



THE STATUS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE YAKIMA REGION

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

UNION GAP, WASHINGTON

APRIL 10-20, 2021

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REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (HISTORY OF SERVICES)

- Yakima Valley Transportation Co.
(1907 - 1947)
- City Bus System
 - (Private System - 1957- 66)
 - (Transit- 1966 – Household Tax)
 - (Yakima Transit – 1980 – 0.3% Sales Tax)
- Greyhound
- Commercial / Passenger Aviation
- Amtrak



REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(INTRA-/INTER-STATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS REDUCTIONS THROUGH THE YEARS)

- Yakima Valley Transportation Company (1907-47 & Mid 70s) -
Most tracks since removed / museum-based routes
- Amtrak (October 1981) – Nearest access (Pasco/Wenatchee/Seattle)
- Commercial Passenger Aviation (1980's & 90s) –
Single provider / Single Destination (Seattle – lengthy layovers)
- Greyhound (2004) – Service to small cities ended (Yakima & Sunnyside Only)
- Greyhound (2012) – Terminal Closes – Yakima “Bus Stop” floats around town
- Yakima Transit Vanpool Program (1998 - 2021)

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(EXPANSION OF TRANSIT SERVICES – WITHIN YAKIMA COUNTY)

- People for People’s Community Connector (Yakima to Prosser) – 1993
 - (Funding: State Rural Mobility / Donations)
- Yakima Transit – Route Expansion during city annexation periods (1990’s)
 - (Funding: Federal / State / Local Fares)
- Yakama Nation Transit “Pahto Public Passage” (2007)
 - (Funding: Federal Tribal Transit)
- Selah Transit (2008)
 - (Funding: Local Sales Tax / State Grant Funding [2021])
- Union Gap Transit (2008)
 - (Funding: Local Sales Tax)

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(EXPANSION OF TRANSIT SERVICES – WITHIN YAKIMA COUNTY) – (CONT.)

- Airporter Shuttle - Yakima to SeaTac – with stops (2003)
 - (Private Provider)
- Yakima Transit – Yakima-Ellensburg Connector (2011)
 - Yakima Valley Community College ↔ Central Washington University
 - (Funding: Federal / State / Local Fares)
- People for People’s Route #201 (Sunnyside/Grandview/Mabton Loop) – 2020
 - (Funding: State Rural Mobility / Donations)
- Other Services
 - YN Casino Shuttle / Fronteras Del Norte / Dial-a-Ride / VA Shuttle / Social Programs
- Indirect connection to WSDOT’s Travel Washington Intercity Bus Program “Grape Line” via Community Connector / Ben Franklin Transit and “Apple Line” via Yakima-Ellensburg Connector

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(APRIL 2022 – NUMEROUS COUNTY COMMUNITIES REMAIN UN-/UNDER-SERVED)

MUNICIPALITIES

- Tieton
- Naches
- Moxee (East Valley)

UNINCORPORATED

- Terrace Heights
- West Valley (non-Yakima)
- Cowiche
- Glead
- Parker
- Nile Valley
- SR 12 & 410 Corridors

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(APRIL 2022 – NUMEROUS COUNTY SCHOOLS REMAIN UN-/UNDER-SERVED)

Colleges / Universities

- Pacific Northwest University (Terrace Heights)
- Heritage University (YN Transit)

K-12

- Highland HS Naches (HS / K-8)
- East Valley School District (K-12)

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(APRIL 2022 – MAJOR EMPLOYERS / MODAL FACILITIES REMAIN UN-/UNDER-SERVED)

Warehouses

- Walmart Distribution Center (Grandview)
- Ace Hardware Distribution Center (Moxee)
- Yakima Training Center (E of Selah)
- Evans Fruit (Tieton)
- Borton Fruit (Union Gap)
- Inland Fruit (Wapato)
- Allan Brother Fruit (Naches)

Public Facilities

- Sunnyside Municipal Airport
- Sunnyside-Prosser Trail
- Naches Rail to Trail
- Moxee to Greenway Trail
(under development)
- Numerous parks throughout the county

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(KEY FACTORS)

- “SUNTRAN” (1994) – Countywide Transit Service
 - Countywide Vote Failed (2/1) – PTBA has been in hibernation since 1998.
- Rural, Isolated Communities –
 - Limited access within and between cities
- Limited frequency of service
 - Intercity trips can take most of the day / risk missing return trip home
- Funding often supported by competitive grant processes

REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(WHAT'S NEXT – TRANSIT STUDIES)

- **Yakima Region Transit Feasibility Study “1.0” - (2021-22)**
 - First (Non-HSTP) Regional Transit analysis effort since “SUNTRAN”
 - Inventory ALL regional transit assets (Facilities / Equipment / Services)
 - Current (and planned) Revenues & Expenditures and agency acquisitions
- **Yakima Region Transit Feasibility Study “2.0” – (2023/24)**
 - Strategize better coordination/connection of existing services
 - Comparable [national] “best practices”
- **Yakima Region Transit Feasibility Study “3.0” - 2025+**
 - Strategize expanded services
 - Better Tie-ins with developing modes (Passenger Rail / Electric Aircraft / Regional Trails)
- **PTBA or other opportunities as advised by regional stakeholders**

The background is a solid teal color with a subtle gradient. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit traces or neural network connections. These patterns consist of straight lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, ending in small circles. The patterns are more dense and complex in the bottom-left and top-left corners, and more sparse in the top-right and bottom-right corners.

THANK YOU

- Questions ?