



Yavapai Regional Transit, Inc.  
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## “Moving Yavapai Regional Transit Forward”

### Minutes of YAVAPAI REGIONALTRANSIT INC Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

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**WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2018  
10:00 A.M.-12:00P.M.**

**St Luke’s Episcopal Church  
Prescott, AZ**

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#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Those present introduced themselves by name and organization: John Jones, Transit Advocate; Daniel Mattson, YRT Board; Gil Stritar, CYTF; Frankie Reynolds, County Health Department; Jeff Lambert, Chino Valley School Transportation; Norm Davis, Town of Prescott Valley, Cheri Romley, YRT Board, Ron Romley, YRT Board; Sandy Stutey, YRT staff.

#### **UPDATE ON YRT SYSTEM**

Cheri Romley welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> TAC Meeting of our Fiscal Year. She introduced the Board Members and Manager who attended and explained the role of the Board Members who could not attend sharing their area of expertise on the YRT Board. She also shared some of the new services and programs.

1. December free rides for everyone
2. Free rides for Veterans which started January 1. Veterans are required to have an AZ Driver’s License or AZ Identification Card
3. YRT qualified and received AZ Tax Credit Certification
4. YRT started their Sponsorship Program
5. January 8, 2018 started our 2 year grant cycle for FY 18-19 and FY 19-20 and the completion is February 21, 2018

#### **CENTRAL YAVAPAI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CYMPO) RELATIONSHIP**

Ron Romley, Chairman of the YRT Board, gave a brief update on a CYMPO Meeting that was held January 9, 2018. People in attendance included John Amos from YRMC, Rodney Jenkins from Yavapai College, Richard Heath from NAU, Leslie Horton, Yavapai County Health Services, Carole Benedict, US

Vets just to name a few of the attendees. Chris Bridges, CYMPO Administrator, set a meeting up with major organizations in the Tri-City area to figure out a way to fund a Regional Transit System and to utilize the 5307 funds that CYMPO receives (approximately \$1.2 million) every year. Currently these funds cannot be utilized here due to lack of match funds. Ron Romley explained that none of these funds stayed in the Tri-city area, instead, going to other transit systems across the state. Chris also handed out a packet from Paris, Texas, which showed how they started a small transit system with minimal local government funding by having the support and backing from businesses, the health care system, schools, and members of the community.

## **OVERVIEW OF EXISTING BUS ROUTES**

Sandy Stutey, Transit Manager, reviewed several handouts covering the current ridership, frequency of the routes, the actual days of week that YRT runs its system and the number of miles. (Exhibits 1, 2, 3)

- A comparison of possible route changes and transfer stations for the future.
- Current operating data, including number of riders, service hours, and miles traveled is compared with projected riders, projected service hours and projected miles. The data is from October 2016 – September 2017 and October 2017 – December 2017.
- A list of trip origins and destinations, showing individual stops comparing the growth in ridership from October 2016 – September 2017 and October 2017 – December 2017. She also provided a snapshot of ten months of the first ten months of FY 17 of “trip purpose”, based on rider destinations. YRT uses the Safeway store in Chino Valley as its transit hub, and all routes travel through that location. It has the highest number of riders boarding and leaving the bus.

## **BUS ROUTES & SCHEDULES**

Ron reviewed the current route structure. YRT operates a “deviated fixed route” system based on having regular schedules with specified times at various stops. It also allows buses to deviate off the route, up to one mile in Chino Valley and roughly one-quarter of a mile in Prescott and Prescott Valley, to accommodate passengers who may not be able to get to a stop. Some “request stops” are designated in the schedule, but riders can also make individual requests. They must call the day before to schedule the deviation which will be provided whenever possible, within the constraints of capacity on the bus and location.

**Gold Route** – Provides five days of service in Chino Valley, 8 AM – 3 PM. Covers major destinations on an hourly basis and serves the Safeway location twice an hour to allow riders to transfer to other routes. Days of service expanded from three days a week to five days a week on October 2, 2017.

**Green Route** – Provides service from 8 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Thursday. The Green Route connects Prescott with Chino Valley along Highway 89, Willow Creek, Whipple, Gurley, and Highway 69, as far east as the Gateway Mall. The route then returns to Chino Valley via Prescott Lakes Parkway and an additional portion of Highway 89. Days of service expanded from two days to four days on October 2, 2017. A fourth trip was also added at that time.

**Red and Blue Routes** – These routes operate on Friday only. The Red Route begins in Chino Valley, travels to the west side of Prescott, travels along Highway 69 to the center of Prescott Valley, then returns to Chino Valley via Highway 89A. The Blue Route starts an hour later in Chino Valley, first traveling to Prescott Valley, then Prescott, and returning to Chino Valley along Willow Creek Rd.

The TAC and staff will be looking at current schedules and evaluating options for changes to increase service in the future.

### **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE BUS ROUTES**

Sandy Stutey and Ron Romley discussed the possible scenarios for YRT services for the next grant period FY 2018-2020.

1. Increase the number of Green Routes from one to two a day, which would add 4 routes a day for a total of 8 routes a day
2. Change the Red Route into a Green Route to simplify the rider's experience in planning a trip.
3. Schedule the Green Route to meet a modified Blue Route at the Frontier Village on the days that YRT goes to Prescott Valley.
4. Add a day of service into Prescott Valley – from one to two days.
5. Change the Friday PV service to a different day – Run CV to PV to Prescott on Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday and Thursday.
6. Schedule the Green Route between CV and Prescott earlier and end later.

### **DISCUSSION OF NEW BUS USAGE**

Ron Romley discussed the relationship of the new bus, due to arrive this spring, to possible route changes or increasing the frequency of service to Prescott.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

Sandy Stutey, Transit Manager, reviewed the financial impacts of the addition to the routes or increasing the frequency in Prescott.

### **FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND DATES**

Priorities:

1. Add day to Prescott Valley
2. Reschedule service in PV to Tuesday –Wednesday or Wednesday-Thursday
3. Start service from CV to Prescott earlier and end later, five days a week
4. Establish a transfer point at Frontier Village between the Green Route (CV to Prescott) and the Blue Route (CV to Prescott Valley)

Future Meetings Dates on Wednesday:

- July 18, 2018
- October 17, 2018
- January 16, 2019

**NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, April 18, 2018, 10 AM – NOON,  
ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2000 Shepherds Lane, Prescott**

**Exhibits 1, 2, 3**