



TRANSIT CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2/1/2023

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Meetings was opened with an introduction of Yakima Transit staff in attendance. Members present from staff included: Greg Story, Transit Assistant Manager; Jeff Beaver, Transit Operations Supervisor, Barbara Cruz, Transit Office Assistant; and Jessica Bland, Transit Office Assistant.

2. Ridership Statistics

- Total Ridership for October – December 2022 are as follows:
 - Fixed Route: 127,936 passenger trips
 - Dial-A-Ride: 10,216 passenger trips
 - Yakima – Ellensburg Commuter: 5,987 passenger trips

3. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates

- Holidays: There will be no bus service on President's Day (February 20th)
- Winter/Spring Bus Book: The Winter/Spring Bus Book runs from January 2nd to April 2nd, 2023
- There is a detour in place for route 9 designed to serve the Northwest Harvest Food Bank and DSHS. Detour: Fruitvale / North on 20th / E on J st / S on 16th / E on Fruitvale to resume.

4. Dial-A-Ride is operating as normal.

5. Yakima Ellensburg Commuter:

- Seasonal run is in effect from 1/2/2023 – 3/17/2023
- Ridership has returned to pre-pandemic levels

6. New Vehicles:

- 6 new buses have been delivered this year
- 2 more will be delivered in July
- Buses cost \$575,000 each
- Already disposed of one old bus and have plans to dispose of 5 more
- We will not be buying buses again for another 1-2 years in order to stagger our replacement timeline.
- 4 new Dial-A-Ride Ford Transit vehicles should be delivered by April or May.
- Yakima Transit will be disposing of cutaway buses which are expensive to maintain and uncomfortably bumpy for passengers if not fully laden.
- Hoping to replace the full Dial-A-Ride fleet over the next five years.
- All Dial-A-Ride vehicles will have wheelchair elevator lifts which have a capacity of 900 lbs.
- Elevators will be a closed cage on 2 sides with a bar on the back and bar on the front to hold on to for those using walkers.

7. New Property

- Yakima Transit has purchased the property currently occupied by McCurley Subaru.
- Planning to move in in January 2025.
- The buildings will be left on the property, the interiors will be renovated to suit Transit's needs.
- A carport structure is planned in the future to protect parked buses.
- Yakima Transit is in the planning stages of developing this property further to accommodate alternative fuels which may involve updating the electrical grid serving the area. We do not know if federal credits will be available to support this work.
- By 2030 the state will mandate all new bus purchases utilize alternative fuel.
- If you have ideas or articles about how Yakima Transit can incorporate green energy options, email Greg Story at Gregory.Story@YakimaWA.gov
- Yakima Transit will still utilize the existing Public Works facility for the next 5-6 years as the new property is adapted to fully meet all transit needs.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Yakima Transit receives significant grant / tax funding. We do not fully support our operations of fares alone. However, our services generate economic growth.
- Route Planning:
 - Discussion of extending routes later into the evening. Yakima Transit offered routes as late as 9 PM in the past and ridership dropped off by 75% after 7 PM. All major changes in service must be approved by the Yakima City Council.
 - We are engaging in route planning to hopefully make current routes shorter and/or more efficient.
 - We have had rider surveys in the past to figure out how riders would like to see the system improve. We are considering doing this again.