

For Immediate Release

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YARTS TO LAUNCH FRESNO SERVICE IN JUNE

FRESNO – Starting June 1st, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) will operate service from the city of Fresno to Yosemite National Park for the duration of the 2024 summer season. This is an expansion of service on the Highway 41 corridor which currently operates between the city of Oakhurst to the Park.

Beginning next month, YARTS will operate two daily, round-trip runs between Fresno and Yosemite from June 1st to September 10th this year. Buses will depart the Fresno area starting at 5:30am and 7:15am everyday with passengers having the option to board at one of four locations in the Fresno area: Amtrak/Greyhound station, Fresno Airport, North Fresno, and the Four Corners Park and Ride. Buses back to Fresno will leave Yosemite at 5:00pm and 7:00pm daily. Other stops on the route which runs along Highway 41 include Chukchansi resort, Coarsegold, Oakhurst, Tenaya lodge and the Mariposa Grove.

"We are grateful to the Fresno community for their support in ensuring this important service for visitors and residents of Fresno remains intact into the future," said Stacie Guzman, Executive Director of YARTS. "This is an exciting day for YARTS and one that could not have happened without both the City of Fresno and the YARTS Governing Board's commitment to a sustained partnership."

Round trip fare from Fresno to Yosemite is \$40 with several discount rates available for children, seniors, veterans and disabled passengers. Tickets can be purchased, and reservations made, on the YARTS website. Passengers riding into Yosemite on YARTS do <u>not</u> need a day-use pass issued by the National Park Service on days when one is required for those entering in private vehicles.

All YARTS buses are equipped with lavatories and both undercarriage and overhead storage for personal items. Children under five are always free and each child between the ages of 6 and 12 years-old ride free if accompanied by a full-fare paying adult. For more information about YARTS schedules, fares, routes, or to purchase tickets, visit www.yarts.com or call (877) 989-2787.

YARTS is a California Joint Powers Authority comprised of the Counties of Merced, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Madera and the City of Fresno (pending) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service and United States Forest Service. The Merced County Association of Governments provides administrative services and operational support for YARTS.