



## TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8/4/2021

### MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Greg Story at 4:33 PM

#### AGENDA ITEMS

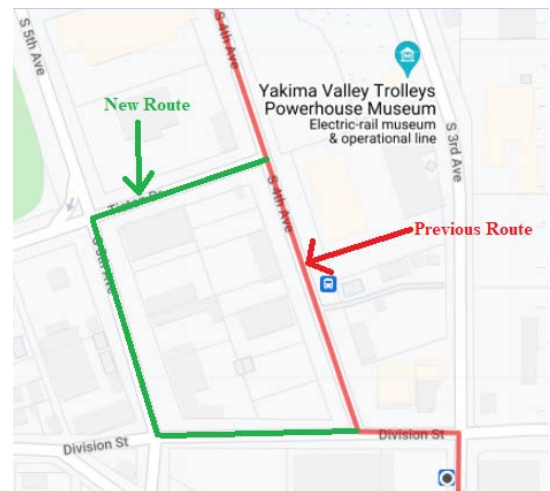
1. Meeting was opened with an introduction of Yakima Transit staff in attendance. Members present from staff included: Greg Story, Transit Assistant Manager; Kelly Darbyson, Community Transportation Coordinator; and Jessica Bland, Office Assistant.

#### 2. Ridership Statistics

- Low Pandemic Ridership: Ridership is down roughly 50% from pre-pandemic levels for fixed route and Dial-A-Ride. Ridership is down roughly 75% on the Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter. Ridership is down roughly 93% for Vanpool.
- Total Ridership for April - June are as follows:
  - Fixed Route: 115,787 passenger trips
  - Dial-A-Ride: 9,357 passenger trips
  - Yakima – Ellensburg Commuter: 1,692 passenger trips
  - Vanpool: 736 passenger trips

#### 3. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates

- Holidays: There will be no transit services on Monday, **September 6th** in observance of Labor Day.
- Fall / Winter Bus Book: The Fall/Winter Bus Book will begin August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Route 4 Saturday Schedule: Route 4 will begin service at 8:15 AM at Public Works instead of 8:45 at the Transit Center. This will add an additional half hour of Saturday service to this route, no other time points are impacted. This change will begin on August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Route 3: Route 3 will be modified to avoid S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave between Tieton Dr and Division St. Where the route used to turn on to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, it will continue down division and turn onto S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave to Tieton. The bus will return to the route as previously scheduled at Tieton and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. This is to avoid narrow lanes on S 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.



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

5. Vanpool Service Updates

- Reduced Number of Vanpool Groups: There are currently two Vanpool group in operation. We had three at the beginning of July but the third was discontinued a few weeks after starting due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

6. Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter Service Updates

- Seasonal Run: The commuter seasonal run will begin September 22<sup>nd</sup> and run through December 10<sup>th</sup>. This is dependent on CWU offering in-person classes. At this time it appears classes will be offered in the fall.
- Continued Commuter Service: The new funding biennium for the commuter has begun and the Yakima-Ellensburg commuter grant has been renewed for an additional two years.

7. Grants

- New Buses: We received \$4.5 million of American Recovery grant funds which we are intending to use to purchase 6 new buses for a cost of \$2.5 million - \$3 million. Delivery will be end of 2022 at the earliest. At this time we are not considering alternative fuels due to lack of infrastructure.
- Heaters / Solar Chargers: We are working on a grant to fund engine heaters and solar powered battery chargers for all buses as well as a new engine for one bus.
- Transit Development Plan: We have prepared our Annual Report for 2020 and Development Plan for 2021-2026. The document is available on our website under About Us -> Plans and Documents. A public meeting will be held to discuss this document on **September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM** via Zoom. More information regarding this meeting can be found in a post on the homepage of our website.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- Service Area: If you have suggestions for currently unserved destinations, feel free to let us know and we will take your suggestions into consideration for future route planning.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM**

**Next meeting will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 4:30 PM.**