



Wenatchee, WA

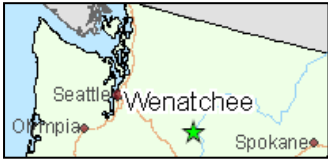
PLANNING MANAGER
\$116,463 - \$145,445

Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply by
February 23, 2025
(First Review, Open Until Filled)

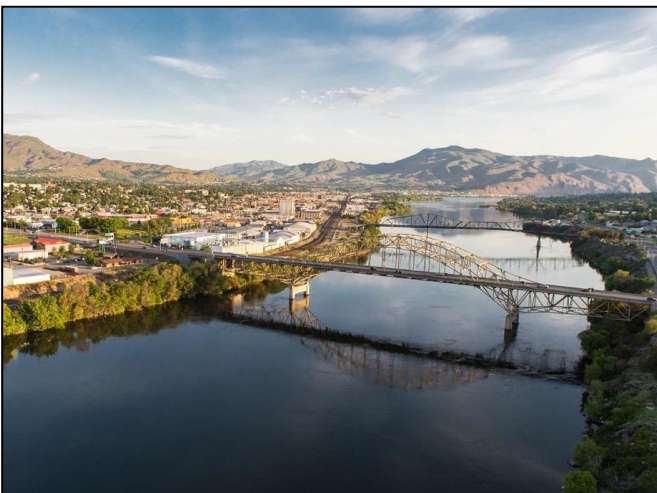


THE COMMUNITY



The Wenatchee Valley enjoys an abundance of recreational opportunities surrounded by the natural beauty of the Cascade Mountains, the Columbia River and more than a fair share of sunshine. The area is thriving, evident by a steady increase in population, and a strong, diverse economy. The area's natural beauty and abundance of recreational opportunities lead the reasons people come to visit and to live here. Residents and visitors alike enjoy the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail, a paved 26-mile pedestrian and bicycle path that meanders along the banks of the Columbia River, crossing at two points, connecting the cities of East Wenatchee and Wenatchee. Hikers, mountain bikers, runners, snowmobilers, and equestrians enjoy the vast array of trails, which cover more than 2,600 acres. In addition, Mission Ridge Ski Area, 12 miles from downtown Wenatchee, offers a 2,250-foot vertical drop with 2,000 acres of trails, chutes, screamers and bowls, as well as breathtaking views.

With an urban area consisting of 80,000 people, the region offers the perfect balance of larger-city amenities with the relaxed and friendly environment of a smaller town. Powered by clean renewable hydropower, the area enjoys low-cost electricity and irrigation that supports the prolific orchards, vineyards and farms. The region has seen a major growth of the wine industry in recent years, with more than 70 local wineries and tasting rooms offering world-class, award-winning wines and tasting rooms.



Along the growing waterfront you will find Pybus Public Market: a community gathering place with a riverfront event facility and the permanent home of the local farmer's market. Its amenities include weekly live entertainment and events, an excellent selection of artisan products, specialty shops, restaurants, local wines, hand-crafted beers, and bike rentals. Next to the waterfront sits historic downtown Wenatchee with its nationally recognized main street, Wenatchee Avenue. Home to numerous small businesses and services, you will find unique shopping stops, accompanied by authentic ethnic dining experiences, spas, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, running and cycling stores, ski and snowboard shops, all connected back to the waterfront by a pedestrian bridge.



The region treasures its performing and visual arts, which add to the region's rich cultural diversity and history. The Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center shares stories with exhibits like the Native People of the Columbia Plateau, the Great Northern Railway Connection, a full-scale apple industry exhibit, as well as a Miss Veedol exhibit that showcases the first non-stop Trans-Pacific flight from Misawa, Japan to East Wenatchee in 1931. The combination of rotating exhibits, Friday Art Walks, and children's activities make the museum fun and informational. The Town Toyota Center, home of Wenatchee Wild Hockey team, hosts world-class entertainment, year-round ice skating and an array of activities ranging from bull riding shows to quilt shows.

The Valley is a growing hub serving more than 250,000 people around North Central Washington. The Valley's economy remains connected to the Seattle Metro area, which sits a two-and-a-half drive, or a short 20-minute flight, away past the beautiful Cascade Range. Spokane and the Tri-Cities are also a two-and-a-half-hour drive away, putting almost all of Washington State within a morning's trip.

THE ORGANIZATION

Link Transit is the public transportation agency for Chelan and Douglas Counties, located in central Washington State. In operation since December 1991, Link Transit serves a population of about 125,000 people in a service area of approximately 3,500 square miles who reside in cities and towns ranging from a few hundred residents to 35,000, plus residents scattered across large rural parts of the region.

Link Transit is supported by voter-approved locally generated sales tax, as well as state and federal grants. The Organization has a 2025 operating budget is \$29,770,593 and a capital budget of \$38,270,024. Link Transit currently has approximately 200 employees.



The Chelan-Douglas PTBA (Link Transit) Board of Directors consists of 12 voting members who are local elected officials and one non-voting labor representative. The governing board includes a representative from each city within Link's district: Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, Chelan, Entiat, Waterville, Rock Island, Leavenworth, and Cashmere; two representatives from both Douglas County and Chelan County; and consistent with State Law, Link Transit has a non-voting board member who is a representative of the agency's bus operator's union.

Link Transit operates fixed-route and paratransit seven days a week, and as of July 2022, is a zero-fare system for all services. Annual ridership is on the rebound since the end of the pandemic.

In 2024 fixed-route ridership totaled 1,232,546 annual boardings. Planned service expansions for 2025 include approximately 12,000 additional fixed route hours compared to the 2024 service year. Over the next two to five years, these enhancements are expected to drive annual boardings toward 1.5 million.

Link Transit operates from a 28-year-old transit center in downtown Wenatchee and has a 25-year-old maintenance and operations base just north of Wenatchee. A robust and healthy local economy over the past several years has provided Link Transit with a strong financial base to support an aggressive region-wide list of capital projects as well as fleet replacement.

The transit fleet currently includes 23 full-size battery electric vehicles and a total of 99 revenue vehicles. Over the next two to three years, the fleet will grow with the expected arrival of nine RIDE battery electric buses in March 2025, followed by five additional vehicles in early 2026, and potentially four more replacement buses arriving between late 2026 and early 2027. To accommodate the expanding fleet, a new 41,250 square-foot bus barn is being constructed, which will house and charge up to 56 battery electric buses.

THE POSITION

Under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer, the Planning Manager is responsible for leading long-range planning projects, including implementing transit study recommendations, developing long-term fixed route service designs, and supporting strategic planning efforts.

This role involves overseeing grant writing and research studies, managing alternative transportation contracts, coordinating worker-driver programs, and promoting transportation demand management and vanpool-rideshare programs.

The Planning Manager will actively collaborate with the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Department of Transportation, and other key agencies, while also providing support for short-range planning as needed. The Planning Manager is also responsible for supervising and guiding the organization's planning staff.

For a full job description, please view the attachment found [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES & PRIORITIES

In the dynamic role of a Planning Manager, balancing operational complexities with effective people management is critical. By excelling in the following areas, a Planning Manager not only ensures efficient operations but also creates a work culture of trust, respect, and high performance.

Handling Complex Duties: Planning Managers must navigate intricate workflows, coordinate inter-departmental efforts, and adapt to evolving project requirements. Success hinges on strategic decision-making, prioritization, and the ability to foresee potential challenges while ensuring deadlines are met without compromising quality.

Managing and Inspiring Teams: A Planning Manager is not just a strategist but also a leader. This means fostering a collaborative environment where team members feel supported and motivated. Empathy, active listening, and constructive feedback are vital tools to ensure employees thrive and contribute their best efforts to shared goals.

Being a Visible Leader: Visibility as a leader goes beyond physical presence. It means being approachable, transparent, and proactive in communication. Employees should feel that their manager is engaged, values their input, and provides clear guidance and recognition. Visibility also involves demonstrating accountability and setting a strong example through actions that align with the organization's values.

**For more information on
Link Transit, please visit:**

www.linktransit.com

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

Education & Experience:

Any combination equivalent to a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Transportation Planning or Transportation Engineering, or a related field, and five (5) years of experience with bus service planning and development programs; or an equivalent combination of experience, training, and education is required. American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification is desired.

The ideal candidate will be a strong communicator, collaborative team player, and effective leader with excellent management skills. They will value feedback, foster inclusivity, and understand that successful planning requires both implementation and ongoing adjustment. A hands-on approach and visible leadership during route plan rollouts will be essential for success.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$116,463 - \$145,445 DOQ**
- Medical, Dental, Vision, and Prescription Drug Insurance. 2025 employee share of the monthly \$1,619.60 premium is \$80.98 per month (5%).
- Life Insurance, and Short-Term and Long-Term Disability Insurance.
- Six (6) paid holidays, plus four (4) floating holidays.
- Washington PERS.
- 32 Days General Leave. Number of days increases with Longevity.
- Optional 457 Retirement Plans.
- Optional Section 125/Cafeteria Plan.
- Optional Supplemental Insurance.
- Optional Club Link \$1.50 per pay period.
- Annual Manager Gain Sharing.
- A commitment to work-life balance.

Link Transit is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **February 23, 2025** (first review, open until filled). Applications, supplemental questions, resumes and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to www.prothman.com and click on "Open Recruitments", select "Link Transit, WA – Planning Manager", and click "Apply Online", or click [here](#). Resumes, cover letters and supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in.



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