



**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
Authority Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

DATE

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) held Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Merced County Association of Governments, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at the Sierra Center Mall, Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Third Floor, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA, Fresno Council of Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA and Mariposa County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA and was called to order by Chair Candy O'Donel-Browne at 10:14 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Candy O'Donel-Browne, Mariposa County Economic Development Corp. (via videoconference)
 Karen Baker, California Welcome Center, Merced
 Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park (via teleconference)
 Jonathan Farrington, Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau (via videoconference)
 Sandy Hogan, Mono County LTC (via videoconference)
 Lisa Mayo, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
 Terri Peresan, Mariposa County Department of Community Services (via videoconference)
 Jeff Simpson, Mono County Economic Development (via videoconference)
 Hilda Sousa, Caltrans, District 10 for Tom Dumas
 Nanette Villegas, Merced Mall

MEMBERS ABSENT

Layla Forstedt, Fresno/Clovis Conference and Visitors Bureau
 Matthew McClain, Mono County Recreation
 Michelle Miller, Yosemite/Madera County Visitors Bureau
 Steve Smallcombe, Upper Merced River Watershed Council
 Moses Stites, Fresno Rural Transit
 Hub Walsh, Private Citizen
 Sean Williams, Holiday Inn Express
 Vacant, Fresno

OTHERS PRESENT

Peggy Arnest, Fresno Council of Governments (via videoconference)
 Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
 Gordon Shaw, LSC Transportation Consultant (via videoconference)

STAFF PRESENT

Xavier Garcia, Transit Admin. Assistant
 Cindy Kelly, Assistant Transit Manager
 Navneet Mattu, Staff Services Analyst
 Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
 Artis Smith, Transit Director

1. **Introductions**

Candy O'Donel-Browne led the introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

At this time, it was stated that the committee did not have a quorum and no formal action could be taken on agenda items. Chair directed that we skip the action items at this time.

2. **Public comment**

None.

4. **Information/Discussion only**

- a. Monthly Ridership and Customer Service Report for September 2018 - November 2018
- b. YARTS Ridership History
- c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update
- d. Minutes of the October 22, 2018 YARTS JPA meeting

Cindy Kelly stated that there has been some decline in ridership numbers for December 2018. Cindy stated that YARTS has approximately 43% decrease in ridership compared to the year 2017.

Cindy mentioned that the YARTS Financial Report/Budget Updates are not available at this time and she will email the financial report.

3. **Minutes**

At this time, Chair stated that we reached quorum and meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. Chair directed to go back to Item 3 to take action.

Jonathan Farrington moved to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2018, YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting.

Seconded by Karen Baker.

Ayes - O'Donel-Browne, Baker, Sousa, Hogan, Mayo, Peresan, Farrington, Simpson, Villegas

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jeff Simpson moved to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2018, YARTS Authority Advisory Committee and Joint Powers Authority Short Range Transit Plan meeting.

Seconded by Lisa Mayo.

Ayes - O'Donel-Browne, Baker, Sousa, Hogan, Mayo, Peresan, Farrington, Simpson, Villegas

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Social Media Report - Year in Review**

Jeff Simpson asked about the engagement numbers vs. reach numbers. Cindy Kelly stated that the numbers represented were for the total engagements.

6. **YARTS Reservation System Update - Year in Review**

Cindy Kelly gave an update on the YARTS reservation system. Cindy mentioned that the data is broken down by corridors. Cindy stated that last year's stats are provided for comparison.

No questions. So noted.

7. **YARTS Free Days Update - Year One**

Cindy Kelly reported an overview of year one for the free days and mentioned that the ridership was great. Sandy Hogan questioned if we have a bus that starts in Mariposa on the free days. Cindy stated that YARTS does have a bus that starts in Mariposa and also mentioned that we always encourage the riders to take the first bus from Mariposa.

Sandy Hogan stated that YARTS is reaching minority populations with the free days and it is wonderful.

8. **CalOES Emergency Funding for Mariposa Park & Ride Sinkhole Repair; Status of the Mariposa Park & Ride**

Cindy Kelly gave updates for the Mariposa Park & Ride sinkhole. The status of the Mariposa Park & Ride and the repairs needed to properly fix the storm drain issue were discussed among the AAC committee.

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority table any action regarding the Mariposa Park & Ride until the status of CalOES funding for repair has been determined.

Seconded by Karen Baker.

Ayes - O'Donel-Browne, Baker, Sousa, Hogan, Mayo, Peresan, Farrington, Simpson, Villegas

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **Adopt the YARTS 2018 Short-Range Transit Plan**

Gordon Shaw presented a summarized PowerPoint on the Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for YARTS.

Cindy Kelly praised Gordon and Selena for putting together the SRTP for YARTS. Cindy stated that it's a great comprehensive plan with realistic suggestions. Cindy also mentioned that she is excited to bring the SRTP to the AAC and JPA members.

Jim Donovan commented that the SRTP has great recommendations.

Sandy Hogan thanked Gordon and Selena for the SRTP and was glad to see the comments that were included in the SRTP from the members.

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority adopt the YARTS 2018 Short Range Transit Plan as presented.

Seconded by Jeff Simpson.

Ayes - O'Donel-Browne, Baker, Sousa, Hogan, Mayo, Peresan, Farrington, Simpson, Villegas

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. **YARTS Hotel/Visitor Shuttle from Mariposa to Yosemite National Park**

Jonathan Farrington led the discussion regarding a seasonal shuttle service from Mariposa County to Yosemite National Park. Jonathan mentioned that the service will only run during the peak seasons. Jonathan stated that the hotel/visitor shuttle will reduce park traffic.

11. **Oral Report - National Park Service Report**

Jim Donovan gave the National Park Service report stating that it has been a tough year with the Ferguson fire and the government shutdown. Jim commented that it is great to see YARTS still provide service to Yosemite National Park after the government shutdown.

Sandy Hogan asked if any of the contractors are affected by the government shutdown.

Jim Donovan responded that not all the contractors are affected by the government shutdown; only Mariposa Grove at this time.

Cindy Kelly mentioned that free day for YARTS is coming up on January 21, 2019. Cindy stated that the free day might change due to the government shutdown.

12. Oral Report - Transit Director's Report

Cindy Kelly gave the Transit Director's Report on behalf of Artis Smith. Cindy stated that YARTS was selected as a profile agency for LCTOP program.

Cindy mentioned that the FLAP grant opens in March and YARTS is applying for the grant.

Cindy stated that YARTS has released the summer schedules with the fare increase.

13. Member Remarks

Sandy Hogan proposed agendizing the AAC's role and responsibilities, as well as performing exit interviews with departing members and changing the time of the next AAC meeting to afternoons so that more members could attend.

Cindy Kelly suggested reviewing the by-laws and adding information regarding attendance at meetings. Cindy will follow up via email with AAC members.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:35 A.M.