



Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

2715 East 14th Street, Yuma, AZ 85365-1900, Telephone: 928-539-7076

Fax: 928-783-0309, email: info@ycipta.az.gov, Web: www.yciptaz.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Shelly Kreger
Transit Director
skreger@ycipta.az.gov
(928) 539-7076 Ext. 101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Yuma, AZ (March 18, 2020) – Based on the current events surrounding the COVID-19 the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCAT) is implementing several revised policies and procedures, effective March 20 – April 3, 2020 or longer if needed. At this time, there are no other service reduction besides the Silver Route 9.

Public transit remains a critical lifeline during crisis events, connecting workers to the jobs that support community needs, and residents to health care and medical needs. In order to balance the need to protect YCAT employees while providing a vital public service, the following changes will start on March 20:

- YCAT bus and YCAT OnCall paratransit services will operate its regular schedule until further notice.
- All YCAT bus and YCAT OnCall paratransit services will be fare-free to reduce driver exposure by removing the contact point presented with the exchange and verification of fare.
- Current YCAT and YCAT OnCall passholders will be able to receive an extension on their pass for the period the system is fare-free. Details will be communicated as the fare-free period ends.
- To promote social distancing for YCAT and YCAT OnCall drivers, all riders will be asked to board and alight the bus at the rear door, if the bus is equipped with rear door entry. Anyone requiring the ramp can still board through the front door.
- The YCAT headquarters facility at 2715 E. 14th St, Yuma, AZ. will be closed to the public and no guests will be allowed on property. Because the system will be fare-free, this eliminates the need for public pass sales, and alternate plans are being made for all other services provided to the public at the Front Desk. Customer service via phone will still be available on weekdays from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at **928-783-2235 option 1**.
- For Greyhound customers who wish to purchase tickets will now do so online at www.greyhound.com or Greyhound customer service can be reached at **(928)783-4403** or **1-800-231-2222** if you need assistance.
- Apart from items of value (cell phones, keys, jewelry, etc.) Lost and Found items will not be kept and will be disposed of daily. Items of value will be turned in and recorded at the YCAT Office daily. The handling, storage, and retrieval of Lost and Found items is another significant point of exposure for YCAT staff, and one that is necessary to eliminate during this time period. Riders are highly encouraged to keep track of their belongings and check their seat area before leaving the bus.

The protection of our community and employees is a top priority for YCIPTA/YCAT, while providing a critical service we also must stress the importance of using this service only when absolutely necessary and limit unneeded contact and keeping with the recommended social distancing practices.

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