

Date: Jun 15, 2012; Section: Local; Page: A3

Ten new bus routes, cheaper passes planned for SVC students

MOUNT VERNON — Skagit Valley College students will have an easier — and less expensive — commute when school starts in September.

By Sept. 4, Skagit Transit will add 10 direct round trips a day between Sedro-Woolley and the college.

Currently, there's one direct trip from Sedro-Woolley in the morning to the college and another at night on Route 717. Otherwise it takes students three transfers and more than an hour to get to Sedro-Woolley, according to a press release from the college.

The new trips will cut travel time to about 30 minutes, said Dennis Digges, service development planner for Skagit Transit. The plan also would increase accessibility for students who live in Clear Lake and the Skagit Highlands housing development, he said.

Bus pass prices will have a significant drop in September due to a collaboration between Skagit Transit, the college and the Associated Students of Skagit Valley College. Quarterly passes for students will be reduced from \$25 to \$15 at the start of fall quarter.

The college funneled \$10,000 to the effort, and the Associated Students put in another \$10,000 from its Services and Activities fee to finance the decrease.

Skagit Transit has seen a 23 percent increase in ridership by Skagit Valley College students this year, according to the release.

— Erinn Unger



Colin Diltz / Skagit Valley Herald

Skagit Valley College students board a bus Wednesday at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon. Skagit Transit plans to start adding 10 direct round trips a day from Sedro-Woolley to the college in September.