



CASPER AREA

## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

*Working with the public, elected officials, and professional staff to plan our road, trail, bus, and rail systems.*

Bar Nunn | Casper | Evansville | Mills | Natrona County | WYDOT

Date: June 29, 2016  
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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### ***Local transit system to launch new route schedule on July 5, 2016.***

CASPER, WY – The Casper Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is implementing changes to the public transportation system effective July 5, 2016. These changes include the elimination of all stops east of Blackmore Road, relocation of stops on the Red, Purple, and Orange routes, and rescheduling of all routes except for Green.

The transit system is operated by the Casper Area Transportation Coalition (CATC) on behalf of the City of Casper.

All changes to the transit system are consistent with the 2015 Transit Development Plan. The MPO anticipates additional route changes for a fully streamlined system that reflects the current economy in July 2017.

Summary of changes:

#### **Red Route**

1. Relocates the stop at 23<sup>rd</sup> and McKinley to 21<sup>st</sup> and McKinley.
2. Eliminates the stops at Centennial Middle School and Centennial Hills Blvd.
3. Eliminates the stop on Spruce Street in the Old Yellowstone District.
4. Relocates the stops serving the 12/24 Club one block north to Collins Drive.

#### **Blue Route**

1. Eliminates all stops east of Blackmore Road.
2. Eliminates stops at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Grant Street.

#### **Yellow Route**

1. No changes to stop locations
2. The Yellow Route will run on two different schedules. During even hours, the bus will travel to Walmart West and Paradise Valley. During odd hours, the bus will run to Walmart West and the Sunrise Shopping Center on South Poplar Street.

3. Smith's on CY Avenue will now function as a transfer area for the Purple, Yellow, and Green Routes.

**Purple Route:**

1. The Purple Route will now serve Smith's on CY Avenue.
2. Eliminates stops at Westech, Benton & 1<sup>st</sup>, Benton & 5<sup>th</sup>, Pendell & 7<sup>th</sup>, Chalmers & Gardener, Harding & Lafayette, Lafayette & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & Oregon Trail, Badger & Beryl, and Freden Park.
3. Relocates the stops at CY Middle School to Talon and American Way (Studio City Mesa Theatres).
4. Service hours reduced to 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

**Green Route:**

1. Adds a stop to Smith's.

**Orange Route:**

1. Drops all stops on East Yellowstone Highway (Salvation Army and Masterson Place).
2. Eliminates stops at Yellowstone Mall, 7<sup>th</sup> & Eagle, Platte Park & Sierra Vista, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Holmes.
3. Relocates the stop at 1<sup>st</sup> & Williams to 1<sup>st</sup> & Texas.
4. Creates ½ hour loops into Evansville to facilitate faster trips. The first half hour will serve the residential neighborhoods of Evansville, then returns to Walmart East. The second half hour will serve the commercial areas of Evansville and the Blackmore Marketplace in Casper and return to Walmart East. This makes trips more convenient by not requiring a passenger to ride for up to an hour to reach major destinations.
5. Adds stops formerly served on the Blue Route between Walmart East and Blackmore Road.
6. Service hours reduced to 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

These route revisions are the result of decreasing local revenues for transit partners, including Casper, Mills, Evansville, and Natrona County. This is approximately a 15% reduction but still maintains service at current levels for the areas most frequented by transit riders. Most of these changes were addressed conceptually in the 2015 Transit Development Plan. The MPO held a public meeting in February 2016 to discuss these changes as well as posted "discontinued" signs at all eliminated stops in early June 2016 to alert the public long before implementation.

New route maps and schedules are available on CATC's website, [www.catcbus.com](http://www.catcbus.com). Hard copy versions will be available on July 1.

**About Public Transportation in Casper:** For over 35 years, the Dial-a-Ride or “CATC” system has provided door-to-door service for individuals who are generally wheelchair bound or have trouble walking. “The Bus” fixed route system started in 2005 and is available to everyone. There are 6 routes that help get people where they need to go. Last year, the Casper Area Transportation Coalition provided over 200,000 rides on both “CATC” and “The Bus.”

**About the MPO:** The Casper Area MPO is an intergovernmental agency that provides transportation planning, coordination, and technical assistance to Casper, Mills, Evansville, Bar Nunn, and Natrona County. Funding for the MPO comes from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration through the Wyoming Department of Transportation, with a 10% local match provided by the local governments.

The governing board of the MPO, called the Policy Committee, consists of elected officials and senior staff from each local government in the Casper urban area.