weather and road conditions while providing excellent customer service, picking up and delivering passengers, and keep an on-time schedule. Now with COVID-19, add social distancing and mask requirements to the list of safety considerations. To manage all that without an accident, takes talent. We have an extremely talented group of operators.” This is the second time in 10 years that Island Transit has earned this safety award.

Island Transit, established in 1987, is a free public transit system serving Island County with routes that cover most of Whidbey and Camano islands. The system currently runs 14 routes with 26 vehicles and 68 operators. For more information on Island Transit, go to www.islandtransit.org.

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