



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

DATE

Monday, April 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board was held on Monday, April 6, 2020 via teleconference/videoconference and was called to order by Chair Menetrey at 1:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, Chair
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor, Vice Chair
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Peggy Arnest, Fresno Council of Governments
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Allen Lao, Caltrans
Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park
Curtis Riggs, VIA Adventures
Tyler Summersett, Tuolumne County Transportation Council

STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Finance Director
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Xavier Garcia, Transit Administrative Assistant
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Adam Perez, Multimedia Specialist
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager

1. Introductions

Chair Menetrey led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Minutes

No questions. So noted.

- a. Director Corless moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 YARTS Joint Powers Authority regular meeting.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Director Silveira moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 YARTS Joint Powers Authority special meeting.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Information/Discussion Only

- a. Ridership History and Customer Service Reports for December 2019 - February 2020
- b. YARTS Financial Report/Budget Update
- c. Minutes of the January 8, 2020 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting
- d. YARTS Reservation System Update - December 2019 - February 2020
- e. YARTS Quarterly Marketing and Media Update

Item 4a - Chair Menetrey pointed out the December 2, 2019 complaint on page 24 of the agenda and commented that bus drivers need to pay close attention to the reservation manifests to ensure reserved passengers are guaranteed seats.

Director Smallcombe acknowledged the kudos mentioned on page 28 of the agenda and commended VIA for staying on top of sanitizing their buses to reduce the risk of spreading the Norovirus.

Item 4c - Chair Menetrey asked about the status of Dana Hallett's AAC nomination mentioned on page 38 of the agenda.

Stacie Guzman replied that staff would follow up and add the nomination to the next agenda if necessary.

5. Ferguson Rock Shed Project Update and Presentation

Allen Lao gave a presentation on the Ferguson Rock Shed Project, which included information on how it will be constructed and an estimated timeline.

Director Smallcombe asked when the talus removal phase of the project will begin as it could affect transportation through the river canyon.

Allen Lao replied that trucks are expected to begin the talus removal in the Spring of 2021.

6. Fee Policy for Public Records Requests

No questions. So noted.

7. Tioga Inn Update and Invitation to Tour

Chair Menetrey asked who is doing this hotel/residential project.

Director Gardner replied the owner of Tioga Gas Mart, Dennis Domaille, is doing this project.

8. Contract Extensions and Annual Agreements

- a. YARTS/VIA Trailways Contract Extension No. 1
- b. YARTS/Mariposa County Annual Agreement for Services - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021
- c. YARTS/Fresno Council of Governments Agreement - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Amendment No. 4 and Budget
- d. YARTS/Department of the Interior/National Park Service Cooperative Agreement Amendment No. 1 - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021
- e. YARTS/Amtrak Thruway Bus Agreement Contract Extension No. 1 - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021

Item 8b - Director Smallcombe commented that the Work Plan on page 69 of the agenda is between YARTS and MCAG and thus should not be included in the contract with Mariposa.

Item 8c - Director Smallcombe stated the information given in the exhibits starting on page 86 of the agenda is dated and staff should make sure the information is germane to the current agreement.

Emily Haden explained that the Fresno Council of Governments recently appointed a new counsel and these outdated exhibits will likely be removed in future agreements.

9. YARTS Rebranding

Mary-Michal Rawling gave a presentation on the refresh/rebrand options available to the Board. She also informed the Board of the comments and suggestions made by the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee regarding the rebranding of the YARTS logo.

Director Silveira commented that the timeline for the rollout of a refresh or rebrand should take into consideration the current climate imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director Smallcombe stated that revising the mission statement to ensure it is consistent with the current vision of YARTS should be the first step in a refresh or rebrand.

Director Corless moved to approve a rebrand of YARTS with a new name, logo, and tagline based on updated mission, vision and values as determined by the YARTS JPA Board.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Attendance Policy

Chair Menetrey asked if there are currently any vacancies on the YARTS AAC.

Christine Chavez replied that staff will research and follow up with an answer.

Director Silveira moved to approve the Attendance Policy for the Authority Advisory Committee.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. YARTS/Merced County Association of Governments Agreement for Services - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021

No questions. So noted.

Director Smallcombe moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement for Services between the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System and the Merced County Association of Governments for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2020 and terminating on June 30, 2021.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Low Carbon Transit Operations Program - Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 and Resolutions

No questions. So noted.

Director Corless moved to:

- a. Approve the Executive Director as Authorized Agent for the LCTOP Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 Free Fares to Yosemite for Merced and Mariposa County residents and the purchase of spare fareboxes for the existing YARTS fleet; and
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 2020/04-06-01, identifying the Executive Director as Authorized Agent for YARTS for Free Fares to Yosemite for Mariposa and Merced County Residents; and
- c. Adopt Resolution No. 2020/04-06-02, identifying the Executive Director as Authorized Agent for YARTS for the purchase of spare fareboxes for the existing YARTS fleet.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

No questions. So noted.

Director Silveira moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020/04-06-03 authorizing the receipt of funding from the 2020 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program for the purchase of EV chargers for bus fleets, six (6) new REI camera systems and additional hard drives, six (6) new sets of auto chains and six (6) manual fare boxes, and authorize the Executive Director as authorized agent to execute the contract.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Caltrans 5311(f) Funding - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021; Public Hearing and Resolution

No questions. So noted.

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

Opened: 3:17 p.m.

Closed: 3:17 p.m.

No public comments were received.

Director Silveira moved to:

- a. Hold a public hearing to allow for public comments on the application for funds from the Caltrans 5311(f) grant program for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021; and
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 2020/04-06-04 authorizing funding under Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) with the California Department of Transportation.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. YARTS Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 Audit

No questions. So noted.

Director Silveira moved to approve the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, prepared by Hudson Henderson and Company.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. YARTS Budget Amendment No. 2 - Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020

No questions. So noted.

Director Smallcombe moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 Budget Amendment No. 2, which includes an increase of \$5,000 in member contribution from Mono County.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. YARTS Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Budget

Nav Bagri explained that the budget was created prior to COVID-19 pandemic and it is currently unknown how the budget will be affected by the pandemic. An amended budget will be presented to the Board in July when more information is available.

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

Opened: 3:26 p.m.

Kathleen Morse commented that funding from the Park for 2021 is an outcome of visitation that happens this year. With that in mind, it is still unknown how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the Park's transportation budget.

Closed: 3:28 p.m.

Director Smallcombe moved to:

- a. Hold a public hearing to allow for public comments on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021; and
- b. Approve the proposed YARTS budget for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. Approval of the YARTS Joint Powers Authority and YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Meeting Schedules

Stacie Guzman suggested May 11, 2020 and June 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. as the two additional meeting dates of the YARTS JPA.

Director McDaniel suggested adding an additional meeting date before May 11th in the event that the shelter-in-place orders are lifted sooner than expected.

Director Smallcombe asked if a meeting could be scheduled for 2 weeks from now.

Stacie Guzman replied that a meeting could be held on April 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. as well.

Director Smallcombe moved to:

- a. Approve the staff recommended meeting dates and times for the YARTS Joint Powers Authority and YARTS Authority Advisory Committee for FY 2020/21; and
- b. Approve the three additional JPA meetings for the remainder of FY 2019/20 to be held in on April 27, 2020, May 11, 2020 and June 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. YARTS Operations in Response to COVID-19

Director Gardner asked for staff recommendations.

Stacie Guzman replied that the contractor has started collecting data to help determine where the passengers who are still utilizing the YARTS service are going. There is a concern with reducing service beyond what is sustainable for the contractor. With these things in mind, staff would recommend continuing with the current level of service until we get a better idea of where passengers are traveling.

Director Smallcombe asked when that data would be available.

Stacie Guzman responded that the contractor started collecting data on April 1st, so the information could be presented to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

Chair Menetrey stated that it is critical to gain an understanding of where passengers are going.

Stacie Guzman also explained that with the uncertainty of what schedules will look like in the coming weeks, it would be cleaner to suspend online reservations until more information is available.

Christine Chavez commented that suspending online reservations would also reduce staff impact, as it can be time consuming to contact passengers and issue refunds.

Curtis Riggs commented that he would like for YARTS to continue with the current level of service.

Chair Menetrey asked if the contractor is eligible to apply for CARES Act funding.

Curtis Riggs replied that VIA has submitted applications for the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Industry Disaster Loan.

Director Silveira moved to direct staff to:

- a. Suspend online reservations on all corridors; and
- b. Delay the roll-out of summer service; and
- c. Continue with the current reduced service schedule of 4 runs in each direction between Merced and El Portal for a total of 8 runs per day, including weekends.

Seconded by Director Smallcombe.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

20. Election of Officers for the YARTS Joint Powers Authority - Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021

Director McDaniel moved to nominate and elect Director Silveira as Chair and Director Gardner as Vice Chair of the YARTS Joint Powers Authority for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021.

Seconded by Director Corless.

Ayes - Directors Corless, Gardner, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21. Administrative Management's Report

Stacie Guzman thanked the Board for their patience as we navigate through these unprecedented times. Also, the YARTS 20th Anniversary event in the Park is being postponed.

Christine Chavez stated that the Free Fare Days scheduled on April 18th and April 25th are cancelled. The funds for those free days will either be utilized on days when the park is open again or to provide fares to existing ridership during the crisis.

22. National Park Service Report

Kathleen Morse reported that the Park will remain closed until at least April 30, 2020. The Park's focus is on maintaining critical operations and isolating populations to reduce the risk of potentially spreading the coronavirus. All employees who are able to telework are doing so.

23. Board Member Remarks

Chair Menetrey asked if there are any status updates on the potential sale of the Mariposa Park & Ride.

Christine Chavez replied that staff is still looking into it but an update will be coming soon.

24. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:42 p.m.