

Transit Moves People. People Move Oregon.

Public transportation does a lot of important things that you might not even notice. It enables workers to get to jobs, older adults to medical facilities, younger people to schools, bike riders to urban centers, disabled adults to appointments and family members to shopping areas.

As public transportation matures and expands in Oregon, it will do many more important things. Electric buses will cut carbon emissions. Dial-a-ride and weekend service will give people more mobility options. Inter-community routes will expand the concept of neighborhood. On-demand scheduling and integrated payment platforms will empower statewide car-free travel. And that’s just the beginning.

Oregon’s 41 transit agencies have benefitted from additional funding through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) approved by the 2017 legislature.

In the attached backgrounders, the agencies tell their stories – what they did during the pandemic, how they invested their STIF funds and where they could invest additional STIF funding if it was available.



Check out the backgrounders at TransitMovesOregon.com

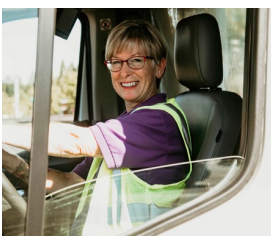
House District 24



Why YCT service is so vital

“Yamhill County Transit creates and fosters connections between people.

It is a lifeline, a friend, a sense of purpose and a motivation for those in need.”



The Yamhill County Transit Area (YCTA) a county service district was formed in 2007. In 2012 Yamhill County Transit (YCT) contracted with First Transit and began providing public transportation services with Yamhill County’s commissioners serving as the YCT board of directors.

Yamhill County Transit services include demand response, local fixed routes in McMinnville and Newberg and commuter services to West Salem, Grand Ronde, Hillsboro and Tigard.

Local Service: YCT provides six local service routes – four in McMinnville and two in Newberg. These routes help provide access to healthcare facilities, schools, shopping centers, social services and day-care on a Monday through Friday schedule. These routes provide access for commuters to other transit systems. The local routes also include a flag-stop system where a customer may flag down a bus at safe locations along the route to be picked up or dropped off.

Commuter Service: YCT provides service for long-distance commuters through the routes that connect with West Salem, Grand Ronde, Hillsboro and Tigard. Along these routes there are stops in multiple cities such as Amity, Lafayette, Carlton, Yamhill, Dayton, Sherwood, Gaston, Forest Grove, Sheridan and Willamina. The commuter route destinations allow for connections to the Cherris and TriMet transit systems, which provide access to additional resources for customers.

Dial-A-Ride: General public Dial-A-Ride provides curb-to-curb service for people of all ages in Newberg and McMinnville, with priority given to older adults and people with disabilities. ADA Paratransit provides door-to-door service between origins and destinations located within three-quarter of a mile of local fixed route in Newberg and McMinnville.

Saturday Service: There are 22 Saturday routes between McMinnville and Grand Ronde and 44 between McMinnville and Tigard with each route running four times in each direction.





How many buses, vans and other vehicles do you operate?

YCT operates 26 buses during peak service.

Key priorities for making service route decisions?

YCT considers the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community, such as older adults, people with disabilities and households on a fixed or low incomes. Our most frequent riders are people most in need of our service, so we ensure the most frequent destinations fulfill a need in education, health care, day-care, social services or shopping. YCT assists students get to and from school and other key destinations. YCT is installing bus stop signs and customer amenities on all routes. Until the signs are installed, customers can access bus stops and real-time information on the YCT website.

How has YCT applied its funding from the STIF?



YCT has used STIF to expand service, purchase new vehicles, update technology and put into motion many longtime goals. Expanded service has increased access to healthcare facilities, schools, shopping centers and other districts with additional routes in both Newberg and McMinnville and more frequent trips for Saturday services to Tigard and Grand Ronde. Technological updates include new mobile data terminals (MDTs), automated stop announcements, real-time tracking of arrival and departure times, and new cameras to increase safety. STIF funding enabled YCT to complete planning for long-range projects such as bus stop installation, remodel of the Transit Center, a fleet transition plan, and concept, design and master plan for a new Administration/Operations/Maintenance facility.

How would YCT apply additional STIF funding?

Service Improvements: Improve demand response service in smaller communities, increase frequency of commuter routes and add additional local and commuter services to meet growing demand. Retain a reasonable, sustainable fare structure.

Bus Stops and Customer Amenities: Install more than 175 bus stop signs, additional benches and shelters. Create new stops. Make stops more ADA accessible. Provide signage for real-time updates for riders.

Fleet Transition Plan: Provide the blueprint for YCT’s fleet needs over the next 20 years and move to an eco-friendlier fleet.

YCT Operation Center: Plan, design and eventually construct a modern Operations Center to house administration, a maintenance shop designed for an alternative fuel fleet with sufficient bus storage, and a state-of-the-art operations center.

It's About Connection

A network that knits together a community

Get There With Us
McMinville, Newberg, and beyond

YAMHILL COUNTY
TRANSIT
Transit On Demand



Barbara Jones describes herself as “differently-abled” and is a regular user of YCT’s Dial-A-Ride program since 2011.

“Dial-A-Ride is not just a bus; it is people who are passionate and caring. The drivers are so much more than a driver, they are a friend and a safety net for older adults and people differently abled living and traveling in Yamhill County. It is a lifeline, and it is affordable and well under budget for someone on a fixed income.”

Barb is also an advocate for “differently-abled” people and serves on the National Organization for Disabilities (NOD) to ensure transportation projects meet the needs of this population.

Sharon Bohl is a driver for the YCT Dial-A-Ride program who worked with Yamhill County from 2013 until her retirement this year.

“Public Transportation is a necessary and vital service; it is a lifeline for so many people. Customers tell me all the time that if it wasn’t for Dial-A-Ride they would never get out of their house and would have no purpose or reason to get dressed in the morning. It is a safe and affordable service that is extremely important to so many people.”

Sharon is motivated by a desire to help others and make them happy. It is this motivation that has allowed her to excel at her work with YCT and continue to provide excellent customer service day in and day out.





Wine Tasting Without the Drive

Elaine Glusac, who writes the Frugal Traveler [column](#) for *The New York Times*, recently wrote about her tour of the Willamette Valley and its wineries renowned for Pinot noir wine.

“I was looking for an accessible wine region – in terms of price, transportation and hospitality,” she wrote.

“Rare among American wine regions, the Willamette Valley is connected to a public transportation system that links Portland to McMinnville, eliminating the ‘last mile’ plague of public transportation systems that tend to strand riders just shy of their destinations.” On this tour, Glusac was in walking distance of 20 winetasting rooms and a bike ride away from many more.

Glusac took TriMet light rail from Portland International Airport to Hillsboro, where she hopped on a Yamhill County Transit bus with “uninterrupted views” and stops along the way in Yamhill and Carlton. The last stop in McMinnville was just four blocks away from Hotel Oregon.

