



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Informational Item

Date: November 21, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council and Alex Meyerhoff, Interim City Manager

From: Scott Schafer, Public Works Director
Alvie Maxey, Yakima Transit Manager

Subject: Requested Transit information from City Council

This Informational Item is in response to City Council's request for information regarding Yakima Transit services to the YMCA Aquatics Center and the SOZO Sports Complex.

As mentioned in the recently adopted Transit Development Plan, Yakima Transit currently has several routes that serve the area close to the YMCA Aquatics Center. At peak service there are six buses per hour (66 buses per day) that have stops at or near the intersection of N.40th Ave and River Road. Currently, access directly in front of the Aquatic Center on River Road is restricted. The intersections at River Road and N. 40th Ave. and River Road and N.34th Ave are too narrow for safe bus travel. While the recent improvements to River Road make the road itself useful for safe bus travel, the restrictive surrounding intersections make River Road inaccessible for buses. In 2020, road improvements will continue at the intersection N.34th Ave. and River Road with the installation of roundabouts. Once road improvements adequately address the accessibility issues for Yakima Transit, routes with stops directly in front of the Aquatic Center will be implemented.

Passengers living on the east side of Yakima, currently have several routes they may utilize to get to and from this new facility. All Yakima Transit routes travel to and from the Transit Center, which is located in east Yakima. Routes 6 and 6X serve residents east of the Transit Center. These routes are very efficient, half hour routes, which can quickly transport passengers to the Transit Center, and from there, passengers can board routes 3, 4, 7, and 9 during regular weekday hours to reach stops near the Aquatic Center, and during peak service the additional route 7X is also available to use for this purpose.

Regarding the SOZO Sports Complex, there are currently no Yakima Transit fixed-route buses that serve this facility. The road project along Spring Creek Road has not yet been completed from W. Washington Ave. to the SOZO Sports Complex. Phase 1 of the project was completed earlier this year. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in spring of 2020 and be completed by November 2020. As previously expressed to City Council, completion of the roadway is necessary before Yakima Transit can safely and efficiently route buses to the SOZO Sports Complex.

While this roadwork is in progress, Yakima Transit is evaluating the possibility of offering an On-Demand type of service to both the YMCA Aquatic Center and the SOZO Sports Complex. This will require a feasible study and will also need prior approval of both the federal and state agencies.

