



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

DATE

Monday, October 22, 2018

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority Board was held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at Mariposa County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at Merced County Association of Governments, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA, Sierra Center Mall, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Third Floor, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA, and Fresno Council of Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA and was called to order by Chair McDaniel at 1:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, Chair (via videoconference)
Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, Vice-Chair
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor (via videoconference)
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Jerry O'Banion, Merced County Supervisor (via videoconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman
Bob Gardner, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor
Nathan Vosburg, Council Member, City of Coalinga
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT

Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Candy O'Donel-Browne, Authority Advisory Committee, Chair
Tyler Summerset, Tuolumne County Transportation Council

STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Dabbs, Executive Director (via videoconference)
Cindy Kelly, Assistant Transit Manager
Navneet Mattu, Transit Administrative Assistant (via videoconference)
Artis Smith, Transit Director (via videoconference)

1. Introductions

Chair McDaniel led the introductions.

2. Public Comment

Director McDaniel acknowledged Director O'Banion for serving on YARTS JPA Board.

Stacie Dabbs expressed her appreciation and presented Director O'Banion with a thank you gift from MCAG/YARTS.

Director O'Banion commented that it was his pleasure to be on the YARTS Board of Directors. Director O'Banion mentioned that whether YARTS increase fares or not - YARTS is doing great to provide service to the people.

3. Minutes of the August 22, 2018 Continued YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting

Director Corless moved to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2018 Continued YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting.

Seconded by Director O'Banion.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Information/Discussion Only

- a. Monthly Ridership and Customer Service Reports for June 2018 - August 2018
- b. YARTS Ridership History
- c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update
- d. Minutes of the July 11, 2018, YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting

No questions. So noted.

Director McDaniel commented that the number of complaints were minimal for this period.

5. Social Media Statistics Third Quarter 2018

No questions. So noted.

6. Reservation System Update

Director Menetrey asked if the \$2 admin fee for online reservations was there before the fare increases. Cindy Kelly responded that the \$2 admin fee has been there since we started the reservation system and it is a charge for the PayPal fees.

7. Federal Lands Access Program Report - Year One

Director Corless commented that Federal Lands Access Program is a great program for YARTS.

No questions. So noted.

8. 2018-19 Budget Amendment No. 2

Director Gray asked about the carry-over funds and how will they be used. Cindy Kelly responded that the carry-over funds will be used for the outreach to expand our service.

Director O'Banion moved to approve 2018-19 Budget Amendment No. 2, which includes carry-over funding in the amount of \$88,684 from FY 2017-18 budget contributions from Tuolumne County, Fresno Council of Governments, Madera County and the 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program planning grant for the Short-Range Transit Plan.

Seconded by Director Menetrey.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Fare Increase Public Hearing

At this time, a public hearing was opened for public comment.

Opened: 1:14 p.m.

Closed: 1:17 p.m.

Tyler Summerset stated that the letter presented from Tuolumne County Transit Agency is requesting to defer proposed fare increase until January 2019 to explore alternatives with partners. Mr. Summerset commented that Tuolumne County does understand that YARTS is trying to be sustainable and Tuolumne County does want to keep the public transit service to Yosemite.

Mr. Summerset requested to allow each corridor to have individual vote to increase fares.

Director Gray commented that any increase in fares will result in decline in ridership. Director Gray mentioned that we should explore options to increase ridership.

10. Fare Increase Implementation

Cindy Kelly mentioned the fare increase will be effective January 1, 2019 if it gets passed. Ms. Kelly stated that Fresno has declined the fare increase and has chosen to cut runs instead.

Director O'Banion questioned if Fresno (Hwy 41) service will no longer be available. Ms. Kelly stated that Fresno decided to have less runs compared to the previous years' service.

Director Menetrey stated that the Bass Lake loop will be a requested stop.

Stacie Dabbs commented that for YARTS service to be sustainable we must think from the administrative perspective - reduce costs or increase fares. Ms. Dabbs stated that if we get local contribution from corridors to offset the revenue needed from a fare increase, that we need to have agreements in place by January 1, 2019.

Director Gray mentioned that the only concern to hold the fare increase at this time from Tuolumne is to have an increase in ridership rather than a decline.

Director Corless stated that we don't have any data from the Short Range Transit Plan that states that the increase in fares will decline ridership. Director Corless urges the board to increase fares.

Director McDaniel commented that the board encourages Tuolumne to look for other ways to increase ridership.

Director Corless moved to approve the implementation of a 20% fare increase in 2019 (based on one-way fares) and a 15% fare increase in 2020, with the increases in years 2021-23 to be determined based on YARTS' operations and capital needs (increase is estimated to be between 10 and 30% for years 3-5). The fare increase will not affect NPS or Aramark employees, commuters, seniors, disabled, reduced children or veterans at this time.

Seconded by Director O'Banion.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. YARTS Park & Ride

Cindy Kelly mentioned that there is a sinkhole at Mariposa Park and Ride and requested YARTS board to provide direction to staff.

Director O'Banion asked about the number of parking spaces at the Mariposa Park and Ride. Cindy Kelly stated that there are 62 car parking spaces and 10 RV parking spaces at Mariposa Park and Ride.

Director Menetrey mentioned that he went to examine the sinkhole and noticed there were about 10 cars parked, from which 2 were for the barber shop. Director Menetrey stated that the sinkhole has formed on the side and it would have been helpful to have picture or map of the location of the sinkhole.

Director Menetrey commented that if we try to sell the property then we would have to disclose the sinkhole situation to the interested party. Director Menetrey suggested that we can create a concrete barrier or block off the damaged area and keep using the park and ride.

Director O'Banion agreed with Director Menetrey that we need additional information - what further damage will the sinkhole do, pictures of the surface. Director O'Banion suggested that we can purchase our own fencing instead of renting.

Director Corless commented that Mariposa Park and Ride is a long-term liability for YARTS. Director Corless asked how the sinkhole impacts YARTS service in Mariposa.

Cindy Kelly commented that YARTS will still have a bus stop there but there will be no parking. Ms. Kelly informed the board that Aramark is interested in purchasing the park and ride and they want to build residential housing for the employees. Director Corless stated that the idea to sell the parking lot to Aramark sounds appealing. Director McDaniel commented that if Aramark is interested and wants to build residential housing, then YARTS might get more ridership.

YARTS directors provided staff with the direction to leave the fencing in place and pursue interest from Aramark for the property purchase and present more details and the exact location of the sinkhole at 4974 Joe Howard Street, Mariposa CA for the next meeting.

Director Menetrey moved to approve the directed action.

Seconded by Director O'Banion.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Oral Report – National Park Service Report

Kathleen Morse was unable to attend. Ms. Kelly said she would contact Ms. Morse to get updates about Yosemite and will provide updates to the Board.

13. Transit Director’s Report

Artis Smith provided the Transit Director’s report. Artis Smith mentioned that the joint SRTP meeting in Yosemite on last Wednesday was very informative and engaging.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the LCTOP programs for both Mariposa and Merced have ended for this year with overwhelming success.

Mr. Smith stated that the camera replacements on all YARTS buses will be completed by May 2019. He also mentioned that the cooperative agreement between YARTS and NPS has been submitted and the board will be updated in January 2019.

Mr. Smith reported that the summer 2019 schedules will be released online and open for reservation on January 1, 2019 and the proposed schedules have been sent out to all the interested parties on each corridor for comment and review.

14. Directors’ Remarks

Stacie Dabbs commented that the joint meeting was full of positive energy for YARTS and we should consider having annual joint meetings in the park moving forward.

15. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:45 p.m.