



First Transit

800 NE 2nd Street
PO Box 393
McMinnville, OR 97128

YCBus.org

Main

503-474-4900

Newberg

503-538-7433

Translation/Accessible

Alternate Formats

503-474-4900

Central Translation

1-800-CALL-CLI

Text-to-Voice

(TTY) Relay

711

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For Immediate Release

April 6, 2020

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503-474-4910 thompsonc@co.yamhill.or.us

Yamhill County Transit Service Adjustments Effective April 6, 2020

Yamhill County Oregon- Yamhill County Transit (YCT) is scaling back bus service effective Monday, April 6, 2020. YCT operates transit service in Yamhill County with connections to Tri-Met, Cherriots and Tillamook County Transit District.

The YCT Board of Directors approved the following service adjustments;

- Temporarily discontinue Newberg local fixed routes 5 and 7.
Demand Response services are available to cover rider demand for essential trips to the doctor, pharmacy, grocery store etc.
- Temporarily discontinue first round trip in the morning on routes 33 (5:55 am and 7:00 am) and 44 (6:25 am and 7:52)
- Temporarily implement a fare free system until the Governor ends the *Stay at Home* order.

These changes are posted on the YCBus.org website. These service adjustments equate to a 10% reduction in services. Ridership continues to decline and currently is at 21% of normal ridership levels. Staffing levels are reduced but currently YCT can maintain these proposed service levels.

Our neighboring transit agencies, TriMet and Cherriots are reducing services in response to COVID-19. YCT is monitoring their service changes and will make necessary adjustments.

"Our primary goal is to keep everyone safe and keep transit services operating as long as feasible so essential workers can get to employment and transit dependent riders can get to the doctor, pharmacy and grocery store, etc." said Cynthia Thompson, YCT Transit Manager.

We are extremely appreciative that most riders are doing their part to limit exposure and staying home according to federal and local authorities' requests. YCT asks riders to please wear face masks or covering of some type when riding the bus and to adhere to the recommended 6- foot social distancing standard.

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

YCT continues to monitor and gather information and will provide updates regarding funding available to Yamhill County through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The U.S. Department of Transportation 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.

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.

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](#)

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. County Transit administrative staff are working remotely. First Transit staff are available at the YCT Transit Center during normal business hours Monday – Saturday. Please call 503-474-4900 for reservations and information.

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](#)

[@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](#)

[Ycbus.org](#)