



TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2/7/18

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Alvie Maxey at 5:30 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; Naeem Kara, Transit Office Assistant; Jennifer Orlando, Community Transportation Coordinator; Agustin Ortega, Transit Operations Specialist; and Jeff Beaver, Transit Operations Supervisor.

2. Alvie indicated that the Transit Planner position had been re-posted and we are still seeking eligible candidates to fill that position.

3. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates:

- Holidays: There will be no Transit services on the following Holidays:
 - **Monday, Feb. 19th**: President's Day
- Route 10 (Selah Route): Alvie indicated that the City of Selah has provided Yakima Transit notice that it has entered negotiations with another vendor to provide Selah's fixed-route bus services. Yakima Transit did not want to lose the Selah Route, but the City of Selah wanted to build their own Transit system. In doing so, Route 10 will be discontinued as of May 1st. To restore services to areas affected by the City of Selah's departure, we developed a new route (Route 8) – (see attached map). Route 8 will be a 35 minute route and will cover new areas, including running westbound on Yakima Ave, and north of River Road.
- Public Meetings: With the departure of Route 10, and the creation of Route 8, Public Meetings will be held to communicate the areas of service that will be affected and to address passenger inquiries. Three public meetings will be held at the following dates and times:
 - Tuesday, March 6th at 5:30 PM
 - Tuesday, March 20th at 2:00 PM
 - Tuesday, March 20th at 5:30 PM

Per the Committee's request, Yakima Transit will record the Public Hearing and have it available on the City of Yakima YPAC page.

- Bus Book Updates:
 - Transit Social Media: Although there have not been any closures or delays due to weather, Transit is promoting its social media sites, where service interruptions

would be announced. These social media sites/apps include: the Yakima Transit website, signing up for email alerts, Facebook, Twitter, etc. All of these sites/apps are available for passengers to follow. More information is provided on the inside back cover of the current Bus Book.

- Bus Book Schedule: Due to the timing of Selah Transit's departure, the Transit Bus Books will be impacted. The Winter Bus Book will be extended through April 30th, 2018 and the Spring and Summer Bus Books will be combined.
 - Monthly Bus Passes: Jennifer explained that at the beginning of the year, Transit changed their bus passes from quarterly passes to monthly passes. The bus pass designs have also been changed to help prevent fraud (passengers using the same passes for the next month, etc.)
 - IT Software Updates: Agustin explained that Transit is in the process of finalizing a grant in order to secure the funding to purchase a new IT system for the buses. This new IT system will provide: Passenger counting data; GPS & Mileage reports; better Dispatch system communications; ADA announcements and reader boards; and expandability for future operations (including electronic bus passes).
4. Dial-A-Ride Service: Medstar, the current Vendor that Yakima Transit is using, has recently moved locations.
5. Vanpool Service: Jennifer discussed that a new Vanpool group started, and is travelling to Hanford. She indicated that there are now a total of 14 Vanpool groups in service.
6. Naeem explained that Transit had received a grant and to expand Ellensburg Commuter operations. This Trial-Run began January 1st, and is planned to continue towards the end of April (Winter quarter bus book). At that point, we will evaluate the Trial-run utilization and determine whether or not to continue the project for another quarter.
7. Naeem then discussed the 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).
 - Sidewalk Improvements: Transit has monies set aside dedicated to install sidewalks in areas where Transit service is utilized. Currently, the City Streets and Engineering divisions are working on sidewalk improvements on 40th Ave, between Tieton Drive and Walnut.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

8. Bikes and Peds Updates: The Bikes and Peds Committee shared some updates that would be impacting Transit operations.

- **Vision Zero** – This is an effort to improve traffic engineering on highways/freeways/roads, and provide better safety for pedestrians.
- **Blue Zone** – Will be coming to the Yakima community on/around April 30th. They will be doing an assessment of the community and will also be observing Transit operations.

9. Future Transit Plans: Future plans for Transit were inquired about, Alvie indicated that within a couple of years, Transit would like to expand to fill gaps in our coverage areas and make current operations more efficient. He would like to see approx. 30 minute routes be the norm in the near future. Looking ahead, a new facility as a base of operations and a West-side TC to support routes on the other side of 40th ave. are also desirable.

10. Future Meeting Times: Alvie mentioned that Transit sent out a survey to seek feedback from those who have attended past Transit Citizens Advisory Meetings inquiring about changing meeting times to earlier in the day. We would like to get more feedback from these surveys to better determine if changing the times would better enable passengers to make more of the meetings in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Next Meeting will be held on May 9, 2018.