

- [Ridestore](#)
- [Trip Planner](#)
- [Schedules](#)
- [Swift](#)
- [Main Menu](#)
- [Page Content](#)
- [Sub Menu](#)



[HOME](#)



Double Talls Return to Service

March 31, 2011



23 federally-funded double decker buses will replace agency's oldest vehicles on commuter routes to downtown Seattle

Snohomish County, Wash. – Community Transit's Double Talls are back! The first of 23 new double decker buses rolled into service this morning on Route 413 from the Swamp Creek Park & Ride in north Lynnwood to downtown Seattle. The buses, which were paid for largely thanks to a federal stimulus grant, will replace some of the agency's oldest buses.

Riders were pleased with the buses' appearance this morning and those early rides were captured on Community Transit's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/communitytransit.

The double decker buses, dubbed the Double Talls, are replacing 60-foot articulated buses that were manufactured in 1998 and are beyond their federal replacement schedule. The 23 buses will be rolled out into the fleet this spring.

The buses are 42 feet long and 14 feet tall. They seat 77 passengers – 49 upstairs, 28 downstairs – plus have designated standing room. The Double Talls will seat more passengers than the buses they are replacing, easing the crowding on popular commuter buses. The smaller footprint of the bus saves room on the roads and at the agency's base.

The Double Tall buses also require less maintenance and use less fuel than the buses they are replacing, which will save the agency money.

"The Double Talls are popular and practical, and we are excited to be the first transit agency in the Northwest to put them into regular service," said Community Transit CEO Joyce Eleanor.

Community Transit leased a double decker bus from 2007 to 2009 to gauge its practicality as a regular commuter bus. The bus transported more people for the same cost as an articulated bus, with fewer maintenance and operational concerns. Riders regularly followed the leased bus around to get an opportunity to ride The Double Tall.

"While these buses have a striking appearance and the views from the top floor are amazing, we are excited because the Double Talls allow us to make much-needed updates to our fleet and improve our productivity," said Eleanor.

The Double Talls are made by Alexander Dennis Ltd., the same company that makes the famous London double deckers. Community Transit's decision to buy these buses encouraged the Scotland-based bus manufacturer to develop a plant in the United States so the buses could meet federal Buy America standards, which was required by the federal stimulus grant.

Community Transit is responsible for providing transportation options for Snohomish County residents, including bus and paratransit service, vanpool and ridesharing options. Call Community Transit at (425) 353-RIDE or (800) 562-1375 for bus information, or (888) 814-1300 for carpool or vanpool information, or go to www.communitytransit.org. You can also read our blog at communitytransit.blogspot.com, visit our Facebook page or see us on YouTube. Support local businesses and Community Transit when you Buy Local for Transit; read more at www.communitytransit.org/buylocal.

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- [Site Map](#)
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