

WSDOT commends MTA during I-5 closure

The Mason Transit Authority received a letter of commendation and thanks from the Washington state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the MTA's efforts while U.S. Interstate 5 was completely, then partially, closed following the Dec. 18 Amtrak train derailment near DuPont.

"We are very grateful that you pitched in to help during this tremendously challenging time," read the letter, signed by Brian Lagerberg, WSDOT director of public transportation. "We thank you for talking to your operations and administrative staffs and preparing them for potential schedule disruptions and delays; we thank your public outreach and customer-service staffs along with your operators, who all helped to get the message out to your riders; and we thank everyone else at your agency for going out of their way to ensure that things ran as smoothly as possible in the face of difficult circumstances."

In the days following the derailment, WSDOT rerouted traffic from I-5 to state Route 3, traveling through Mason County, creating increased traffic throughout the county.