

ISSUES BRIEF

September 2022 - Vol. XII, Issue 9, Number 121

Yakima Transit offers free rides for youth beginning October 1st

Beginning Saturday, October 1st, those ages 18 and younger can ride Yakima Transit for free thanks to action last month by the Yakima City Council and a grant from the state of Washington.

Yakima Transit will offer fare-free service to ages 18 and younger on all forms of transit services. These include Yakima Transit fixed route service, Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter and Dial-A-Ride paratransit service (for those qualified to use Dial-A-Ride).

To utilize the fare-free service, those ages 18 and younger are required to carry proof of eligibility in the form of a current school photo ID card, a valid government-issued ID card, a birth certificate, or, preferably, a free Yakima Transit Youth Card.

Yakima Transit Youth Cards can be obtained for no charge at the Yakima Transit Center located at S. 4th Street and Walnut Avenue or the City of Yakima Public Works facility, 2301 Fruitvale Boulevard, during regular business hours. Proof of eligibility in the form of a birth certificate or a valid government-issued I.D. card must be provided in order to receive a Yakima Transit Youth Card.

Youth passengers are encouraged to obtain their Yakima Transit Youth Cards as soon as possible at one of the above locations.

Youth passengers are encouraged to obtain their Yakima Transit Youth Cards as soon as possible at one of the above locations. Children under 6 will continue to ride Yakima Transit services for free with a fare-paying adult and do not need proof of eligibility.

**Youth (18 & under)
ride free
starting
Oct. 1**



Get your free Youth Transit Card at:

- Yakima Transit Center, S. 4th St & Walnut Ave
- City Public Works facility, 2301 Fruitvale Blvd

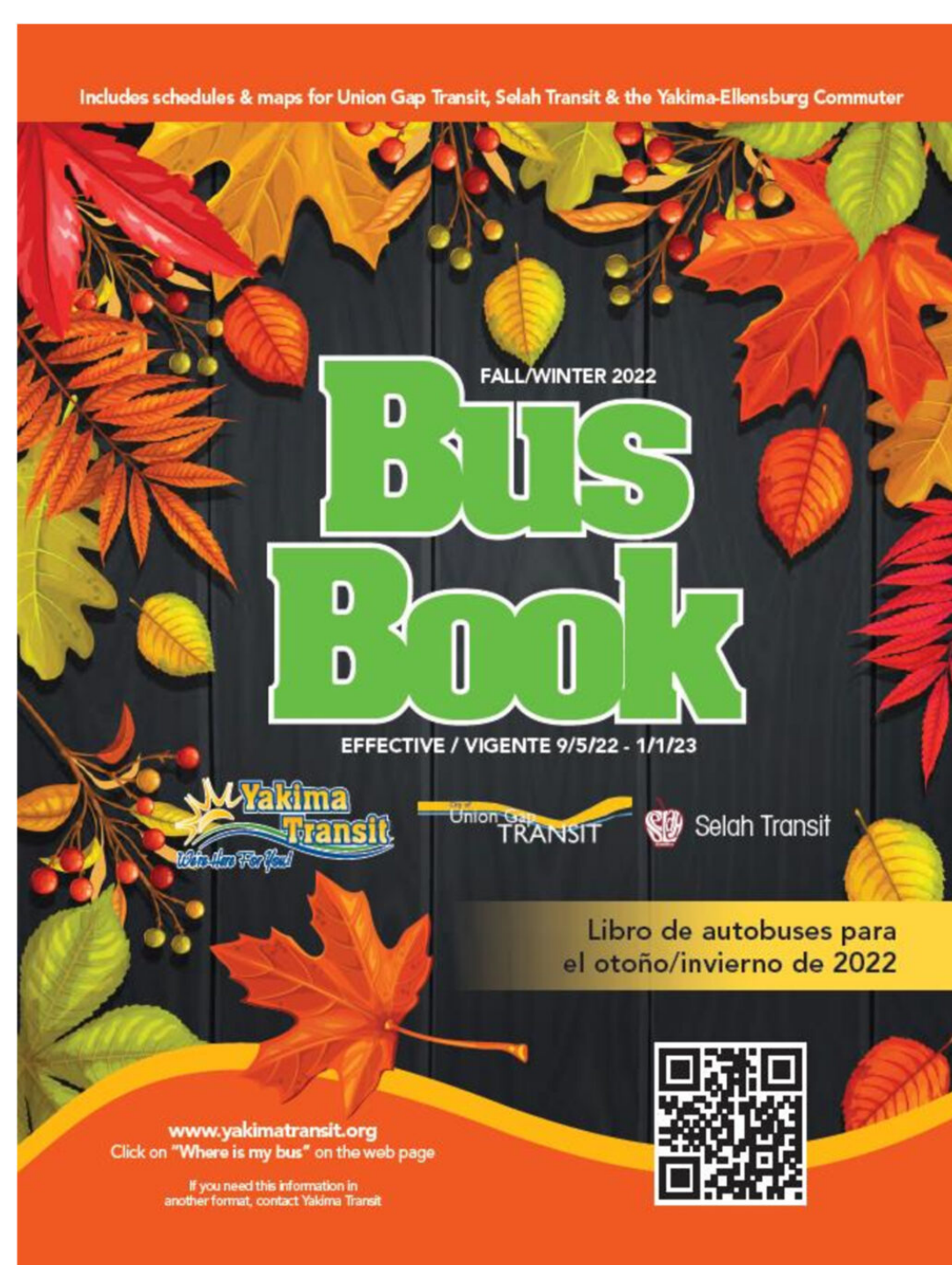
See <https://www.yakimawa.gov/> for details

On August 16th, the Yakima City Council approved an ordinance amending Yakima Transit's rates to allow for the fare-free service.

Fare-free transit is made possible through the Move Ahead Washington transportation package.

The program, approved by the Washington State Legislature in March 2022, provides grant funding to fully replace lost youth fare revenue for transit agencies, such as Yakima Transit, which adopt fare-free policies for individuals 18 years of age and younger.

Call 509-575-6175, visit [Yakima Transit](https://www.yakimawatransit.org/) or e-mail asktransit@yakimawa.gov for more about Yakima Transit and the services it provides.



Fall/Winter Bus Book available

Yakima Transit has issued its new Fall/Winter 2022 Bus Book. It shows City bus routes, schedules, maps, fares, and helpful information on services such as Dial-A-Ride, Vanpool, and Bikes on the Bus. It is available at Yakima City Hall, 129 N. 2nd Street; the City's Public Works Administration Building, 2301 Fruitvale Boulevard; the Yakima Transit Center at South 4th Street and Walnut Avenue and online at [Bus Book | Yakima Transit](https://www.yakimawatransit.org/bus-book)

Schedules are in effect through January 1st, 2023. Due to publishing deadlines, It does not include information about free fare service for youth ages 18 and younger.

"As the Bus Book has strict deadlines and had already gone to print before the City Council approved this change, we were unfortunately not able to get this into the Fall Bus Book this time around," said Yakima Transit Manager Alvie Maxey. "However, the fare-free information will be included in all of our Bus Books moving forward and is posted on our website."

The 52-page Bus Book is in English and Spanish. It also features schedules and maps for Union Gap Transit, Selah Transit and the Yakima-Ellensburg Commuter.

Call 509-575-6175 or e-mail asktransit@yakimawa.gov for more about Yakima Transit.



Training Time

The Yakima Fire Department held a training academy in August for new recruits.

It included training with the “Jaws of Life” apparatus along with other tools & techniques commonly used in potentially life-saving vehicle extractions.



Traffic impacts this month for Nelson Dam project

Work continues on Nelson Dam removal and replacement project, requiring a temporary single lane closure of S. Naches Rd at Powerhouse Rd.

This lane closure is in effect through Wednesday, Sept. 21st during project work hours of 6 am to 5 pm each day.

Flaggers and signs are in place to assist drivers as traffic through the project area will be reduced to one lane during scheduled work hours.

Work scheduled over the next three weeks includes pouring concrete for a new fish screen structure and rip-rap installation.

The project reached a milestone with the removal of a fish ladder August 10th-12th. This marked the conclusion of demolition on the project.

Going forward, the remainder of the project will focus on concrete work to divert water for fish passage.

The diversion structure, known as a roughened channel, will not only aid fish but also help with flood mitigation. “It will make a much bigger pathway so all that sediment trapped up above will start moving, lowering the flood risk,” said Assistant Public Works Director Dave Brown.



South Naches Road will be reduced to one lane for much of September due to construction of a new fish screen structure and rip-rap installation in the above photo courtesy of Yakima County.

As always, the schedule for this type of project is subject to change daily dependent on weather, equipment failure, and emergencies.

Work on the Nelson Dam removal and replacement project began in August 2021. The project will improve fish passage and sediment continuity to improve habitat, increase flow conveyance to decrease flooding risks for nearby landowners, and improve water supply reliability.

Nelson Dam, on the Naches tributary of the Yakima River, was built in the 1920s to divert irrigation water for Yakima and the Naches-Cowiche Irrigation Association.

The original design did not allow any fish passage. The dam has held back tons of sediment and silt over the years, raising the river bed and causing the Naches River to overflow its banks and move into the surrounding community during even minor flooding.

City Council action summary - Aug. 2022

Yakima City Council action during its meetings in August included:

- Issuing a National Night Out proclamation
- Requesting an updated report on plans for restoring the City-owned Millennium Plaza
- Directing staff and the Yakima Arts Commission to study and prepare background information on the formation of a "Creative District" in the City of Yakima
- Appointing Kristie Holstein to Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- Presenting an Apple Award for Joey Wallberg
- Authorizing the mayor to sign on to letter Welcoming Refugees in FY 2023
- Receiving an update on the 2022 Capital Improvement Projects Report
- Receiving the 2022 Vacant Building Safety Project – 2nd Quarter Report

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/Agendas-and-Minutes-City-Council)

The City of Yakima seeks volunteers for the

Sustainable Yakima Committee

Responsibilities include serving as an advisory committee on issues related to sustainability, renewable energy and climate change as directed by the Yakima City Council

Visit [yakimawa.gov](https://www.yakimawa.gov) for details and apply!



The Yakima City Council seeks volunteers to apply for the Sustainable Yakima Committee. The committee is comprised of seven members. One will be a "youth member" between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time of appointment.

At least five committee members must be City of Yakima residents. The remaining two may be residents of Yakima County living outside of the Yakima city limits. **Application deadline is September 30th.**

Additional information on duties and responsibilities of the Sustainable Yakima Committee, as well as an application, can be found at <https://www.yakimawa.gov>

Contact City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee by phone, 509-575-6037, or e-mail, sonya.claartee@yakimawa.gov, for more about current or future openings on City of Yakima boards, committees, or commissions. It is the responsibility of the City Council to appoint people to serve on these governing bodies.

follow the City of Yakima on social media:



watch City meetings any time, on demand:



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129 N. 2nd Street
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<https://www.yakimawa.gov/>

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Outreach Specialist John Fannin at 509-249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov.

City Directory

Airport:	575-6149
Animal Control:	575-6038
City Clerk:	575-6000
City Manager:	575-6000
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126
* Fire:	575-6060
Human Resources:	575-6090
Municipal Court:	575-3050
Parks:	575-6020
Planning:	575-6183
* Police:	575-6200
Refuse:	575-6005
Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

* NON-EMERGENCY. Call 911 in an emergency.