

**TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**02/02/2022**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order by Greg Story at 4:34 PM

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Meeting 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; Debbie Dexter, Transit Operations Supervisor; Kelly Darbyson, Community Transportation Coordinator; and Jessica Bland, Office Assistant.

2. Ridership Statistics

* Total Ridership for October - December are as follows:
  + Fixed Route: 134,901 passenger trips
  + Dial-A-Ride: 8,862 passenger trips
  + Yakima – Ellensburg Commuter: 4,069 passenger trips
  + Vanpool: 1,101 passenger trips

3. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates

* Holidays: There will be no Bus service on President’s Day (February 21st)
* Winter / Spring Bus Book: The Fall/Winter Bus Book run through April 10th, 2022.
* Route Changes: The Winter/Spring bus book contains changes impacting routes 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. The area previously covered by route 12 will now be covered by route 6.

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

5. Vanpool service ceased operation in January. The program was designed to be cost-recovery, meaning it was meant to generate enough revenue to cover expenses. However, due to steady decline of employment at the Hanford site ridership has been declining since 2015 and the program was not able to attract enough users to maintain cost-recovery operations.

6. Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter Service Updates

* Seasonal Run: The seasonal run will operate through March 18th, then resume and operate March 29th through June 10th.
* New buses: The commuter will be getting replacement buses that should be put into service within a few weeks. They are low-mileage, 2014 buses configured with conference tables in the rear. They will have lower maintenance cost as well as better fuel efficiency.

7. Inclement Weather Operations: If there are delays or cancellations due to inclement weather, notices will be posted on our website, YakimaTransit.org, as well as on our Twitter and Facebook accounts. Notice will also be sent to our email alert list, a link to enroll can be found on our website. Delays and cancellations are done for the safety of our drivers and passengers.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Feasibility Study (YVCOG):In a few weeks a feasibility study conducted by consultant Transpro should be approved. They will be reaching out to Yakima Transit for information regarding assets.

CTR Surveys (YVCOG): CTR surveys are transitioning to an online system which is still having issues so we aren’t sure when they will be able to be conducted. YVCOG may direct agencies to develop their own surveys. Yakima Transit’s CTR coordinators for surveys will be Kelly Darbyson and for equipment related questions will be Kerry Jones.

Bikes on Commuter: All commuter buses are able to accommodate bikes.

Vanpool Limits: Vanpool was not restricted to Yakima city limits. Most groups went to the Hanford site but we had others that went to places such as Cle Elum and White Swan.

Vanpool and Agriculture: We did not have significant program participation from seasonal, agricultural workers in our vanpool program.

Vanpool Equipment: most Vanpool equipment will be auctioned off in the coming months. Yakima Transit will keep a few of the nicer ones to put into use as administrative vehicles. Due to their lack of wheelchair lifts, Vanpool vans have limited utility for Yakima Transit. Most vans were late models with very high mileage.

**Next meeting will be held on May4th, 2022.**