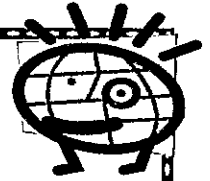


Whatcom County Senior Tour Program Sally Leque, Coordinator

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White Paper #26
Streetcar and Trolley Plan
Handout for March 21, 2003

February 21, 2003

Waterfront Futures Group
1801 Roeder Ave.
Bellingham, Wa. 98225

To Patricia Decker. Et al;

Once again I am submitting my ideas for the Waterfront. I have attached the letter I sent in May of 2002 when a call for ideas was in the Herald at that time. I never received an acknowledgment of that correspondence, but that is OK.

I feel so strongly about our Community and especially the waterfront area that I am writing again. With tourism being my expertise for over 20 years I know my ideas are worth pondering over if nothing else.

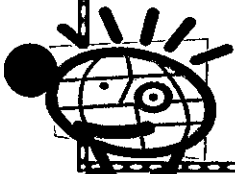
It doesn't mean the notions are to be taken literally, but it does suggest an aura for the area in question.

I am sure you all have been to Monterey, Las Cruces, San Francisco, how about White Rock?, Newport, San Pedro Port's O Call, on & on. It is my feeling that that is the sort of ambiance we should create here on our unique waterfront.

Thank you for asking for local folks input and opinions, that is a great thing! And I thank you for taking time to consider my concerns and outlooks.

Sincerely,

Sally Leque
Whatcom County Senior Tour Director
Whatcom County Council on Aging



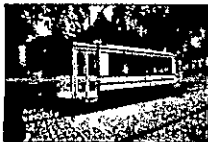
May 20, 2002

Streetcars are returning

You don't have to go to a museum to ride a streetcar. Several cities are returning to the past with vintage and heritage trolley systems that are a combination tourist attraction and practical means of mass transportation.

"Several cities have reinstalled streetcars on city streets. They are literally growing out of the woods," said John Middleton of the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. "They always start out as a heritage trolley entity but soon grow to be something of real importance to the city."

Middleton said Seattle is a good example. "They built a shoreline along the waterfront and imported cars from Australia. It became so popular with the local people who worked on the waterfront they have extended it into Old Town."



Among the cities that have successful heritage streetcars are Memphis,

Tenn.; Dallas; Portland, Ore.; Denver; San Francisco; Fort Collins, Colo.; Galveston, Texas; San Jose, Calif.; and Kenosha, Wis.

Electric trolleys are scheduled to return to Los Angeles this summer after a 40-year absence. Two replica cars, patterned after 1909 Pacific Electric "red cars," will operate on a one-and-a-half-mile line connecting San Pedro's cruise-ship terminal with other

attractions along the city's waterfront.

Tampa's new 2.3-mile streetcar system, scheduled to open this fall, will link downtown with tourist attractions such as the Garrison Seaport, the Florida Aquarium and Ybor City.



While some cities are returning to the past, New Orleans has never entirely left it. One of the most famous symbols of the Crescent City is the fleet of 1920s electric streetcars that have operated on the 6.6-mile St. Charles Line since 1893, the world's oldest continuously operated electric railway.

The city is moving to restore some of its other historic lines that were discontinued over the years. Service has been restored on a portion of Canal Street, with further expansion scheduled through 2004.

Also, construction is under way to restore trolley service on Desire Avenue, made famous by Tennessee Williams' play *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

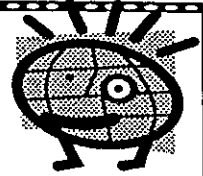
The American Public Transportation Association has formed the Heritage Trolley Task Force to promote the development of vintage and heritage trolley lines and modern streetcar lines.

Its Web site at www.heritagetrolley.org provides a list of urban trolley systems currently operating in the United States and Canada.



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May 20, 2002

To The City Planning People;

Hi, a couple of weeks ago in the Herald I read a bleep asking for ideas for our waterfront. I know this is late and you are already putting ideas in place, but please humor me and read on.

I have enclosed an article in this months tourism publication that I receive. When I saw it I just had to do what I have wanted to do for quite some time.

Back in the late 80's when our City experienced the growth after Expo, I was President of the Lodging Assoc.....was on the Tourism & Convention Bureau Board...honored to have taken Priscilla's place at the Alaska convention ending with the inaugural ferry "Columbia" arriving into Bellingham Bay...assisted with the construction and opened the Traveler's Inn in conjunction with the opening of Bellis Fair...remained Manager of that facility from 88 to 94...during Expo 86 managed the Pony Soldier, Park Motel, Coachman Inn, and Aloha. I have 8 years on the road opening motels in 5 States with tourism the priority for all locations. In 1995 I came here to the Bellingham Senior Center, built the current travel and tour Program and have been escorting groups all over the world.

My point? Tourism is my life and I am exceptionally savvy in this arena. What is interesting is that way back Tim Douglas and I were chatting and I made this exact same proposal to him when he asked me what can be done to make this a destination for tourists. And here we are again.

Please take this proposal for our community seriously. Nothing would bring together the downtown...with the waterfront...with Fairhaven...faster, easier, and cheaper then this idea of a way to unite the three. And may I add, trolley cars are one of the biggest tourist draws you can come up with.

Follow this scenario if you will....

Getting on a trolley anywhere on the route...getting off the car and walk the beautiful parks at the Marina, have a bite to eat, enjoy a happy hour...do some shopping (if someone ever develops the magnificent boardwalk area full of quaint promising shops just screaming to be selling something that both local and tourists would love to buy.) **Trust me, no shops, no tourists!!**

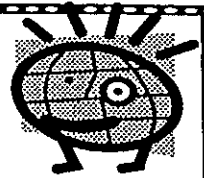
Then back on the trolley to go up town for a sidewalk latte, more shopping on Cornwall (which is now a colorful street of flowers and benches for 2 blocks that only the trolley can go on!!!)

Oh, and on the way you can jump off the trolley in old town for a peek in the antique shops and naturally purchase from our **local folks.**

Go to page 2 of this exciting trek through Bellingham.....

Whatcom County Senior Tour Program Sally Leque, Coordinator

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Page 2

On we go along the boulevard, with a stop at the Park to relax, back on, and heading for trendy Fairhaven. What a treat, down to the Terminal where the trolley will turn around.

You could walk to the Marine Park or head up town, and I don't need to tell you of all the great shops, eateries, galleries, arts & crafts, books, **(all local folks)**.

At any time get back on the trolley and return to wherever you started or to the hotel you are lodged at. This means you can lodge in Fairhaven and see the whole town by trolley, or you can lodge at the Marina and go the other way.

End of a day visiting our City...I could book groups from many Senior Centers that would enjoy this scenario.

Think of the impact this would create in our waterfront city for all of us by joining these three wonderful areas.

Food for thought folks...

Thanks for hearing me out...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Leque". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Sally Leque
Tour Coordinator
Whatcom County Seniors