Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 15, 2014

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee held Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at the Merced County Association of Governments, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA was called to order by Chair Danna Stroud at 10:35 a.m.

Members present
Karen Baker, California Welcome Center, Merced
Barbara Carrier, Mariposa County Public Works
Sheri Ogden, Yosemite National Park
Rich Green, The Bus, Merced
Sandy Hogan, Mono County LTC (via video conference)
Candy O’Donel-Browne, Mariposa County Economic Development Corp
Jeff Simpson, Mono County Economic Development (via video conference)
Danna Stroud, Mono County Citizen (via video conference)

Members absent
Sinarath Pheng, Caltrans
Terry Selk, Yosemite/Mariposa Tourism Bureau
Steve Smallcombe, Mariposa County Citizen
Sean Williams, Holiday Inn Express

Others present
Scott Burns, Mono County (via video conference)
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Larry Harris, Merced
Robin Lamas, YARTS staff
Dick Whittington, YARTS staff

1. Introductions
   So noted.

2. Public Comment
   None.
3. Minutes of the July 23, 2014 YARTS AAC meeting

Sandy Hogan moved to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2014 YARTS AAC meeting. Seconded by Candy O’Donel-Browne. Abstained – Danna Stroud
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Information/Discussion Only

a. VIA Monthly Service Reports for July 2014 - September 2014
b. YARTS Ridership History/Visitation
c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update
d. Minutes of the July 28, 2014 YARTS JPA meeting (to be approved at the JPA October 20, 2014 meeting)

So noted.

5. Fresno Council of Governments Agreement for Contractor Services

Dick Whittington gave a review of the Fresno Council of Governments Agreement for Contractor Services.

Dick stated that Fresno Council of Governments received planning grant money for the startup of service and that this planning grant money does not require any modification of the Fresno JPA Agreement.

Candy O’Donel-Browne moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority approve the Agreement for Contractor Services between the Fresno Council of Governments and the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System and authorize the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Executive Director to execute the Agreement.
Seconded by Sandy Hogan.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Memorandum of Understanding for Transit Service on Hwy 41 – Fresno to Yosemite

Dick Whittington gave a brief review of the Memorandum of Understanding for transit service on Hwy 41 – Fresno to Yosemite.

Dick stated that we need to be poised to act once the Fresno Council of Governments approves the Memorandum of Understanding so that we can move forward as quickly as possible.
Barbara Carrier moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fresno Council of Governments and YARTS and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement following the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board.
Seconded by Candy O’Donel-Browne.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Public Transit Service on Hwy 41 – Additional Non-Voting Board and Authority Advisory Committee Members

Dick Whittington gave a review of the staff recommendation that the YARTS Board formally approve the concept of offering non-voting membership to the YARTS Board from Tuolumne, Madera, and Fresno County and a voting membership to the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee from Tuolumne, Madera, and Fresno County.

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority approve:

a. The concept of adding non-voting members to the YARTS Board from Fresno, Madera, and Tuolumne counties;

b. The concept of adding voting members to the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee from Fresno, Madera, and Tuolumne counties; and

c. The proposed amendment to the Authority Advisory Committee Bylaws.

Seconded by Jeff Simpson.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. YARTS Staffing Discussion

The Authority Advisory Committee had an in depth discussion in regards to YARTS staffing and the need to increase staffing with the impending start of service on Hwy 41. Dick stated that additional funding from Fresno will help to pay for additional staff. Staff is looking for someone to learn about the system not only to help with the day-to-day work but also to learn the management work as well. This training would make a transition much easier in planning for the potential retirement of the current transit manager.

Danna Stroud moved to approve the YARTS JPA direct staff to begin the process of hiring a Staff Analyst I to assist the YARTS Transit Manager and train for the growth of the service and staffing transitions in the future.
Seconded by Rich Green.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.


Sheri Ogden gave the report from the National Park Service.


So noted.
11. Member Remarks

So noted.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:45 P.M.