

# **TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



## MEETING MINUTES 8/15/18

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 Planner position is still vacant.
3. Fixed Route Bus Service Updates:
  - Holidays: Jeff explained that there will be no Transit services on the following Holidays:
    - **Monday, Sept. 3rd**: Labor Day
    - **Monday, Nov. 12th**: Veterans Day
    - **Thursday, Nov. 22nd**: Thanksgiving Day
  - Special Events: Jeff discussed the current and upcoming events that Transit will be taking part in:
    - The **Bus to Pools** program is in effect, started June 14th and will run through August 31st at Franklin and Lion's pool.
    - The **Central Washington State Fair Shuttle** service will run from September 21st through September 30th. Run times have been posted in the bus book, and posters will be put up at the Transit Center and the buses.
    - The **Luminaria Event** at the Yakima Arboretum will take place on December 7th and 8th. More information will be posted on this as the event draws closer.
  - Fall Bus Book Updates: Jeff stated that the following route changes have been made for the Fall Bus Book:
    - Route 1 will now be hanging a left onto 72nd Ave instead of going down to Walmart. Route 1 will no longer be stopping at the West Valley Walmart. Walmart time points are taken out, and times are modified to accommodate this change from the Harman Center on.
    - Routes 2 and 5 each have 2 added runs throughout the day. Each run will now begin at 15 or 45 after. All afternoon times have been adjusted to accommodate this change.
    - Route 6S will have time changes at Walmart and the Transit Center. This will allow us to provide more efficient service at the Walmart.
    - Route 8 will now end service at 1st and "I" St. at the end of the day to better accommodate our passengers.
  - 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 in a couple of months.
  - Naeem provided an ITS Solutions update, stating that Transit is currently working with the Purchasing department to put out an RFP for a new IT system for State and Federal reporting. We are expecting the RFP to be out by the end of the month.

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. Transit Development Plan: Naeem explained that the Transit Development Plan was near completion and that a public hearing notice will be posted soon for public comment. The Transit Development Plan is an annual report that gets submitted to the WSDOT and communicates Transit's progress over the previous year, and its future plans over the next 6 years. Once the public hearing is completed, and the Plan is approved, it will be submitted to council, and from there will be submitted to WSDOT. Yakima Transit is required to submit this report annually to remain on "good standing" terms with the State and Federal government to receive financial incentives (grants, etc.).
7. Grants: Naeem stated that Transit had received a grant to expand Ellensburg Commuter operations. This Trial-Run began January 1<sup>st</sup>, and ended at the close of the school year, June 8th. Overall, the trial did very well and totaled a count of 732 passengers over a 6 month period.
8. 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).
  - 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 40<sup>th</sup> Ave, between Tieton Drive and Chestnut. There is currently a bid out for the project.

#### OPEN DISCUSSION:

9. Folk life Festival: One of the attendees inquired about Transit providing a shuttle bus for the Folk life festival. He indicated that this event generated a great turnout. It was discussed that the festival runs outside of Transit's normal service hours, and would need to be further investigated to decide if this would be possible. Currently, Transit's service cost is about \$122 per hour, and as this event took place outside of normal working hours, there might be a heavy cost involved to run it.
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.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.**

**Next Meeting will be held on November 14, 2018.**