



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

DATE

Monday, January 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority Board was held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at the Tuolumne County Transit Agency, TCTA Conference Room, 975 Morning Star Drive, Suite A, Sonora, CA and conducted by video/teleconference at the Merced County Association of Governments, Front Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA, the Mariposa County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA, the Fresno Council of Governments, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, CA and the Sierra Center Mall, CAO Conference Room, Third Floor, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA and was called to order by Chair Menetrey at 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, Chair (via videoconference)
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor, Vice Chair (via videoconference)
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor (via videoconference)
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor
John Gray, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor (via videoconference)
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rhonda Armstrong, Council Member, City of Kerman
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT

Denise Demery, VIA Adventures (via videoconference)
Kathleen Morse, Yosemite National Park (via videoconference)
Steve Smallcombe, Upper Merced River Watershed Council
Tyler Summersett, Tuolumne County Transportation Council

STAFF PRESENT

Christine Chavez, Transit Manager (via videoconference)
Xavier Garcia, Transit Administrative Assistant (via videoconference)
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director (via videoconference)
Cindy Kelly, Assistant Transit Manager (via videoconference)
Adam Perez, Multimedia Specialist (via videoconference)
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager (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

No questions. So noted.

Director Smallcombe moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2019 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

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

Noes - None

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 17, 2019 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting
- e. Reservation System - Annual Sales Summary 2019
- f. Free Days Update - Annual Review 2019

Item 4a - Director Smallcombe commented that it would be helpful to add graphs that depict year-over-year comparisons and trends over time. She also requested that the graphs notate events such as fires, rockslides, etc. so the Board can gain a better understanding of how those events impact revenue.

Director Gray suggested adding footnotes to the graphs to indicate the timeframes of those events.

Director Smallcombe commended the YARTS driver involved in the 7/19/19 accident referenced on page 18 of the agenda and asked that her appreciation be passed along for their safe driving record.

Director Gardner asked for the past ridership numbers from June Mountain Ski Area and Rush Creek Trailhead to be combined to show total ridership for June Lake Junction.

5. 2019 Passenger Surveys

Stacie Guzman mentioned that staff is discussing ways to improve survey methods and how to make them more user friendly.

6. YARTS 20th Service Anniversary Activities

Director Smallcombe asked if the anniversary event would also include time to revisit the Short-Range Transit Plan.

Stacie Guzman replied that this anniversary event is intended for the general public to celebrate and learn more about the YARTS service. A separate meeting will be held in the fall to discuss the Short-Range Transit Plan.

Director Silveira asked that the JPA directors be notified when a time is set for the event.

7. Marketing and Media Update

No questions. So noted.

8. Fare Increase Update - Year 1

Director Smallcombe reiterated that graphs depicting year-over-year comparisons with footnotes to indicate service disruption events would help to better understand revenue.

9. 2020 Summer Schedules

Director Smallcombe asked if signage can be placed at the Mariposa Fairgrounds to indicate the location of the YARTS bus stop.

Cindy Kelly replied that staff will work with Brian Bullis from the Mariposa County Fair to see if this can be done.

Christine Chavez mentioned that the Mono County Local Transportation Commission will decide on February 10 whether to fund the extension of the Highway 395/120 service through October 16, 2020.

Director Corless stated she supports the service extension and is working to get the LTC to approve its funding.

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

Director Corless asked if the Mariposa Park and Ride property is still being sold.

Stacie Guzman replied that the intention is still to sell the property, but the process has proven to be more difficult than originally thought. The agency's new Transit Manager, Christine Chavez, will research the issue more and work on finding a solution.

Director McDaniel moved to 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 Director Silveira.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Cindy Kelly stated that this item is being pulled by staff and an amended resolution and updated budget will be reintroduced in April. The AAC recommended that the application be made broader by not specifying a manufacturer or type of charger since it is still unknown which electric buses will be purchased.

Director Smallcombe suggested creating a committee to determine the evaluation criteria for the procurement of electric buses and charging infrastructure.

Stacie Guzman explained that the procurement process is typically handled internally, but the evaluation committee can include members of the JPA and AAC.

12. Suspension of Fare Increase for Tuolumne County

Director Gray stated that Tuolumne County would like to focus on promoting new ridership versus increasing fares.

Director Silveira agreed that increasing ridership should be the goal, but YARTS expenses also need to be paid. Revenue and ridership increases should be viewed on parallel paths.

Director Menetrey mentioned that the fare increase did not affect ridership on any of the corridors and asked if additional fare increases are planned for next year.

Cindy Kelly replied that discussion regarding additional fare increases will be included on the July agenda.

Director Silveira moved to reject the request for the suspension of the 2020 fare increase for Tuolumne County.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Authority Advisory Committee Nomination

No questions. So noted.

Director Smallcombe moved to appoint Dana Hallett, Mariposa County private citizen and transit advocate, to the Authority Advisory Committee.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. YARTS Rebranding

Director Smallcombe commented that the YARTS mission statement should be looked at and partner agencies, such as NPS, Amtrak, Greyhound, member counties, tourism bureaus, etc., should be included in that conversation and provide their input. She directed staff to work with the AAC on the rebranding, and suggested forming an AAC subcommittee of marketing professionals to assist staff. She also requested that a description of the scope for rebranding be provided to the Board so they have an understanding of all that is involved. She is concerned that a name change will result in a loss of name recognition.

Director Silveira agreed that a mission statement revamping should be the first step in the process.

Chair Menetrey also stated that the AAC should be involved in the process. The item should go to the AAC before being brought to the JPA in April.

Director Silveira moved to direct staff to proceed with the development of an action plan to rebrand the YARTS service name, logo, and tagline.

Seconded by Director Gardner.

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

Noes - None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. National Park Service Report

Kathleen Morse reported the following updates:

- 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.
- f. There have been some policy changes to recreation fee funds and how those funds are spent. A greater percentage of those funds will now be used for deferred maintenance projects, which leaves a smaller amount of discretionary funds for other projects.

Director Smallcombe asked for a status update on the relocation of the Arch Rock entrance.

Kathleen Morse explained that the park is looking to move the entrance further into the park boundary near Cascade Falls instead of moving it closer to El Portal. A feasibility analysis for this project should be conducted later this year.

16. Executive Director’s Report

Stacie Guzman introduced Christine Chavez as the new Transit Manager.

Christine Chavez stated she is looking forward to working on the electrification of the YARTS fleet and keeping YARTS in a sustainable condition.

17. Member Remarks

Director Smallcombe mentioned that Mariposa County’s Health and Human Services department is working on starting a local shuttle service in Mariposa. The department will test out the service with some of their clients before opening up the service to the general public later this year.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:25 p.m.