

# Council resumes remote meetings

Yakima City Council meetings are returning to a remote, Zoom format due to a surge in COVID-19 cases in Yakima County.

The public is invited to watch meetings live on Y-PAC, Charter Spectrum Channel 194, via Zoom, and on the City website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/council/live-stream/>

“The City is adjusting to the COVID-19 emergency as it evolves,” said City Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. “The return to Zoom meetings is a reasonable next step in the City’s ongoing efforts to continue to provide vital services to the community while helping contain the spread of COVID-19.”

The public is welcome to provide remote public comment.

Click [Public Comment | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#) for information and requirements for signing up to provide public comment. The link includes a Public Comment Request Form.

Regular City Council meeting agendas are typically available the Friday afternoon prior to the Tuesday meeting. Meeting agendas are posted online at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#).

Other options to provide public comment to the City Council include:

- Email the Council (preferred) at [ccouncil2@yakimawa.gov](mailto:ccouncil2@yakimawa.gov)
- Send comments by postal mail to Yakima City Council  
129 N. 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901
- Call 509-575-6050 (during business hours)

Yakima City Council meetings were held via telephone and Zoom after the state instituted safety protocols in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yakima City Hall reopened to the public in June 2021 when COVID-19 cases declined in Yakima County.

City Hall, and all City facilities, currently remain open to the public. Due to a statewide mandate, City employees and visitors must wear masks inside City facilities regardless of vaccination status.

Visit [YakimaVaccines.org](http://YakimaVaccines.org) for COVID-19 vaccination sites and [YakimaTesting.org](http://YakimaTesting.org) for testing sites in Yakima County.

# Nelson Dam removal project now underway

*Project to improve fish passage, water supply reliability and decrease flooding risks*

After over a decade of planning, Nelson Dam is about to be removed. Work planned over the next month includes:

- Installing a cofferdam, a temporary structure that allows a work area to be dewatered.
- Sections of the riverbed and flood plain are scheduled to be excavated to ensure new paths for the Naches River during construction. These sections will be filled in and re-contoured later in the project.

Nelson Dam demolition is expected to begin the week of September 20th. When complete, the project will replace Nelson Dam to improve fish passage and 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.



The project will decrease flooding risks for nearby landowners, and improve water supply reliability. The City of Yakima and Yakima County have been collaborating on the design and implementation of this project.

The dam removal and replacement is one of several major public works projects initiated by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The City of Yakima is investing \$10.8 million in the \$26 million multi-agency collaboration over the next four to five years.

The City of Yakima received \$4.4 million from the Washington State Floodplain by Design program.

The City also received about \$4.1 million from Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, and just over \$1.3 million from the state’s Capital Budget for the Nelson Dam project.

The City continues to seek additional funding from state and federal sources to complete the project.

# North 1st Street revitalization continues

## Phase 2 underway through November

The southbound lanes of North 1st Street are closed through October as part of Phase 2 of the North 1st Street revitalization project.

The closure is between I Street and N Street. Crews have begun removing the old concrete road, curb, gutters and sidewalks on the southbound lanes in preparation for a new road surface and paving.

Phase 2 of the North 1st Street revitalization project is expected to be complete in November. As always, schedules for these types of projects are subject to change daily dependent on weather, equipment failure, and emergencies. The speed limit for local traffic through the work area is 20 miles per hour.

The North 1st Street Revitalization Project is intended to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians and increase the economic development potential of the North 1st Street corridor, one of the main entrances to the city.

Total Site Services of Richland is the general contractor for Phase 2, which began construction in April. The cost for Phase 2 is about \$2.6 million, \$665,000 below the engineer's estimate of the project.

Phase 2 is funded through a combination of water and stormwater funds, as well as Transportation Benefit District funds from a \$20 annual car tab fee adopted by the Yakima City Council during its 2018 budget process.



Phase 1 of the North 1st Street Revitalization Project was completed in December 2019. It included improvements between Highway 12 and N Street. It cost about \$3.3 million and funded mostly with federal and state funds.

The timeframe for Phase 3, which would provide improvements from J Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, is dependent on funding. The City continues to seek state and federal funds for Phase 3, which has an estimated cost of \$12 million.

For additional information about these projects, contact Construction Supervisor Bruce Floyd at 575-6138.

## City Council action summary - Aug. 2021

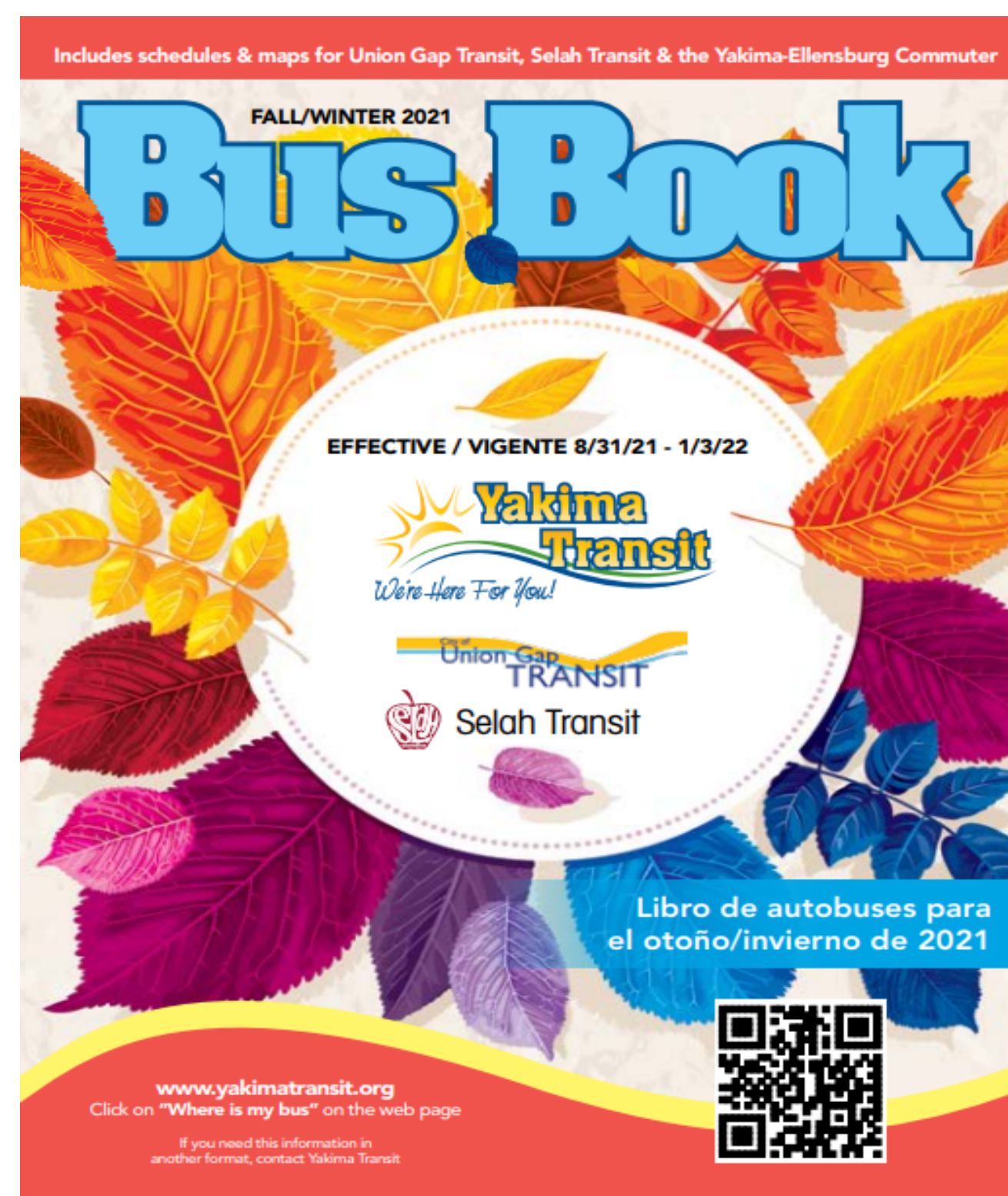
Yakima City Council action during its meetings in August included:

- Introducing Director of Finance and Budget Jennifer Ferrer-Santa Ines
- Receiving Yakima Police Dept. red light camera report
- Approving proposed Charter change language that would prohibit a local income tax
- Discussing an application for a feasibility study for an anaerobic digester
- Adding a discussion on affordable housing to the agenda for the regular meeting on September 7th
- Recognizing Public Works Director Scott Schafer for 25 years of service

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).

All council meetings air live on Y-PAC and online at [Live Stream | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/Live-Stream-City-Council).

## Fall/Winter Bus Book now available



Yakima Transit issued its new Fall/Winter 2021 Bus Book, with City bus routes, schedules, maps, fares, and helpful information on services such as Dial-A-Ride, Vanpool, and Bikes on the Bus.

The Fall/Winter 2021 Bus Book 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 [Fall-Winter-Bus-Book.pdf \(yakimatransit.org\)](https://www.yakimatransit.org/Fall-Winter-Bus-Book.pdf).

Schedules are effective through January 3rd, 2022.

The new Bus Book reflects a change to Route 3, which serves the Mead Avenue and Fruitvale Boulevard area. Route 3 will be modified to avoid South 4th Avenue between Tieton Drive and Division Street.

Where the route currently turns on to Division Street, it will instead turn on Tieton Drive then turn on to South 5th Avenue then onto Division Street. The bus will return to the route as currently scheduled at Division Street and 4th Avenue.

The change is permanent to avoid narrow traffic lanes on S. 4th Avenue.

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 575-6175 or e-mail [asktransit@yakimawa.gov](mailto:asktransit@yakimawa.gov) for more about Yakima Transit.

# Want to help those who are experiencing homelessness?

Camp Hope

424-1228

camphopeyakima.com

Union Gospel Mission

248-4510

yugm.org

Sunrise Outreach

225-9310

socyakima.com

Neighborhood Health

454-4143

ynh.org



Find more resources at:

[yakimawa.gov/services/codes/public-resources/](http://yakimawa.gov/services/codes/public-resources/)

## Connect with the City of Yakima

<b>Airport:</b>	<b>575-6149</b>	<b>Parks</b>	<b>575-6020</b>
<b>Animal Control:</b>	<b>575-6038</b>	<b>Planning:</b>	<b>575-6183</b>
<b>City Clerk:</b>	<b>575-6000</b>	<b>* Police:</b>	<b>575-6200</b>
<b>City Manager:</b>	<b>575-6000</b>	<b>Refuse:</b>	<b>575-6005</b>
<b>Codes/Licenses:</b>	<b>575-6126</b>	<b>Streets:</b>	<b>575-6005</b>
<b>Engineering:</b>	<b>575-6111</b>	<b>Transit:</b>	<b>575-6175</b>
<b>* Fire:</b>	<b>575-6060</b>	<b>Utilities:</b>	<b>575-6080</b>
<b>Human Resources:</b>	<b>575-6090</b>	<b>Wastewater:</b>	<b>575-6077</b>
<b>Legal</b>	<b>575-6030</b>	<b>Water/Irrig:</b>	<b>575-6154</b>
<b>Municipal Court:</b>	<b>575-3050</b>	<b>YCTV/YPAC:</b>	<b>575-6092</b>

**\* NON-EMERGENCY only. Call 911 in an emergency.**

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the Community Relations Office. Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or [John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov](mailto:John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov) with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.