



TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2/5/2020

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Alvie Maxey at 4:06 PM

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Alvie began the meeting by introducing himself and the staff in attendance. Members present from staff included: Alvie Maxey, Transit Manager; Greg Story, Transit Assistant Manager; and Jessica Bland, Transit Office Assistant. Jeff Beaver, Transit Operations Supervisor joined the meeting a little later.

2. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates

- Holidays: There will be no transit services on **February 17th** in observance of Presidents Day.
- Fall/Winter Bus Book: The Fall/Winter Bus Book runs from 1/7/2020-4/5/2020
- Route 6 South is now Route 12: Route 6 South has been renamed to be Route 12. The route itself has not changed. This was done to accommodate new software that does not allow letters as route numbers. Yakima Transit has also received feedback from riders that this change has made the difference between the routes clearer.
- Replacement/Refurbishment of bus seats: Roughly 90 bus seats required refurbishment or replacement due to staining. Refurbishing, or just replacing the fabric, saves a significant amount of money over replacing the seats but some seats still needed to be replaced due to extensive damage. This process is ongoing.
- Ridership Stats: Over this quarter (November 2019 to January 2020) fixed route ridership was 228,651. November ridership was about 75,000, December ridership was about 78,000, and January was 76,000.

The routes with the highest ridership were route 6/12 with 40,592 riders, route 5 with 32,401 riders and route 2 with 30,748 riders. It is important to note that routes 2 and 5 are the same, just flowing in opposite directions. The route with the lowest ridership was, by far, route 1 with 9,495 riders.

3. Dial-A-Ride Service Updates

- Normal operations
- Ridership Stats: This quarter there were 13,653 DAR trips, serving roughly 15,500 passengers trips. There were roughly 4,400 trips in November and December and

roughly 4,800 in January. The weekday trip average was 184 trips per day and the weekend average was 100 trips per day.

4. Vanpool Service Updates

- Grant for new vans: In April 2019 Yakima Transit applied for a grant with WSDOT for new Vanpool vans. WSDOT lost the application. We brought this to WSDOT's attention and they located the grant application for consideration. We have not received an update from WSDOT regarding this grant but we hope to be able to purchase three new vans and decommission three older vans should the grant be awarded.
- Vanpool Stats: There are currently 11 Vanpool groups in operation providing roughly 3,000 rides per month.

5. Yakima-Ellensburg Service Updates

- Normal Operations
- Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter Stats: This quarter there were 7,273 riders that utilized the Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter. About 2,600 in November, 1,500 in December and 3,100 in January. Ridership is typically low in December due to winter break at CWU.

6. Grants

- FTA Operations Grant: Yakima Transit's annual FTA operations grant is almost complete. The FTA calculates that Yakima Transit will get a little over \$2.1 million. Yakima Transit usually received a little over \$2 million every year to sustain normal operations.
- Equipment Grant: Each year money is allocated to Yakima Transit for capital projects that Yakima Transit must apply for grants to access. The plan for the 2018-2019 money is to purchase Wabasto heaters that will heat the inside of the bus more quickly and efficiently, reducing the amount of idle time, and consequently wear and tear, on buses. Yakima Transit also plans to purchase solar chargers to put on the top of the buses with this money. Overall this equipment improvement project will cost between \$200,000 - \$300,000.
- New Buses: Yakima Transit has put in a placeholder order with the bus manufacturer Gillig for three new buses. It takes between 18-22 months from order to delivery for a new bus. Greg Story is in the process of writing the grant to pay for these buses. Also included in this grant will be a request for funds to refurbish one of our buses to get essentially a new bus at a much lower cost.
- Additional Project Grant: Yakima Transit will likely be awarded a grant for \$250,000 - \$300,000 from the Federal Government which Yakima Transit plans to use for IT improvements, Transit Center improvements, and a heavy-duty storage shed for the Transit Center.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Terrace Heights Route:-There are no updates to provide at this time-

County-Wide Transit Service: There are currently no plans to extend Yakima Transit's services throughout the county. Any proposed Yakima Transit route beyond the City of Yakima service area must include a new and reliable funding source to financially support an expansion. Those who live in Yakima County beyond Yakima Transit's service area may choose to contact their County Commissioners and express their want or need for transit services in their area and/or express this need to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG).

Requesting Streets/Sidewalk repairs or improvements: If you are aware of places where the street or sidewalk needs to be repaired due dangerous conditions you can call the City Streets Division directly or report this on YakBack-at: <https://www.yakimawa.gov/yak-back/>

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM

Next meeting will be held on May 6th, 2020