

Patti Papetti

From: Samantha Gollen <svgollen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 11:20 PM
To: City of Ferndale Comments
Subject: Ferndale Public Transportation

EXTERNAL EMAIL

June 17, 2025

Ferndale City Hall
2095 Main St.
Ferndale, WA 98248

Dear City of Ferndale Council,

For the last several months, you have been asking city residents to give our input for your 2025 Comprehensive Plan Updates. I went to your booth at the Rock the Nest Fest on May 6, 2025, and I did the map survey you had there. I'm glad that you are working to make our city better, and I have a small suggestion. I mentioned it to the mayor at Rock the Nest, and he told me to email it here so it could become part of the public record. I believe our city could benefit from our current bus coming through town more often.

I, like a lot of younger folk, do not have or really want a car. There are a lot of reasons people don't or can't drive; some can't afford cars, some are too young to get a license, some have disabilities that make them unable to get a license, and some just don't think they are ready to drive. Even for us, getting places is important, and public transportation gives us freedom to go where we want when we want.

The Ferndale bus (Bus 27) only comes through once every hour. As a student at Whatcom Community College, I take Bus 27 from Cordata Station to my house pretty often. Sometimes, my classes end 15 minutes after the bus departs, and I have to wait 45 minutes for the next bus. When I take Bus 27, I notice there are a lot of people on it, especially at around 2:30, when the Ferndale middle and high schools are out. Sometimes, these 2:30 buses can be so packed that I only see 2-5 open seats. In comparison, when taking Bellingham Bus 331, which goes from Cordata Station to Downtown Bellingham, leaves once every 10-20 minutes in the afternoon, and has about half as many people as Bus 27 at the same time. If Bus 27 came by more often, especially in the afternoon, then people would have more time flexibility, and the bus won't get too full.

I live up near Vista Middle School, which isn't too far from Historic Downtown. I enjoy taking walks, and it's still very tiring just to walk to and from places like Barb's Pies and Pastries, Bella Boutique, or Al's Diner, especially if I'm bringing something back up the hill. Since Bus 27 only comes by once an hour, I can time when I leave for Downtown, but I can't easily account for when I want to come back. The last time I took the bus to a Ferndale grocery store, I got done with shopping right as Bus 27 drove past the nearest station, leaving me stuck at the store with heavy bags of perishables. While time management is

an important part of taking the bus, even the time the bus arrives can vary by up to five minutes, and it shouldn't have to be as much of a hassle. Because of this, I end up doing most of my shopping in Bellingham, instead of in Ferndale. If I want to go to a restaurant after class, I stay in Bellingham and go somewhere nearby, because if I get off the bus in Historic Downtown Ferndale, I'll have to wait an hour before I can get back on. I believe if Bus 27 came by more often, then it could also bring more money to Ferndale and its local businesses.

I strongly urge the City of Ferndale to consider this, so we can improve our public transport and give more people the ability to see our beautiful city. Thank you for your time and your continued service in our community.

Sincerely,

Samantha Gollen