

Agenda

Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5th, 2025

A. Welcome

B. Introductions

- ◆ Members
 - Don and Sally
- ◆ Visitors
 - Reginal
 - Peter
 - Alan

C. Current Transit Services

- ◆ Dial-A-Ride Services
 - Normal operations for Yakima
 - Ridership Stats
 - October 2024: 5,132 2023: 4,794
 - November 2024: 4,280 2023: 4,269
 - December 2024: 4,509 2023: 4,324

- ◆ Fixed-Route Bus Service
 - Ridership Stats
 - October 2024: 75,247 2023: 70,688
 - November 2024: 56,949 2023: 57,830
 - December 2024: 53,038 2023: 51,582

We are about 10-15% below our 2019 numbers which is when our numbers were the highest.

- Holidays – Presidents Day (February 17th)
- At the end of the year transit will start an evaluation of all routes to see if there needs to be changes. The city of Yakima has grown significantly in the last couple years based on the last census with 120,000 residents

- Zoom meetings started during Covid and we will keep on going. There was discussion about ending the zoom meeting but after today and how many people are on zoom we will continue.
- The meetings are the first Wednesday every 3 months

- ◆ Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter

- Ridership Stats

- October 2024: 3,282 2023: 3,283
 - November 2024: 2,423 2023: 2,537
 - December 2024: 1,277 2023: 710

- Seasonal run will not run for Spring break (3/21/2025-4/1/2025)

D. Open discussion

- Committee members asked about the new building.

The Public Works Director ask for there to be a needs study of the new location (506 Fruitvale Blvd). The needs study is an evaluation of the location and what is the best way to use the space and what renovations need to be done. This Needs Study also advises on what type of fuel will benefit to use for the city. The city is thinking of doing Hydrogen. The Needs study will take about 6-8 months to complete and it is possibly 2-3 years before transit is completely moved over. The new building area is about 3 ½ acres. Currently the buses that we have will be fueled will need to be fueled at Public works. There is an idea to have a fuel truck that will be coming from Public works to the new building to fuel the buses.

- There is a \$230,000 grant from the State to renovate the inside and outside of the Transit Center.

- Reginal asked about the bus app. Would like to test the app for the accessibility of the blind.

Connexionz has run those tests but we would like feedback to improve the app for the blind. There is not an app on the app store but you can access the live map through our website yakimatransit.org.

➤ Allen mentioned that the transit feasibility project is going to start phase 2 and will go to the selection process. The Safety action plan is also in process.

➤ Peter ask the committee members the perception from the meeting in August and what process we took for informing them. Did we ask for input or stating it was going to be done.

Rather not have it go but understands the finance of it. Understands why Selah and union gap.

Gave the information for people for people because they do not come into the City limits.

Transit used to years ago do the transit service for Selah and Union Gap and since each city grew and each city wanted to know their own ridership. To go into those cities we would need an Interlocal agreement signed by each city. Transit had set this up years ago but with change in staff and shortage of staff this was lost in the shuffle.

Paratransit has to run with fixed route. The FTA triennial audit stated we do not have to go into other city. When Transit received that information, we took in consideration our finance and how it would affect our riders, there was also an increase in residents and that gave an increase ridership. We made an exception for the dialysis clinic in Union Gap for our riders and the other clinic in town. We do not want to cut people of this service that helps people.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the city limits of Yakima barely cover the golf course. We are having a meeting with the Head of Public Works for the City of Union Gap tomorrow 2/6/2025 to have exchange points for our riders. Yakima is not the only city that is having this issue. The feasibility phase 2 will address how the address this city limit restrictions and how to get past those restrictions. Phase 2 can help better coordinate connecting points not just to Yakima transit but to multiple cities in Yakima County.

E. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 7th, 2025