



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

DATE

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) held Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at the Merced County Association of Governments, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at the Mariposa County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, the Town/County Conference Room, Minaret Mall, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA, the Fresno Council of Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA and the Tuolumne County Transit Agency, TCTA Conference Room, 975 Morning Star Drive, Suite A, Sonora, CA and was called to order by Chair Candy O'Donel Browne at 1:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Candy O'Donel-Browne, Mariposa County Economic Development Corp., Chair (via teleconference)
 Karen Baker, California Welcome Center Merced, Vice Chair
 Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park
 Jonathan Farrington, Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau (via teleconference)
 Sandy Hogan, Mono County LTC (via videoconference)
 Lisa Mayo, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
 Jeff Simpson, Mono County Economic Development (via videoconference)
 Steve Smallcombe, Upper Merced River Watershed Council (via teleconference)
 Hilda Sousa, Caltrans, District 10 for Tom Dumas
 Moses Stites, Fresno Rural Transit (via teleconference)
 Nanette Villegas, Merced Mall

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matthew McClain, Mammoth Lakes Recreation
 Terri Peresan, Mariposa County Department of Community Services
 Hub Walsh, Private Citizen

OTHERS PRESENT

Peggy Arnest, Fresno Council of Governments (via teleconference)
 Jill Batchelder, Caltrans District 9 (via videoconference)
 Norma Benavidez, Private Citizen (via teleconference)
 Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
 Michael Draper, Mono County LTC (via videoconference)
 Rick Franz, Caltrans District 9 (via videoconference)
 Dana Hallett, Private Citizen (via teleconference)
 Tyler Summersett, Tuolumne County Transit Agency (via videoconference)

STAFF PRESENT

Xavier Garcia, Transit Admin. Assistant
 Cindy Kelly, Assistant Transit Manager
 Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager

1. Introductions

Chair O'Donel Browne led the introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair O'Donel-Browne called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Dana Hallett inquired about the process of becoming a member of the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee.

Cindy Kelly explained Dana Hallett's nomination will go to the YARTS Joint Powers Authority Board in April for approval. Once approved, Cindy will set up a meeting with Dana to discuss her role as an AAC member more in depth.

3. Minutes

No questions. So noted.

Steve Smallcombe moved to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2019 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting.

Seconded by Jonathan Farrington.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Information/Discussion Only

- a. Monthly Ridership and Customer Service Reports for July 2019 - October 2019
- b. YARTS Ridership History
- c. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update for July 2019 - October 2019
- d. Minutes of the July 22, 2019 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting (to be approved at the January 13, 2020 JPA meeting)
- e. Reservation System - Annual Sales Summary 2019
- f. Free Days Update - Annual Review 2019

No questions. So noted.

5. 2019 Passenger Surveys

Chair O'Donel Browne suggested that the survey data should be presented in table format instead of just raw information and larger print should be used for easier reading.

6. YARTS 20th Service Anniversary Activities

No questions. So noted.

7. YARTS Marketing and Media Activities Update

Jonathan Farrington asked Mary-Michal Rawling to share social media posts with Mariposa County Tourism for cross promotion and to help amplify the reach of the messages.

8. Fare Increase Update - Year One - 2019

Karen Baker asked if the fare increase also applies to the senior fare rates.

Cindy Kelly responded that the fare increase does not apply to the reduced fares; they will remain the same.

9. 2020 Summer Schedules

Cindy Kelly commented that the Tuolumne County schedules will be released once the YARTS Joint Powers Authority Board takes action on whether to suspend their fare increase at the January 13, 2020 meeting.

10. Mariposa Park and Ride Limited Parking and No Camping Resolution

Jonathan Farrington asked if a parking permit system is being developed to allow extended parking to visitors who are in the area longer than 48 hours.

Cindy Kelly replied that a system can be developed to allow 72-hour parking with a pass.

Mono County attendees joined the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Moses Stites moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority adopt Resolution No. 2020-01/13-01 authorizing parking limits of up to 48 hours on the property and barring camping and allowing the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department to enforce the limits as set forth by the resolution.

Seconded by Karen Baker.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. YARTS Application for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and Resolution

Cindy Kelly stated the Bus and Bus Facilities 5339(b) grant for 6 electric buses that YARTS was recently awarded does not include funding for infrastructure. This TIRCP grant would be submitted to request funding for mobile solar tree chargers from Envision Solar. Also, the budget for the TIRCP grant did not factor in the cost of trailers that would be needed to transport the chargers nor the cost for delivery. The budget would need to be increased by \$388,000 to incorporate these additional costs.

Sandy Hogan expressed concern that being too specific about the type of solar charger and the vendor would limit YARTS to a specific purchase when the agency has yet to map out its electrification plan.

Steve Smallcombe requested to see specifications on the solar tree chargers to make sure they will work for any electric buses that YARTS purchases.

Moses Stites supported the application and resolution and mentioned the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency uses the same solar tree chargers from Envision Solar and he would highly recommend purchasing them for YARTS.

The YARTS Authority Advisory Committee recommended the application and resolution be made broader and more open-ended to allow for flexibility in the purchase of infrastructure. The YARTS AAC also recommended that the item be amended to remove the following language: solar, mobile and Envision Solar.

Jonathan Farrington moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority adopt Resolution No. 2020-01/13-02 as amended, authorizing the receipt of funding from the 2020 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for the purchase of three (3) chargers for bus fleets, five (5) new REI camera systems, five (5) Pacemaker fare boxes, and authorize the Executive Director as authorized agent to execute the contract.

Seconded by Sandy Hogan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Suspension of the 2020 Fare Increase for Tuolumne County

Jim Donovan informed the AAC that Yosemite/National Park Service does not have any additional funding to pay for transportation projects. Any service outside of the Cooperative Agreement will have to be funded by YARTS.

Sandy Hogan supported the staff recommendation and commented that Tuolumne County should pay its fair share.

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority reject the request for suspension of the 2020 fare increase for Tuolumne County.

Seconded by Jeff Simpson.

Abstained by Lisa Mayo.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Continued Discussion of the Roles and Responsibilities of the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee

Cindy Kelly asked for feedback on the draft attendance policy and its reasonableness.

Chair O'Donel Browne commented that some committee members travel long distances to attend the meetings and poor attendance can affect quorum so having an attendance policy makes sense.

Mary-Michal Rawling offered to research attendance policies of other committees that are similar to the YARTS AAC and bring back suggestions in April.

14. National Park Service Report

Jim Donovan reported the following:

- a. Spring 2020 – Wawona Road: NPS contractors will complete culvert and road repairs in the Ferguson Fire burn area, north of Chinquapin (Glacier Point Rd). Expect delays of up to 15 minutes. A sewer project is now under construction between Wawona Campground and the nearest wastewater treatment plant (on Chilnualna Falls Rd). This project is likely to extend into the spring, as well.
- b. August 2020 thru Fall 2022 – Tioga Road Rehabilitation: Major road re-construction and implementation of the Tuolumne River Plan, including new parking areas. Tree thinning and removal begins this fall. Expect delays of up to 15 minutes. In 2021 and 2022, asphalt grinding and new construction will require lane closures and one-way traffic controls. Expect delays of up to 30 minutes (60 minutes at night).
- c. Spring 2021 – Complete closure and reconstruction of Glacier Point Road, Badger Pass to Glacier Point. Road will re-open in 2022 with lane closures, one-way traffic controls, and delays of up to 30 minutes (60 minutes at night).
- d. Spring 2022 – Big Oak Flat Road Rehabilitation, Crane Flat to El Portal Road, including tunnels. Expect delays of up to 30 minutes (60 minutes at night).
- e. Welcome to Acting Superintendent Cicely Muldoon, who began work on Monday, January 6. Cicely is currently the superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore. She previously served as Yosemite's acting deputy superintendent, associate regional director for the Pacific West Region and superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument. She has 35 years of experience working for the NPS. Cicely will remain acting superintendent until a permanent replacement is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

15. Transit Manager's Report

Cindy Kelly reported the following:

- a. Christine Chavez has joined the agency as the new Transit Manager for Merced The Bus and YARTS. Christine was unable to attend the meeting as she was out of town for training.
- b. The application for the 5311(f) grant is due by February 12 this year. YARTS will be requesting funding for operations as well as planning funds for a Highway 49 South study between Mariposa and Oakhurst.
- c. Cindy will be meeting with the Madera County Transportation Commission and the Fresno Council of Governments to discuss funding opportunities.
- d. YARTS staff will be traveling to Riverside on February 11 and 12 to tour Complete Coachworks' facility and see how retrofit buses are built.
- e. The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant that funded YARTS' Free Days will be ending on September 30, 2020. YARTS will submit another application for the grant when it opens on October 1, 2020, this time for six clean diesel buses.
- f. YARTS staff will have a booth at this year's Earth Day in the Park on April 18, 2020.

16. Member Remarks

Jonathan Farrington mentioned that he is supportive of a "refreshing" of the YARTS brand but is opposed to rebranding. The YARTS brand is recognized by international partners, travel agents, etc. and rebranding would lead to a loss of that recognition.

Sandy Hogan commented that the May 20, 2020 date for the 20th anniversary event doesn't allow the partners from Mono County to attend due to the closure of Tioga Road.

Sandy Hogan requested that YARTS staff contact Mono County attendees prior to starting the meeting if their participants have not arrived.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:25 P.M.