



TO: YCTA Board of Directors
Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Cynthia Thompson, Transit Manager

Cc: Ken Huffer, Carolina Rook, Keri Hinton

DATE: March 27, 2020

Re: Board Action Items for Yamhill County Transit

**Yamhill County Transit Action Items for
Yamhill County Board of Director's and Board of Commissioners**

Date: April 2, 2020

#1 Project Description:

Approve temporary service adjustments in response to COVID-19.

1.) Temporarily discontinue Newberg local routes 5 and 7 and maintain or add demand response based on demand 2.) Temporarily discontinue the first run on Route 33(5:55 am) and Route 44 (6:20 am) 3.) Temporarily implement Fare-less policy system-wide.

1 Board Action Requested

Approve temporary service adjustments listed above in response to COVID-19 addressing reduction in ridership and staffing levels at First Transit. Service adjustments will be implemented April 6, 2020.

1 Background Info:

Yamhill County Transit (YCT) is still operating all services, commuter, local fixed routes and demand response services. The COVID-19 Pandemic is taking its toll on YCT ridership. Ridership is down 60% and staffing levels are at 75%.



The Yamhill County Transit team is meeting weekly to assess the current situation and to review data. All transit vehicles in service are being cleaned frequently with disinfectant throughout the day and every evening in preparation for the next day.

YCT staff sent the attached DRAFT Press Release to YCTAC members and asked for feedback regarding the proposed service adjustments. The Transit Manager received responses from 4 of the committee members in support of the adjustments. The Transit Manager will contact leadership at the City of Newberg prior to implementation in addition to speaking with YCTAC members representing Newberg.

YCT staff recommends approval of the following temporary service adjustments.

April 6 - Implement the following:

- 1.) Temporarily discontinue Newberg local fixed routes 5 and 7. Demand Response services will be available to cover rider demand so no one will be left without a way to get to the Dr. or grocery store.
- 2.) Temporarily discontinue first trip in the morning on Routes 33 (5:55 am) and 44 (6:20 am)
- 3.) Temporarily implement a fare free system until the Governor ends the *Stay at Home* order.

A copy of the draft Press Release is attached. This Press Release was sent to the local newspapers and to YCTAC members and the YCT Stakeholder list on Friday, March 27, 2020.

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MARCH 27, 2020**



PRESS RELEASE

Yamhill County Transit Response to COVID 19

Yamhill County – March 27, 2020 – Yamhill County Transit (YCT) is still operating all services, commuter, local fixed routes and demand response services. The COVID-19 Pandemic is taking its toll on YCT ridership. Ridership is down 60% and staffing levels are at 75%. Yamhill County Transit truly appreciates that most riders are doing their part to limit exposure and staying home according to federal and local authorities' requests.

The Yamhill County Transit team is meeting weekly to assess the current situation and to review data. All transit vehicles in service are being cleaned frequently with disinfectant throughout the day and every evening in preparation for the next day.

YCT is considering the first round of service adjustments in response to COVID-19. The Board of Directors may be asked to approve the following service changes in the next couple weeks. YCT will notify the public, stakeholders and local jurisdictions prior to implementation.

Service adjustments under consideration:

- 1.) Temporarily discontinue Newberg local fixed routes 5 and 7. Demand Response services will be available to cover rider demand so no one will be left without a way to get to the Dr. or grocery store.
- 2.) Temporarily discontinue one trip in the morning on Routes 33 (5:55 am) and 44 (6:25 am)
- 3.) Temporarily implement a fare free system until the Governor's Executive Order ends stay at home order.

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Revenue:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes \$25 billion in funds needed for essential public transportation services. The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced increased flexibility to help transit agencies respond to Coronavirus. In states where the Governor has declared an emergency, transit agencies may use federal formula funds for emergency related capital and operating expenses. In addition, it raises the cap on the federal governments share of those expenses.

There are also proposals at the State level to offer flexibility with State funding for transit.

The County and First Transit policies and protocols are built around providing the safest environment for the health and safety of our customers, employees, and partners.

We continue to stay in close contact with local, state, and national health authorities to stay up to date with information.

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) website has excellent guidance for individuals, families, businesses and high risk groups. The links below provide additional guidance that may be helpful.

- [CDC Guidance-Business-Response](#)
- [CDC-Disinfecting Facilities](#)
- [CDC-High-Risk Groups](#)
- [CDC-Prepare Your Family](#)

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Please remember to adhere to social distancing as much as possible when riding the bus. YCT dispatchers when scheduling rides for demand response services may ask questions to ensure customers are not traveling with symptoms.

Please watch for weekly updates on Ycbus.org and the Rider Facebook page **YCbus Info**.

Please use the links below to find accurate information and do your part to help stop the spread of this coronavirus.

Twitter

[@OHAOregon](https://twitter.com/OHAOregon)

[@CDCgov](https://twitter.com/CDCgov)

Facebook

[Oregon Health Authority](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Web

[Oregon Health Authority](#)

[Yamhill County Public Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)