



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

DATE

Monday, October 23, 2017

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority Board was held on Monday, October 23, 2017, at the Mariposa County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at the Merced County Association of Governments, front conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA, Fresno Council of Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA, 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
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor, Vice Chair (via videoconference)
Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor
Jerry O'Banion, Merced County Supervisor
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor (via videoconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Nathan Vosburg, Council Member, City of Coalinga

OTHERS PRESENT

Peggy Arnest, Fresno County (via videoconference)
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Michael Draper, Mono County (via videoconference)
Richard Harmon, Townsend Public Affairs (via videoconference)
Kathleen Morse, NPS (via videoconference)
Curtis Riggs, VIA Adventures
Steve Smallcombe, AAC Committee

STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Kelly, Transit Assistant Manager
Patrick Pittenger, Executive Director
Ty Phimmasone, Associate Planner
Dick Whittington, Transit Manager
Joy Young, Administrative Assistant II

1. Introductions

Chair Smallcombe led the introductions.

2. Public Comment

None.

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

Stacy Coreless gave the report from the Authority Advisory Committee and stated that the meeting went well and that the committee concurs with the requested action of Item 14 and 17.

4. Minutes of the July 24, 2017 YARTS JPA Meeting

Director Corless moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2017 YARTS JPA meeting.
Second by Director O’Banion.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Coreless, O’Banion

Noes - None

Abstain – Director Menetrey

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Information/Discussion Only

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

So noted.

6. Authority Advisory Committee Nomination

Director O’Banion moved to approve the nomination of Hub Walsh to serve on the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee.

Seconded by Director Menetrey.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Coreless, Menetrey, O’Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. YARTS Free Service on Free National Park Service Gate Days Implementation Plan

Cindy Kelly gave an update on the YARTS Free Service on Free National Park Service Gate Days and the implementation plan stating that after the first free days in November, Staff will evaluate the effectiveness of the “first-come, first-served” policy and adjust the implementation plan accordingly.

15. MCAG’s 2017-2020 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Programming to include CA FLAP Grant

Ty Phimmason reported on the inclusion of the CA FLAP Grant in the 2017-2020 Federal Transportation Improvement Program stating that YARTS was awarded Federal Lands Access Program grant funding for three years to provide free transit service to Yosemite National Park on free gate days.

16. Designation of State Transit Assistance (STA) - Eligible Transit Operators - YARTS

Ty Phimmason reported on the designation of State Transit Assistance (STA) – Eligible Transit Operators stating that YARTS has become eligible. This eligibility enables YARTS to claim additional funds.

8. YARTS FY 2015 – 16 Audit Rejection and Resolution

Cindy Kelly reported on the YARTS FY 2015-16 Audit Rejection and Resolution stating that the rejection was based on a non-compliance issue due to the exclusion of a heading “Management’s Responsibility” which was corrected within a week of being notified.

9. YARTS Reservation System Update

Cindy Kelly gave an update on the YARTS Reservation System stating that they have had over 17, 000 reservations as of September 30, 2017 and that reservations have exceeded expectations.

10. YARTS Social Media Statistics

Cindy Kelly gave an update on the YARTS Social Media Statistics stating that the YARTS Facebook page and the YARTS website are the two most significant media accounts for YARTS with both receiving several thousand hits and visits per reporting period coming from many countries.

11. YARTS Emergency Procurement for Mariposa Park & Ride Sinkhole Repair

Cindy Kelly reported on the YARTS Emergency Procurement for Mariposa Park and Ride Sinkhole repair stating that YARTS staff received a call informing them of numerous reports of a developing sinkhole at The Mariposa Park and Ride. Staff evaluated the sinkhole and at the direction of Public Works staff, an evaluation was ordered. Upon completion of the evaluation by Mariposa County Public Works, it was deemed that the site was unsafe and would need to be barricaded to prevent any additional property damage or possible injuries to those using the park & ride facility. YARTS staff applied for financial assistance from FEMA/CalOES. Funding was approved and staff started the procurement process. Staff was informed that a recent storm caused additional damage and due to the nature of the damage and to issue the safety of persons utilizing the Park & Ride, staff employed an emergency procurement for the repairs at the Park& Ride.

12. YARTS 2017 Ridership Surveys – Highways 395/120,41,120

Cindy Kelly reported on the YARTS 2017 Ridership Surveys for Highways 395/120, 41, 12 stating that the surveys are attached for review and that the information is important to the development of the Short Range Transportation Plan in addition to determining service needs and scheduling for each corridor.

13. YARTS Summer 2018 Schedules

Cindy Kelly reported on the YARTS Summer 2018 Schedules stating summer ridership has continued to increase over the years with the past two years having had significant increased on certain runs and corridors.

14. Caltrans Strategic Partnership Sustainable Communities Grant – Transit Feasibility Study for Hwy 49 South; between Hwy 140 and Hwy 41

Director Coreless moved to authorize the Executive Director to accept and execute an agreement between Caltrans and Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System for the Strategic Partnership Sustainable Communities Grant for a Transit Feasibility Study on Hwy 49 South; between Hwy 140 and Hwy 41, if awarded.

Seconded by Director Menetrey.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Coreless, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. YARTS 2017 – 2018 Budget Amendment No. 1

Director O'Banion moved to approve the inclusion and expenditure of the CA Federal Lands Access Program funding, State Transit Assistance funding, FEMA/CalOES funding and additional county contributions for the Short Range Transit Plan in the 2017-2018 Budget Amendment No.1.

Seconded by Director Coreless.

Ayes - Directors Smallcombe, Coreless, Menetrey, O'Banion

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. Oral Report – National Park Service

Kathleen Morse gave the National Park Service report stating that the park has experienced some difficult times with flooding and fires and that some areas of the park are still closed.

19. Oral Report – Manager's Report

Cindy Kelly reported that the RFP for the Short Range Transit Plan went out. Cindy invited the board to MCAG's 50th Anniversary and stated that they would have an opportunity to drive an electric vehicle. Cindy thanked Dick Whittington for his many years of service.

At this time, Patrick Pittenger presented Dick Whittington with a plaque honoring him for his many years of dedicated service to YARTS. Dick Whittington expressed his thanks to the Board members and to staff for all of their efforts over the years.

20. YARTS Administration Transition Plan – Retirement of Current YARTS Transit Manager

Patrick Pittenger stated that recently, Dick Whittington officially announced that he will be retiring from MCAG at the end of October this year. MCAG staff has been working with Dick for some time on a transition plan leading up to his retirement. Cindy Kelly, Staff Services Analyst for YARTS, has been preparing by taking over many of Dick's duties during the past several months. Patrick stated that YARTS and TheBus will be pooling their staff and resources moving forward. Patrick stated that the MCAG management team and staff would like to thank Dick for his many years of dedicated service and that a reception in his honor will be held on October 27th.

Curtis Riggs expressed his appreciation of Dick Whittington and what he has accomplished and stated that it has been an honor and a pleasure to have worked with him over the years.

21. Board Member Remarks

Director Coreless presented a resolution to Dick Whittington for his many years of dedication and service to YARTS.

Director O'Banion invited the Board to attend the retirement party for Dick Whittington and expressed his appreciation for all the work Dick has done along with the combined efforts of MCAG and the counties.

Director Wheeler thanked Dick Whittington for his many years of service to YARTS.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY THE MEETING WAS
ADJOURNED AT 3:00 P.M.**