



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

**REVISED
MINUTES**

DATE

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

A regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) was held Wednesday, February 2, 2022 via teleconference/videoconference and was called to order by Chair Baker at 1:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Baker, Chair, Merced County representative
Sandy Hogan, Vice Chair, Mono County representative*
Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park representative
Jonathan Farrington, Mariposa County representative
Dana Hallett, Mariposa County representative
Lisa Mayo, Tuolumne County representative *
Candy O'Donel-Browne, Mariposa County representative
Hilda Sousa, Department of Transportation representative
Moses Stites, Fresno County representative (left at 2:05 p.m.)
Nanette Villegas, Merced County representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matthew McClain, Mono County representative
Terri Peresan, Mariposa County representative
Jeff Simpson, Mono County representative

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Robert Phipps, Deputy Director, Fresno Council of Governments
Rhonda Salisbury, CEO/Film Commissioner, Madera County

STAFF PRESENT

Alexandra Arroyo, Transit Admin Assistant
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Xavier Garcia, Staff Services Analyst
Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Skyler Summers, Assistant Transit Manager

Arrived after roll call*

1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Baker led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Jonathan Farrington led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

Jose Perez expressed his appreciation to Jim Donovan and Yosemite National Park staff members for their hard work during the winter season.

Christine Chavez introduced Alexandra Arroyo as the new Administrative Assistant for YARTS.

4. National Park Service Report

Jim Donovan presented the National Park Service report and discussed the following topics:

- Mariposa Grove Service Contract – will expire March 22, 2022
- Mariposa Grove Shuttle Service - expected to resume Memorial Day weekend in 2022
- Yosemite Valley Shuttle Service - resumed December 18, 2021
- Construction Projects - funded by Legacy Restoration Trust
- Tioga Road – Road improvements
- Glacier Point Road closed - Pavement Rehabilitation Project
- Bridalveil Creek Campground, Tuolumne Meadows Campground and Crane Flat Campground closed - Renovation project in process
- Yosemite Valley and The Village - Pavement Rehabilitation Project is scheduled to occur
- Considering a return of a Reservation System – May 20, 2022 through September 30, 2022
- Repeating traffic management pilot program

5. Information items:

- a. **Service Update, Ridership History and Customer Service Reports for September 2021 – December 2021**

Jonathan Farrington asked if there is a possibility for changes to the fare increase and scheduling plan due to the possible return of the reservation system.

Christine Chavez responded that no changes are needed to the fare increase and scheduling plan. YARTS would continue to encourage passengers to make reservations to secure their seats.

Sandy Hogan commented that she had previously received positive feedback about the reservation system.

- b. **Summer 2022 Service Schedule update**
- c. **YARTS Quarterly Marketing and Media update**
- d. **YARTS Financial update**
- e. **YARTS/Mariposa County Annual Agreement for Services – Fiscal Year 2022-23**

So noted.

f. YARTS/Department of the Interior/National Park Service Cooperative Agreement Modification No. 002 – Fiscal Year 2022-23

Christine Chavez noted that there was a mistype in the total amount of federal funds on page 52 of the agenda and stated the correct amount is \$1,403,788.

5. Consent calendar:

- a. Approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee regular meeting
- b. Approve the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Jonathan Farrington recommended the April 5, 2023 meeting be moved to March 29, 2023, as it falls on the Wednesday before Easter and is concerned that we may not have a quorum.

Sandy Hogan moved to approve the consent calendar with the change to move the April 5, 2023 AAC meeting to March 29, 2023.

Seconded by Nanette Villegas.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Members Baker, Donovan, Farrington, Hallett, Hogan, Mayo, O’Donel-Browne, Sousa, Villegas

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Action items:

- a. **Authorize the grant application submittal of Federal Transit Administration Buses and Bus Facilities Program Grant FY 2020-2021 for the acquisition of five Over-the-Road diesel coach buses and adopt Resolution No. 2022/02-07-01**

Christine Chavez summarized the grant application submittal of Federal Transit Administration Buses and Bus Facilities Program Grant FY 2020-2021 for the acquisition of five Over-the-Road diesel coach buses and adopt Resolution No. 2022/02-07-01.

Christine reported that YARTS was able to secure Transportation Development Credits (Toll Credits) from Caltrans and that we should be notified of the Award Detail in the spring once the federal budget application has been reviewed and authorized.

Candy O’Donel-Browne moved to recommend the YARTS Governing Board adopt Resolution No. 2022/02-07-01 authorizing the Executive Director as the Authorized Agent; and Authorize the Federal Transit Administration Section 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities grant application submittal for the acquisition of five over-the-road diesel coach buses that are ADA accessible and equipped with restrooms.

Seconded by Jonathon Farrington.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Members Baker, Donovan, Farrington, Hallett, Hogan, Mayo, O’Donel-Browne, Sousa, Villegas

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Accept YARTS Fiscal Year 2020-21 Audit

Navi Bagri summarized the request to accept the Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS Governing Board accept the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the year ending June 30, 2021.

Seconded by Dana Hallett.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Members Baker, Donovan, Farrington, Hallett, Hogan, Mayo, O'Donel-Browne, Sousa, Villegas

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Authorize YARTS to increase fares and hold a public hearing

Jose Perez gave a presentation on the YARTS' fare increase, providing contributing factors, history, increase analysis, and the next steps for approval.

AAC members discussed concerns and impacts regarding the National Park update that presented information on the ticketed park entry scheduled to be implemented in May 2022.

After a lengthy discussion, Jonathan Farrington moved to recommend the YARTS Governing Board hold a public hearing and authorize YARTS to increase fares by 15% on all corridors or as recommended by the AAC. The fare increase will not affect NPS, Aramark employees, commuters, seniors, disabled, reduced children or veterans.

Seconded by Sandy Hogan.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Members Baker, Donovan, Farrington, Hallett, Hogan, Mayo, O'Donel-Browne, Sousa

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Discussion items:

None.

9. Transit Manager's report

a. AAC Appointments

Christine Chavez announced that Chris Baker and Rhonda Salisbury were nominated to be appointed as AAC members for Madera County.

b. AAC Binder/Orientation

Christine Chavez commented that AAC binders and orientation would be available for new appointments. If any AAC members would like a binder or an orientation, please notify Jose Perez or Alexandra Arroyo.

Sandy Hogan requested to include a contact sheet to the AAC binder.

Christine Chavez responded that contact information would be optional to AAC members, but all information provided and produced will be public record.

c. AAC Update to the YARTS Governing Board

Chair Karen Baker volunteered to give AAC Update to the YARTS Governing Board.

d. Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program update

Christine Chavez reported that YARTS is currently waiting for grant approval and funding.

9. Member remarks

Chair Baker shared that as of January 1, 2022, Advanced Air is the new airline service provider for the Merced Yosemite Airport.

Sandy Hogan shared that Bishop is now the official airport of Eastern Sierra (other than Reno) and that Mammoth Lakes is now a regional airport.

Jonathon Farrington shared that a new lodging operation was approved by the Mariposa County Planning Commission Board of Supervisors.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:02 P.M.