

GET THERE WITH US

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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 will be asked to approve the following service changes at their April 2nd board meeting. YCT will notify the public, stakeholders and local jurisdictions prior to implementation.

April 6, 2020 Proposed Service Adjustments:

- 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.



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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](#)

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