

TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MEETING MINUTES 11/14/18

Meeting was called to order by Alvie Maxey at 4:00 P.M.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Alvie began the meeting by introducing himself and the staff in attendance. Members present from staff included: Alvie Maxey, Transit Manager; Jennifer Orlando, Community Transportation Coordinator; Naeem Kara, Transit Office Assistant; and Jeff Beaver, Transit Operations Supervisor.
2. Alvie explained that the Transit Assistant Manager position is currently in the process of being filled. This position will oversee all Transit-related planning activities.
3. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates:
 - **Holidays:** Jeff explained that there will be no Transit services on the following Holidays:
 - **Monday, Nov. 12th:** Veterans Day
 - **Thursday, Nov. 22nd:** Thanksgiving Day
 - **Tuesday, Dec. 25th:** Christmas Day
 - **Tuesday, Jan. 1st:** New Year's Day
 - **Special Events:** Jeff discussed the current and upcoming events that Transit will be taking part in:
 - **The Luminaria Event** at the Yakima Arboretum will take place on December 7th and 8th from 6pm to 10pm. Yakima Transit will be offering a continuous free shuttle service from the UHAUL parking lot to the Yakima Arboretum.
 - **Fall Bus Book Updates:** Jeff stated that the following route changes have been made for the Fall Bus Book:
 - **Route 8's** times have been changed. Now, Route 8 will have an added 5 minutes in the afternoon. The new timepoints have been posted on each of the buses, and are available on Yakima Transit's website.
 - Naeem explained that a "Winter Advisory" page has been posted in the Fall Bus Book that shares resources for the public on where they can find information on whether or not Transit services will be delayed with Winter conditions approaching.
 - Naeem provided an ITS Solutions update, stating that Transit currently has several projects going on including:
 - New ADA Signs for the buses
 - New IT Software – this will be beneficial for internal tracking (buses, passengers, utilization, etc.), as well as public usage (updated website, updated tracking of bus location, etc.)
4. Dial-A-Ride Service: Jennifer indicated that operations were running normal for Yakima. All Selah residents will need to contact Selah Transit's Dial-A-Ride for transportation services. Their contact information is: 509-619-1639.
5. Jennifer stated that there were no updates for Vanpool Services.

6. Grants: Naeem stated that Transit had secured grant funding for Ellensburg Commuter operations for 2019-2023. The application was submitted and approved earlier this year, and the Ellensburg Commuter was ranked as a priority project, thus successfully securing funding for the coming years.
7. Naeem discussed other projects that Transit was currently working on:
- New Bus Shelters: Transit is currently working with a vendor to purchase 20 new lighted shelters that will be added for passengers throughout the fixed-route system. The newly designed shelters are expected to help reduce damages (vandalism, broken windows, etc.), and be more passenger accommodating (more room for disabled and wheelchair passengers). Currently, the Shelters are being built, and the groundwork at some of the locations has been set. This project is expected to be completed by May of 2019.
 - Sidewalk Improvements: Transit has monies set aside dedicated to install sidewalks in areas where Transit service is utilized. Transit is working with the City Streets and Engineering divisions on sidewalk improvements on 40th Ave, between Tieton Drive and Chestnut. The work is currently being completed.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

8. Reduced Fare Recertification: One of the attendees inquired about Transit requiring Reduced Fare passengers to be recertified. Jen discussed that the Reduced Fare Card re-certification is a federally required ADA program. It is required by the ADA that each Transit agency recertify this program every 5 years.
9. Folk life Festival: One of the attendees inquired about Transit providing a shuttle bus for the Folk life festival. It was indicated that this event generated a great turnout. Alvie mentioned that as this festival is a non-City of Yakima related event that the costs associated with a Transit shuttle service would have to be covered by someone other than Yakima Transit. There are also Charter rules and regulations that would have to be investigated more fully to see if it is even possible to provide such a service.
10. Transit Apps: It was inquired about what apps Transit had available for cell phones. Naeem indicated that we currently have social media channels that are available through the phone systems, including Facebook, Twitter, and email alerts. These social media outlets are great for learning more about Transit, and are used heavily during the Winter season to communicate delays and detours. It was also explained that the new IT Software system would be setup to be more user-friendly.
11. Bus-To-Pools Ridership: One of the attendees inquired about the ridership for the Pools program. Jennifer indicated that there were over 1,400 passengers that used our service for the Summer Pools program.
12. Evening Routes: One of the attendees inquired about Transit providing services in the evening. Alvie explained that evening routes were ran in the past, but due to the lack of ridership, the services were cut.
13. Alternative Fuels: One of the Committee members inquired about what alternative fuel buses Transit was looking at. Alvie indicated that he has been working with the Equipment and Facilities Manager in trying to find a good long-term solution for this. Currently, Biodiesel appears to be the most practical short-term option because it presents the least expensive conversion costs and it can be implemented in a timelier manner. However, Electric buses are still being considered, and are possibly a better long-term alternative in the future. As of right now, the technology for the Electric buses are not quite where they need to be to accommodate Transit's needs, but looking ahead, we are hopeful that they will be.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Next Meeting will be held on February 13, 2018.