



**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
Joint Powers Authority
MINUTES**

DATE

Monday, January 22, 2018

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority Board was held on Monday, January 22, 2018, at the Merced County Association of Governments, front conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at the Mariposa County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA, Fresno Council of Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA, and Sierra Center Mall, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Third Floor, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA and was called to order by Chair Smallcombe at 1:05 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor, Chair (via videoconference)
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor, Vice Chair (via videoconference)
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor (via videoconference)
Jerry O'Banion, Merced County Supervisor
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor
Nathan Vosburg, Council Member, City of Coalinga (via teleconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT

Peggy Arnest, Fresno County (via teleconference)
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Darin Grossi, Tuolumne County Transit Agency
Candy O'Donel-Browne, Chair, Authority Advisory Committee
Curtis Riggs, VIA Adventures
Tyler Summersett, Tuolumne County Transit Agency

STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Finance Director
Cindy Kelly, Assistant Transit Manager
Artis Smith, Transit Director
Joy Young, Administrative Assistant II

1. **Introductions**

Chair Smallcombe led the introductions.

2. **Public Comment**

Director Wheeler requested information on the process of replacing or changing a member representative on the Authority Advisory Committee. Cindy Kelly will get that information to Director Wheeler.

3. **Oral Report – Authority Advisory Committee Chair or Designee - Recommendations**

Cindy Kelly gave the report from the Authority Advisory Committee stating that a quorum was not present, therefore action was not taken on items presented. Cindy reported that Danna Stroud has resigned, and that Candy O'Donel-Browne will become Chair until elections in April 2018.

4. **Minutes of the October 23, 2017 YARTS Joint Powers Authority Meeting**

Director Corless moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2017 YARTS JPA meeting with corrections being made to attendance location for Director Corless and Director Wheeler as present at the host meeting location.

Seconded by Director Menetrey.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Information/Discussion Only**

- a. Monthly Ridership and Customer Service Report for September 2017 – November 2017
- b. YARTS Ridership History
- c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update
- d. Minutes of the July 19, 2017 YARTS AAC meeting

Director Menetrey asked why the ridership numbers at Yosemite Valley Lodge had decreased. Cindy Kelly responded that construction in the park may have played a key factor in the decrease and the stops have changed so the ridership has stayed the same but is shown under a different stop or location.

Director Menetrey asked for clarification of the number of complaints on the charts versus the actual complaints listed in another part of the report and why those numbers did not match up. Cindy Kelly stated that the numbers in the Customer Service Reports reflect the calls that come in and the corresponding report about complaints also includes emails received.

Director Smallcombe stated she likes the charts in the Monthly Ridership and Customer Service Report.

Cindy Kelly reported that the consensus of the AAC was to add descriptive notes to the chart pages explaining when ridership shows a significant increase or decrease for any corridor or bus stop locations. Directors Smallcombe and Menetrey agreed that they would like that information included instead of having to find it in the Customer Service Reports.

6. YARTS Social Media Statistics

Cindy Kelly reported on the two most significant media accounts for YARTS, the Facebook page and the YARTS website stating that YARTS has had an increase in traffic on the website.

Director Vosburg applauded the efforts of YARTS staff for the increase in social media diversity but would like to see the website be the origin of information that is then linked to the other social media accounts.

Director Smallcombe congratulated YARTS on one million views and asked if staff could give information on how our social media and website efforts compare to other transit agencies. Cindy Kelly will obtain information and bring it back at a future meeting.

7. YARTS Reservation System Update

Cindy Kelly gave an update on the YARTS reservations stating that YARTS has been in contract with Betterez for two years with operations running smoothly. Cindy reported 16,839 reservations for 2017 with total revenue received \$148,623.

8. YARTS Free Day Update

Cindy Kelly reported on the YARTS free days stating that there was a great turnout and ridership increased from last year. Cindy gave an update that the National Park Service changed the amount of free gate days but YARTS is being allowed to operate 10 days per year, per agreement with FHWA. Cindy stated that January 15th was a free service day and the next free service dates are April 21st and 22nd. Cindy stated that there was a large turnout.

Director Smallcombe asked if there was a way to determine who was riding on the free service days. Cindy Kelly stated that it was primarily a minority population from the days that she observed.

Director Vosburg made a statement that Caucasian is the minority in this case. He voiced that he did not approve of certain ethnic groups being termed as minorities. Director Smallcombe responded that his input was so noted.

9. YARTS Annual Audit FY 2016-2017

Director McDaniel moved to accept the audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017, prepared by Price, Paige and Company, if it does not vary from the attached draft.

Seconded by Director O'Banion.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. State of Good Repair (SGR) Project List, Certification and Assurances and Resolution

Director O'Banion moved to:

- a. Approve the State of Good Repair Project List submittal to Caltrans;
- b. Approve the Certification and Assurances required by Caltrans; and
- c. Adopt Resolution 2018/01-22-01 authorizing the execution of the Certs and Assurances by the Executive Director.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. State Transit Assistance Allocation Disbursement

Director O'Banion moved to authorize the submittal of the STA FY 2017/18, Quarter 1 claim form in the amount of \$7,789 to MCAG.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Executive Director as YARTS Authorized Agent

Director McDaniel moved to adopt Resolution 2018/01-22-02, naming the Executive Director as an Authorized Agent for YARTS and authorizing the Executive Director (or their designee) to Execute, Award, or File any and all Applications, Supplemental Agreements, Contracts, Cooperative Agreements, Receive Funds, Fund Exchanges and/or Fund Transfers and all other documentation on behalf of YARTS, to be renewed annually, concurrent with the Agreement between YARTS and MCAG for Administrative Services. Seconded by Director Corless.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Award the YARTS Short Range Transit Plan Contract

Director O'Banion moved to authorize the Executive Director to Award and Execute the contract for RFP20171020YARTS for the YARTS Short Range Transit Plan to LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc.

Seconded by Director Corless.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. CalOES Emergency Funding Reimbursement for Mariposa Park & Ride Sinkhole Repair; Certification and Assurances and Resolution

Director Menetrey moved to:

- a. Approve the Certification and Assurances required by Caltrans; and
- b. Adopt a Resolution naming the Executive Director as an Authorized Agent for the Reimbursement of Emergency Funds approved by FEMA Notification 4308-DR-CA February 2017.

Seconded by Director Corless.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. YARTS Current and Future Capital Needs

Cindy Kelly reported on the YARTS current and future capital needs stating that staff took an inventory and determined a need for buses. With rising operational costs, the cost to use YARTS vehicles and contractor vehicles will increase and YARTS may have to look at cost-saving or revenue-increasing options, such as service cuts, fare increases or other revenue-producing sources, to afford those costs. In addition, the fleet has immediate maintenance needs, such as the installation of new and replacement camera systems.

While this discussion will be addressed more at length in the Short-Range Transit Plan, staff feels it's a priority to revisit this item prior to the adoption of that document, to stress the importance of building a capital reserve that meets the needs of the system.

It was agreed upon by consensus to direct staff to move forward with evaluating alternatives to purchase buses. Director Wheeler stated that YARTS should develop a plan to purchase at least one vehicle each year until the fleet size matches the service provided. Director McDaniel agreed with Director Wheeler. Director Corless states that there needs to be more of an investment from members to the capital replacement fund. Director Wheeler informed Ms. Kelly about possible funding opportunities from the California Air Resources Board, of which he is a member, and he would provide her with that information.

16. Discussion of the Addition of Voting Members to the YARTS Joint Powers Authority

Cindy Kelly gave an update on the interest expressed by the Board in February 2017, in regard to expanding the YARTS Board to include voting members from Tuolumne, Madera and Fresno Counties. Cindy stated that currently, these counties are non-voting members of the YARTS Board. Staff is seeking direction on the expressed interest.

Director McDaniel stated that counties that are contributing financially should be voting members.

Director Wheeler stated that when a member is a non-voting member, it tends to water down the effectiveness of those members efforts.

Director Corless stated that she would like to see Director Wheeler as a voting member.

Director Menetrey stated in agreement, that counties that are contributing financially should be voting members.

Darin Grossi asked if it would need to be an elected official as the appointed voting member.

Director McDaniel stated that it should be an elected official as the appointed voting member.

Director O'Banion stated that we need to reach out and do what it takes to get other counties on board.

Director Menetrey stated that it should be an elected official as the appointed voting member.

Director Corless stated that it should be an elected official as the appointed voting member.

After a lengthy discussion, it was the general consensus to have an additional member added to Madera County and Tuolumne County.

After additional discussion, it was the general consensus to have this topic placed on future agendas for discussion until an action is ready to be taken.

17. Oral Report – Transit Director’s Report

Artis Smith reported that the YARTS application for the Sustainable Communities Grant for the Hwy 495 Fixed Route Transit Feasibility Study was not awarded by Caltrans. Staff will apply again at the next grant cycle based on information received from the Caltrans project manager. Artis stated that the NPS has reduced the amount of free gate days in 2018. Although this was originally a concern, the Federal Highway Administration has agreed to allow YARTS to operate the 10 days per year as was programmed in the Federal Lands Access Program list of projects. YARTS will operate free service on the following dates in 2018:

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- January 15th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- April 21st and 22nd – First Day of National Parks week/Earth Day
- May 27th and 28th – Memorial Day Weekend
- July 4th – Independence Day
- August 25th – National Park Service Birthday
- September 22nd – National Public Lands Day
- November 11th – Veteran’s Day

Cindy Kelly gave the summary on behalf of Yosemite National Park. She informed the Board that there has been no decision from the Department of the Interior regarding the proposed gate fees increase. Mariposa Grove remains on schedule to reopen in the Spring; Free parking reservations are available at the Visitor Center for the annual Firefall Event at Horsetail Falls from February 9-25, 2018; Yosemite Planning staff are exploring the possibility of dedicated YARTS bus stops at Yosemite Village and Crane Flat; the park is preparing for peak season visitation and one idea is that they may offer “shuttle” services from the lodges and hotels directly outside of the park.

18. Board Member Remarks

Director Corless stated that she will email Cindy Kelly with their AAC appointment and apologized for the delay.

Director Menetrey requested a paper agenda to be mailed prior to the meeting.

Director Wheeler requested a paper agenda to be mailed to the meeting.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:10 P.M.