



**Special Meeting of the
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
Joint Powers Authority**

LOCATION:

Meeting held via teleconference:

1-800-325-1307

Passcode: 986500

Public comment is available via teleconference:

Date:

Monday, March 23, 2020

Time:

3:00 p.m.

Joint Powers Authority Members

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Director Miles Menetrey, Chair | Mariposa County Supervisor |
| Director Scott Silveira, Vice Chair | Merced County Supervisor |
| Director Rhonda Armstrong | Council Member, City of Kerman |
| Director Stacy Corless | Mono County Supervisor |
| Director Bob Gardner | Mono County Supervisor |
| Director John Gray | Tuolumne County Supervisor |
| Director Daron McDaniel | Merced County Supervisor |
| Director Rosemarie Smallcombe | Mariposa County Supervisor |
| Director Tom Wheeler | Madera County Supervisor |

Welcome to the YARTS Joint Powers Authority Meeting

AGENDA

At least 72 hours prior to each regular YARTS JPA meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the YARTS website at www.yarts.com or at the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) office, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item and copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to items of business referred to on the agenda are on file at MCAG. Persons with questions concerning agenda items may call MCAG to make an inquiry regarding the nature of items described on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address agenda items or comment on any item not on the agenda may do so during agenda item 2 – Public Comment. Persons may also address any item on the agenda during consideration of that item. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Please state your name and city or community of residence for the record. For items not on the agenda, no action will be taken. If it requires action, the item will be referred to staff and/or placed on the next agenda.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact YARTS at (209) 723-3111 at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting to request auxiliary aids or other accommodations necessary to participate in the public meeting.

INTERPRETING SERVICES

Interpreting services are not provided at YARTS public meetings unless requested at least three (3) business days in advance. Please call YARTS at (209) 723-3111 during regular business hours to request interpreting services.

Servicios de intérprete no son ofrecidos en las juntas públicas de YARTS al menos de que se soliciten tres (3) días de negociación en anticipación. Para solicitar estos servicios por favor contacte a MCAG al (209) 723-3111 durante horas de oficina.

| ITEM | ACTION | STAFF | Pg.# |
|--|--------|------------------|-------|
| 1. Introductions | | | |
| 2. Public Comment | | | |
| 3. YARTS Operations Plan in Response to COVID-19 | Action | Christine Chavez | Pg. 4 |
| Direct staff to: | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with reduced service operating between Merced and El Portal; or 2. Suspend YARTS service until further notice or upon the reopening of Yosemite National Park; or 3. Take other action to be specified by the board. | | | |
| 4. Adjournment | | | |

Next Meeting:

The next YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting to be held Monday, April 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via teleconference.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted at the Merced County Association of Governments not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.



Xavier Garcia, Transit Administrative Assistant

Dated this March 20, 2020



DATE: March 23, 2020

TO: Joint Powers Authority Board

FROM: Christine Chavez, Transit Manager

RE: YARTS Operations Plan in Response to COVID-19

SUMMARY

Discuss the status of YARTS public transit services as it relates to the current environment and community health concerns surrounding COVID-19. Staff is seeking direction from the board to either continue reduced service, suspend service, or operate at a service level to be determined by discussion.

BACKGROUND

On March 19, 2020 YARTS staff was notified by Yosemite National Park that a full park closure was scheduled to take place after service hours on March 20, 2020 given the increasing concern for COVID-19 in the gateway communities of Yosemite National Park and the limited resources available. Park Service staff also advised that YARTS suspend service after Friday, March 20, or until staff hears otherwise from Public Health Official, Kathleen Morse, or Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park Staff.

Staff immediately notified YARTS’ contractor and evaluated service options. Ultimately, it was decided that service shall continue according to the Emergency Operations schedule until the YARTS Governing Board could provide further direction.

DISCUSSION

Ridership continues to decrease daily, in the past two weeks.

| YARTS Ridership | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1-Mar | 109 |
| 2-Mar | 142 |
| 3-Mar | 107 |
| 4-Mar | 145 |
| 5-Mar | 161 |
| 6-Mar | 113 |
| 7-Mar | 126 |
| 8-Mar | 71 |
| 9-Mar | 123 |
| 10-Mar | 116 |

| | |
|--------|-----|
| 11-Mar | 128 |
| 12-Mar | 118 |
| 13-Mar | 133 |
| 14-Mar | 98 |
| 15-Mar | 74 |
| 16-Mar | 93 |
| 17-Mar | 70 |
| 18-Mar | 62 |
| 19-Mar | 36 |

Scheduled reservations indicate that most of the ridership is scheduled to arrive to/from Yosemite, with the majority of the rest heading to Mariposa, which is currently strongly advised against by their Public Health Officer.

| Upcoming YARTS Reservations | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Reservation Counts | # going to Yosemite |
| March 21 | 1 | 1 |
| March 22 | 0 | 0 |
| March 23 | 3 | 3 |
| March 24 | 1 | (+1 from Yosemite) |
| March 25 | 1 | (+1 from Yosemite) |
| March 26 | 6 | 3 (+3 from Yosemite) |
| March 27 | 2 | 2 |
| March 28 | 4 | 2 (+2 Mariposa) |
| March 29 | 10 | 4 (+4 Mariposa) |
| March 30 | 0 | 0 |
| March 31 | 19 | 17 (+2 Mariposa) |

PAST ACTION TAKEN

2018 – The Operations Plan for Emergencies and other Critical Events was adopted.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be a loss of any potential revenue received during the period of service suspension, including the refund of currently scheduled trips. Suspending service would also mean that operators and maintenance staff would be laid off, until services resumed.

REQUESTED ACTION

Direct staff to:

- 1) Continue with reduced service operating between Merced and El Portal; or
- 2) Suspend YARTS service until further notice or upon the reopening of Yosemite National Park; or
- 3) Take other action to be specified by the board.