

THE WAVE: ONE MILLION RIDES AND ROLLING!

We are excited to share that The WAVE is about to reach a milestone of One Million Rides! Over the next four weeks, we will tell our story. Please join us each week as we celebrate The WAVE: One Million Rides and Rolling!

SERIES ONE OF A FOUR PART SERIES,
THE WAVE...UP AND ROLLING...

Tillamook County Transportation District became a reality on July 16, 1997; however, the idea of an actual bus service for all of Tillamook County began much sooner.

In the early 1990s, public transportation in Tillamook County was comprised of a network of volunteer services, a small system operated by Marie Mills, two taxi services, two public school bus systems, one privately owned school bus service, and a small system run by ESD along with a few church buses. Despite these services community leaders recognized the need for a comprehensive county-wide public transportation bus system.

Vickie Goodman, who was serving as the Director of the Economic Development Council, spearheaded the creation of the Transportation Planning Committee, which conducted a transportation study of Tillamook County's needs. In January 1993, the committee completed the preparation of the "Tillamook County Transportation Strategy Plan". The Plan's three primary goals were to create a public transportation service that meets the needs of all segments of the population regardless of ability to pay; provide connecting services between cities, including both north and south Tillamook County; and connect Tillamook County to points outside the County's boundaries, such as intercity connection to Seaside, Lincoln City and Portland.

This planning effort resulted in Tillamook County receiving additional funding in January 1994 to proceed with a transit planning project to provide the county with a course of action. At the end of the planning process, it was clearly demonstrated there was a need for public transportation. As a result, the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners created a Transit Advisory Committee in October 1995 to develop an implementation plan. By October 1996, enough money had been raised to create a public transportation service demonstration project.



Tillamook County Transportation District • www.tillamookbus.com • 503-815-8283/(TTY)1-800-735-2900



Nancy Brown, *pictured here*, began working for The WAVE on July 30, 1997. From the beginning, Nancy has been an essential element of The WAVE and has trained many of the drivers you ride with today!

The demonstration project, fondly dubbed as "The WAVE", had a meager beginning. Early services consisted of an early morning trip between Manzanita and Tillamook, a few trips around Tillamook and the Three Capes area then back to Manzanita 3 days a week. Twice a week, riders could travel from Manzanita through Tillamook to Portland and back. The public response was so favorable that within a few months service was expanded to offer additional trips to North County and three Tillamook town loops 3 days a week.

Tillamook County Transportation District Director Jack Graves, who served on the Board from 1999-2008, and re-joined the Board in 2013, was an early advocate for the new service. He says, "I had a vision disability (glaucoma) which has made it unwise for me to drive. This is one reason why I have been so interested in public transportation." Graves also recalled, "During my first term on the Board, we started with two borrowed buses, a staff of three, and a dinky office at 10th and Main with no parking for the buses or patrons."

Thanks to the hard work of the many individuals who served on the Tillamook County Economic Development Council, Transportation Planning Committee, Transit Advisory Committee and Friends of The WAVE, the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners officially formed Tillamook County Transportation District, "The WAVE", on July 16, 1997.

Join us next week for part two of our four part series: The WAVE, On A Roll...