

**Talk Time Topic: Public Transportation**

**Let's get started...**

What is "public transportation"? Take a few moments to talk about the public transportation that you used in your native country.

- Was it easy to use?
- Was it inexpensive or expensive?
- Did you like using public transportation? Why or why not?

**Background:**

The most used forms of public transportation in the Seattle area are called **King County Metro** and **Sound Transit**. These are the two main bus systems. King County Metro has the most bus routes and is less expensive. Sound Transit has longer routes and is more expensive. You can look at routes, times and prices online or call for help.

**King County Metro:**      <http://transit.metrokc.gov/>    or    phone 1-800-201-4900  
**Sound Transit:**        [www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org)        or    phone 1-800 542-7876

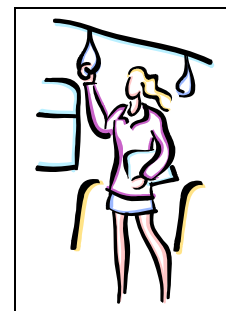
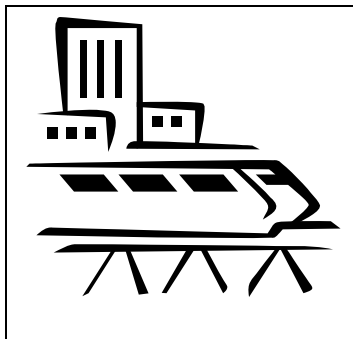
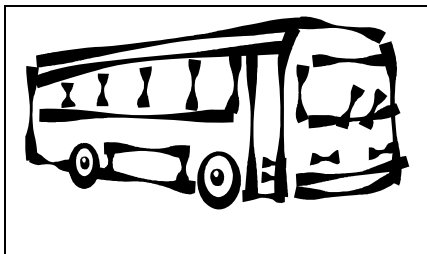


**In pairs for 5 minutes, do the following activity:**

Imagine that you are going to take a trip on the bus.

- Where will you start your trip?
- Where will your trip end?
- When will you take your trip?
- What steps will you take to plan this bus trip?
- How much do you think the bus fare will cost?

**Share your answers with the group.**



**Discussion Questions:**

What is your favorite way to “get around”?

Do you use the bus or did you use the bus in your country? If so, tell your group what you like most about riding the bus.

Tell your group about a bad experience that you had on the bus or another type of public transportation. What happened? How did you feel?

What type of transportation do you usually use? Why?

Is there public transportation in your native country? What kind?

How is public transportation different here than in your country?

What is your opinion of public transportation in the U.S.?

Have you ever used the King County Metro online trip planner? What did you think about it? Was it helpful?

In your opinion, what is the most difficult thing about using the bus system in Seattle?

What advice would you give to a first-time rider?

Why do you think so many people like to drive cars in the U.S.?

In your opinion, what country or city has a great public transportation system? Why?

Have you ever paid a 2-zone fare? Tell the group about it.

Have you ever taken a transfer? When do you need one?

Do you think you are “street smart” or do you know someone who is? Why?

What is the longest bus trip you have ever taken? Where did you go? Talk about it.

What questions do you have about public transportation in Seattle? Talk about them with your group.

**New words and Idioms:**

bus ticket, transfer, express route, transit center, fare zone, 2-fare zone, bus fare, compass, direction, trip, trip planner, timetable, accessible trip, itinerary, depart, arrive, destination, “tighten one’s belt”, “know the ropes”, “to be street smart”, “getting around, etc.