

Issues Brief

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Yakima Transit to Launch Route 8

New route to begin service April 30th, will replace Route 10

Yakima Transit is at work on a new bus route that will begin service next month.

The new Route 8 will include areas within the City of Yakima currently served by Route 10.

Route 10 also served the City of Selah, which is pursuing other options for transit service.

Route 8 also adds areas of Yakima that are not currently served.

Those include 16th Avenue north of River Road and westbound on Yakima Avenue from 4th Street to 16th Avenue.

The proposal calls for Route 8 to run every 35 minutes instead of once each hour, as is the case currently with Route 10.

"We're going to gain a more efficient route that should better serve those within Yakima," said Yakima Transit Manager Alvie Maxey.

"Even though we did not want to lose Route 10, there is the potential for very strong positives moving forward as it relates to expanding our coverage and filling gaps of service," Maxey added.



Yakima Transit is holding a series of public meetings about the new Route 8, which will begin service on Monday, April 30th. It will replace Route 10, which makes its last run on April 30th. The first meeting, pictured above, can be viewed on-line at Y-PAC's website.

"Even though we did not want to lose Route 10, there is the potential for very strong positives moving forward as it relates to expanding our coverage and filling gaps."

- Yakima Transit Manager Alvie Maxey

Route 8 begins service on Monday, April 30th, which is also the last day for Route 10.

Yakima Transit is conducting a series of public meetings about Route 8.

The final two meetings are 2:00 pm and 5:30 pm on Tuesday, March 20th in the Public Works Department's large training room, 2301 Fruitvale Boulevard.

Click <http://bit.ly/2I9F5FX> to watch Y-PAC coverage of Yakima Transit's first meeting about Route 8.

For more information and schedules on Yakima Transit routes visit www.yakimatransit.org or call 575-6175.



Councilmember Holly Cousens Shares Her Priorities for 2018

Includes public safety, economic development

Happy spring, Yakima!

I'm very excited to be in the second half of my first term on the Yakima City Council.

I've learned so much during my time in office and I look forward to learning much more as I continue to work with you.

This year I have some new seatmates on the Council, and I'm fortunate to be working alongside some amazing community leaders.

This year began with a trip to Olympia in January to lobby for legislation benefiting Yakima. One of the most significant bills the City supported this session was House Bill ("HB") 2858, which passed by overwhelming margins in both the House and Senate and was signed by the governor.

HB 2858 makes it much more feasible for the City to make infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.) improvements to the former Boise Cascade Mill Site to spur its redevelopment.

Thanks to Representative Norm Johnson, Representative Bruce Chandler, Senator Curtis King, and the City's Olympia lobbyists for their tremendous efforts in ensuring HB 2858 passed the legislature.

The City Council and City staff are hard at work developing a two-year strategic plan.



Yakima City Councilmember Holly Cousens was elected to office in November 2015. She represents District 7 on the City Council.

Setting goals that are obtainable and sustainable is high on my list of priorities as a Council member.

Public safety is a central focus of mine during the second half of my term on the Council.

I have been diligently working with providers of homeless services and the YWCA on domestic violence issues as part of the City's efforts to ensure a sense of safety and security is felt by community members.

I also am serving on the Council Economic Development Committee and the Council Partnership Committee and working hard to make sure the priorities of those committees are incorporated into the 2-year strategic plan.

Additionally, I have put the ball in motion on a citywide literacy plan to improve the opportunities all Yakima kids have to succeed.

Focusing on after school activities and keeping our kids safe have been important to me and will continue to be an important issue for me as I move forward.

I have heard from many of you about issues surrounding the federal Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). I understand your concerns about the ADA and am continuing my efforts to look for ways to ensure that we as a community are being inclusive with everything we do for people with disabilities.

As always, I invite you to contact me with any ideas, issues, or concerns you may have. I want to hear from you.

Your input is very valuable to me. Please feel free to contact me anytime by e-mail (holly.cousens@yakimawa.gov) or phone (575-6050).

It is an honor to serve you all.

City of Yakima Hires New Deputy Fire Chief

Former Sunnyside Fire Chief joins Yakima Fire Dept.

The City of Yakima's new deputy fire chief brings more than 25 years of experience in the firefighting profession.

Aaron Markham, who most recently served as the Sunnyside Fire Chief, began work this month as one of two City of Yakima's Deputy Fire Chiefs. He replaces Mark Soptich, who retired in February.



The Yakima Fire Department's new Deputy Chief, Aaron Markham, was previously Fire Chief for the City of Sunnyside.

"We are pleased to have Deputy Chief Markham join our team," said City Manager Cliff Moore. "Aaron has an outstanding professional and educational background and he will be a valuable asset for the Department and the City of Yakima."

As Deputy Chief, Markham oversees the Fire Department's support services.

That includes maintenance and upkeep of facilities and fire apparatus. He also oversees the City's fire inspection program.

The City's other Deputy Fire Chief is Pat Reid. He oversees the Fire Department's operations, including

emergency responses and the City's mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities.

Markham had been Sunnyside's fire chief since 2005 and had worked for that department since 1991.

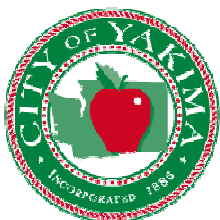
During Markham's time in Sunnyside, the department built a new fire station and purchased the City's first-ever ladder truck.

His education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Service Administration from Eastern Oregon University.

Markham also completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

Prior to becoming Sunnyside's fire chief, Markham served the City as a battalion chief/fire marshal.

Markham received Yakima County Department's EMS Administrator of the Year award in 2011 and the Spirit of Sunnyside, Public Employee/Official of the Year award in 2014.



The City of Yakima Issues Brief e-Newsletter is a monthly publication of the City of Yakima Community Relations Office. Questions or suggestions? Contact Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler at 509-575-6045 or randy.beehler@yakimawa.gov.

Visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov> for more information about the City of Yakima.