The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee held Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at the Sierra Center Mall, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Third Floor, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at the Merced County Association of Governments, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA, was called to order by Danna Stroud at 10:37 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Tom Dumas, Caltrans
Layla Forstedt, Fresno/Clovis Conference and Visitors Bureau (via teleconference)
Rich Green, The Bus, Merced
Sandy Hogan, Mono County LTC (via videoconference)
Lisa Mayo, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
Candy O’Donel-Browne, Mariposa County Economic Development Corp
Terry Selk, Yosemite/Mariposa Tourism Bureau (via teleconference)
Jeff Simpson, Mono County Economic Development (via videoconference)
Moses Stites, Fresno Rural Transit (via videoconference)
Danna Stroud, Mono County Citizen (via videoconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT
Karen Baker, California Welcome Center, Merced
Barbara Carrier, Mariposa County Public Works
Tom Gaffery, Fresno State
Sheri Ogden, Yosemite National Park
Steve Smallcombe, Mariposa County Citizen
Darin Soukup, Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce
Sean Williams, Holiday Inn Express

OTHERS PRESENT
Scott Burns, Mono County (via videoconference)
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Laural Fawcett, Fresno COG (via teleconference)
Cindy Kelly, YARTS staff
Robin Lamas, YARTS staff
Jose Vargas – VIA Adventures
Dick Whittington, YARTS staff
Dave Wolin, Coarsegold Chamber of Commerce
1. **Introductions**

So noted.

2. **Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public however during this time Terry Selk, Yosemite/Mariposa Tourism Bureau, spoke on his recent trip to England and Ireland representing the tourism bureau and spoke on the YARTS information he gave to representatives there.

3. **Minutes of the February 25, 2015 YARTS AAC meeting**

Sandy Hogan moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015 YARTS AAC meeting.

Seconded by Candy O’Donel-Browne.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **Minutes of the April 8, 2015 YARTS AAC meeting**

Candy O’Donel-Browne moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015 YARTS AAC meeting.

Seconded by Sandy Hogan.

Abstained – Danna Stroud

**MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **Authority Advisory Committee Orientation**

So noted.

6. **Information/Discussion Only**

   b. YARTS Ridership History
   c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update
   d. Minutes of the April 13, 2015 YARTS JPA meeting (to be approved at the JPA July 27, 2015 meeting)

So noted.

7. **YARTS Title VI Program**

Cindy Kelly gave a review of the Title VI program and the request from Caltrans for YARTS to be on their own Title VI program instead of under the umbrella of MCAG as has been the procedure in the past.
Moses Stites moved to recommend the YARTS JPA adopt the YARTS Title VI Program for FFY 2014/2017.
Seconded by Layla Forstedt.
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 8. Bike Racks on Buses

Dick gave a review of the request from the Tuolumne County Transportation Council requesting that YARTS consider installing bicycle racks on all YARTS buses.

The AAC discussed the pros and cons of adding bike racks on the buses. Dick stated that if the Board wanted to pursue this option then the bike racks would need to be on all of the buses because all of the buses are interchangeable on all routes. The current rock slide detour on the Hwy 140 route limits the turning for the buses and YARTS would not be able to make the turns if bike racks were added at this time. Also the bike racks are fairly expensive and funding sources would need to be found.

Tom Dumas, Caltrans, stated that there was no funding source at this time to explore this option and staff should wait until there are actual funds to expend in this way before staff uses their time on this issue.

Danna Stroud wanted to keep the possibility of bike racks on the buses in thought and not ignore the possibility.

Candy O’Donel-Browne moved to recommend the YARTS JPA consider placing bike racks and needs in the upcoming Short Range Transit Plan while considering what is happening on the Ferguson rock slide.
Seconded by Rich Green.
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 9. Mariposa County Annual Contract for Services

So noted.

### 10. Amtrak Contract

Dick Whittington gave a brief review of the Amtrak contract and the request to approve the rate increase as provided for in the contract. Dick stated that the official “purchase order” is currently working its way through Amtrak headquarters but should be available soon. The Contract Amendment request stating the terms of the new offer, as negotiated, was as shown in the agenda packet.

Moses Stites moved to recommend the YARTS JPA approve the negotiated rate increases and to give the Executive Director authority to execute the agreement documents when they are received.
Seconded by Jeff Simpson.
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
11. National Park Service Cooperative Agreement

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS JPA approve the provisions of the Cooperative Agreement and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement so long as it is essentially unchanged from the previous year except as noted. Seconded by Candy O’Donel-Browne.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. YARTS Social Media Statistics

Cindy Kelly gave a detailed report on the statistics for the YARTS social media. Cindy stated that in marketing, every opportunity presented to increase visibility is valuable. Social media networks are new channels for YARTS’ voice and content. The YARTS social media accounts include Facebook, Twitter, and the YARTS website with Facebook and the website as being the two most significant media accounts.

The AAC was very supportive of Cindy’s efforts.

13. Budget Planning and Discussion

Dick Whittington gave a review of the request from staff asking for direction on moving forward with budgeting issues.

Dick stated that Mono County increased their contribution to YARTS by $5,000, Amtrak increased funding by $16,000, Mariposa increased funding by $54,700, the National Park Service increased funding by $45,000 and staff recently filed an application to MCAG for Local Transportation Funds of $200,000. Dick stated the increase in funding helps now but YARTS needs to consider future budgets. Money needs to be put aside to cover anticipated capital expenses.

Layla Forstedt moved to recommend the YARTS JPA provide direction to staff appropriate for moving forward on a Regional Transportation Planning mechanism and to commit resources to begin to develop a revenue growth strategy. Seconded by Candy O’Donel-Browne.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.


Candy O’Donel-Browne moved to nominate Danna Stroud as the Chair for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.
Seconded by Rich Green.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tom Dumas moved to nominate Candy O’Donel-Browne as Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.
Seconded by Sandy Hogan.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
15. **Oral Report – National Park Service**

   Dick Whittington gave the report from the National Park Service as Sheri Ogden could not attend due to the rock slide.

   So noted.


   So noted.

17. **Member Remarks**

   So noted.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:50 P.M.