



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

DATE

Monday, July 22, 2019

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority Board was held on Monday, July 22, 2019 at Sierra Center Mall, CAO Conference Room, Third Floor, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at 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 and Tuolumne County Transit Agency, TCTA Conference Room, 975 Morning Star Drive, Suite A, Sonora, CA and was called to order by Chair Menetrey at 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, Chair
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor, Vice-Chair
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor (via videoconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman
Bob Gardner, Tuolumne County Supervisor
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT

Peggy Arnest, Fresno Council of Governments (via teleconference)
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Michael Draper, Mono County LTC
Darin Grossi, Tuolumne County Transportation Council (via teleconference)
Sandy Hogan, Mono County LTC
Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park
Steve Smallcombe, Upper Merced River Watershed Council (via videoconference)
Tyler Summersett, Tuolumne County Transportation Council (via teleconference)

STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Dabbs, Executive Director
Xavier Garcia, Transit Administrative Assistant
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel (via videoconference)
Cindy Kelly, Assistant Transit Manager
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager (via videoconference)
Artis Smith, Transit Director (via videoconference)

1. Introductions

Chair Menetrey led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Minutes

Director Smallcombe asked for clarification on the statement “Director Gray mentioned that there will be an Environmental Impact Report was recently conducted for a new 175-unit hotel and a 150-unit upscale campground along the Highway 120 corridor which will likely lead to increased ridership.” The statement was amended to read “Director Gray mentioned that an Environmental Impact Report was recently conducted for a new 175-unit hotel and a 150-unit upscale campground along the Highway 120 corridor which will likely lead to increased ridership.”

Director Corless moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2019 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting as amended.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Information/Discussion Only

- a. Monthly Ridership and Customer Service Reports for March 2019 - May 2019
- b. YARTS Ridership History
- c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update for July 2018 - May 2019
- d. Minutes of the April 3, 2019 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting
- e. Social Media Statistics - 2nd Quarter 2019
- f. Reservation System Update - 2nd Quarter 2019
- g. Free Days Update - 2nd Quarter 2019

Item 4a - Director Smallcombe asked why the number of buses available vary from month to month.

Denise Demery explained that number of buses available includes the 10 buses that YARTS owns plus the number of buses VIA is able to provide, which can vary slightly from month to month.

Director Smallcombe also mentioned that the name “KOA” should be changed to “Autocamp” on the Highway 140 ridership reports.

Chair Menetrey asked if the column with 871 riders on the April 2019 Highway 140 ridership report referred to the Merced Amtrak stop and also if the Ahwahnee bus stop had been dropped.

Cindy Kelly responded that the 871 riders were from Merced Amtrak and the Ahwahnee bus stop was discontinued a couple of years ago due to low ridership.

Item 4f - Director Smallcombe requested to see the previous year data for comparison.

5. YARTS Park & Ride Update

Cindy Kelly provided a status update on the disposition of the YARTS Park & Ride and stated she is currently waiting for further information from Caltrans on how to proceed. Ms. Kelly also stated that a second commercial appraiser will be assessing the property value in August.

Chair Menetrey commented that there is some overgrowth at the Park & Ride and asked if landscaping is included in the annual \$25,000 maintenance cost expense.

Cindy Kelly replied that maintenance costs include the cleaning of the restrooms and the emptying of the trash bins. Ms. Kelly said she would look into landscaping options to address the overgrowth concern.

6. Fare Increase Update

Cindy Kelly reported that ridership is down 43% compared to last year but revenue is only down by just under \$10,000. Ms. Kelly explained that without the 15% fare increase that was implemented in January 2019, YARTS may have needed to cut service to make up for the decrease in revenue.

Director Smallcombe asked what the difference in revenue would have been without the fare increase.

Cindy Kelly replied that the decrease in revenue would have been \$50,000 - \$60,000 without the fare increase.

7. Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 Budget Amendment No. 1

No questions. So noted.

Director McDaniel moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 Budget Amendment No. 1, which includes an increase of \$78,000 in 5311(f) funds.

Seconded by Director Corless.

Ayes - Directors Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Bus and Bus Facilities Program 5339(b)

No questions. So noted.

Director Smallcombe moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-07/22-01, authorizing the application for and acceptance of funding from the Federal Transit Administration Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339b) for the purchase of six (6) battery-electric over-the road coach buses.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. State of Good Repair - Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020

No questions. So noted.

Director Corless moved to:

- a. Approve the State of Good Repair Project for Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020; and
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 2019-07/22-02 authorizing the execution of the Certifications and Assurances by the Executive Director.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Corless, McDaniel, Menetrey, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. National Park Service Report

Kathleen Morse reported the following updates:

- a. The park has had many weekends with over 8,000 visiting cars, which causes gridlock in the valley all day long. The park is researching solutions to the congestion issue, including reaching out to YARTS to possibly provide short runs from the Gateway communities.
- b. The park is working with Aramark to address the difficulties with the shuttle system service, including adding an additional five buses to the rolling stock and hiring more drivers.
- c. Several projects will be underway at the park in the near future:
 1. Adding a comfort station at Bridal Veil.
 2. Converting a general office building to parking spaces in the North Lot.
 3. Removing roadside parking in Tuolumne Meadows.
 4. Rehabilitating the Tuolumne Meadows Campgrounds, which will add two comfort stations and move campsites away from the river.
 5. Repaving Glacier Point Road.

Director Silveira joined the meeting and introduced himself at 1:30 p.m.

11. Transit Director's Report

Artis Smith reported the following updates:

- a. YARTS is working with United Airlines, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and Amtrak on creating a new "carless and carefree Yosemite adventure" marketing campaign for a new flight service from Los Angeles to Stockton.
- b. Staff's attendance at this year's IPW Conference in Anaheim has created exciting connections. Staff will be meeting with Expedia in August to discuss selling YARTS tickets through expedia.com. Staff is also working to begin vendor agreements with touring companies from Nigeria, London, South Korea and Malaysia.
- c. Due to the late start for the eastern corridor, YARTS has extended service on the Highway 395/120E corridor through October 31, 2019 or until Tioga Road closes, whichever comes first.
- d. YARTS has partnered with Aramark to offer a 15% discount at Degnan's to YARTS passengers by showing their reservations or tickets at checkout.
- e. The LCTOP programs in both Merced and Mariposa are off to an amazing start, with more than 350 tickets issued or sold in the first two weeks.
- f. Staff will be meeting with park executive management in August to brainstorm solutions to traffic congestion and what assistance YARTS can offer.
- g. The YARTS 20th Anniversary and Short-Range Transit Plan update will take place at Yosemite Valley Lodge on September 12, 2019.

12. **Executive Director's Report**

Stacie Dabbs thanked Director Corless for hosting the meeting. Ms. Dabbs also mentioned that she is looking forward to seeing everyone at the YARTS 20th Anniversary Celebration.

13. **Member Remarks**

Chair Menetrey and Director McDaniel thanked Director Corless for her hospitality.

Director Corless thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Cindy Kelly for extending the service on Highway 395/120 to October 31, 2019.

Director Smallcombe mentioned that one of the initiatives in Mariposa County's strategic plan is to increase the availability of mobility services to access medical attention and the Health and Human Services Department will be in contact with the park and YARTS to discuss more regional level solutions.

14. **Adjournment**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:52 p.m.