



**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
Governing Board
MINUTES**

DATE

Monday, February 7, 2022

A regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Governing Board was held on Monday, February 7, 2022 via teleconference/webinar and in person at the Tuolumne County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Chambers Lobby, 2 South Green Street, 4th Floor, Sonora, CA, 95370 and was called to order by Chair Gardner at 1:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor, Chair
Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County Supervisor, Vice Chair
Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor
Brett Frazier, Madera County Supervisor*
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor
Michelle Roman, Mayor, City of Kingsburg

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor
Rey Leon, Mayor, City of Huron

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Karen Baker, Merced County
Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park
Michael Draper, Mono County
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Tim Gillespie, Tuolumne County

STAFF PRESENT

Alexandra Arroyo, Transit Admin Assistant
Nav Bagri, Finance Director
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Xavier Garcia, Staff Services Analyst
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant

Adam Perez, Multimedia Specialist
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
Kuljit Singh, Accounting Manager
Skyler Summers, Assistant Transit Manager
Joy Young, Administrative Assistant II

Arrived after roll call*

1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gardner led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Stacy Corless led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public comment

Christine Chavez reported that a public comment was submitted regarding item 5b.

3. Authority Advisory Committee report

Karen Baker gave the Authority Advisory Committee report.

Director Smallcombe thanked Karen Baker for the Authority Advisory Committee report and thanked staff for including the Authority Advisory Committee meeting minutes in the YARTS Governing Board agenda.

4. National Park Service Report

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

- New Transportation Director – Rafael Delgado
- Yosemite Valley Shuttle Service - resumed December 18, 2021
- Mariposa Grove Service Contract – will be award in time for Memorial Day Weekend
- Mariposa Grove Shuttle Service - expected to resume Memorial Day weekend in 2022
- Yosemite Valley - Construction Projects
- Bridalveil Creek Campground closed - Renovation project in process
- The Village - Pavement Rehabilitation Project is scheduled to occur
- Tioga Road – Road improvements
- Glacier Point Road closed - Pavement Rehabilitation Project
- Considering a return of a Reservation System – May 20, 2022 through September 30, 2022
- No reservation required - after 4:00 pm

Director Haff asked how many vehicles per day were allowed in the park the last couple of years with the reservation system.

Jim Donovan replied that he meant 3,000 passes per individual vehicle (excluding commercial tours under any terms). In 2020, the limit was set to 2,300 vehicles per day. In 2021, the number slightly increased, but the pass limit varied according to the Covid Color Tier Level.

5. Information items:

- a. Service Update, Ridership History and Customer Service Reports for September 2021 – December 2021
- b. Summer 2022 Service Schedules update
- c. YARTS Quarterly Marketing and Media update
- d. YARTS Financial update
- e. YARTS/Mariposa County Annual Agreement for Services – Fiscal Year 2022-23
- f. YARTS/Department of the Interior/National Park Service Cooperative Agreement Modification No. 002 – Fiscal Year 2022-23

So noted.

6. Consent calendar:

- a. Affirm adoption of Resolution No. 2021/10-18-02 authorizing the YARTS Governing Board to hold virtual meetings in accordance with AB 361
- b. Approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021 YARTS Joint Powers Authority regular meeting
- c. Approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021 YARTS Joint Powers Authority special meeting
- d. Approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 YARTS Joint Powers Authority special meeting
- e. Approve the minutes of the January 10, 2021 YARTS Joint Powers Authority special meeting
- f. Approve the YARTS Governing Board and YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting schedules for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Director Silveira moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Corless.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Directors Campbell, Corless, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. 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 hear for the Award Detail in the spring once the federal budget application has been reviewed and authorized.

Director Smallcombe moved to:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2022/02-07-01 authorizing the Executive Director as the Authorized Agent; and
2. 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 Director Haff.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Directors Campbell, Corless, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

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.

Director Smallcombe asked what consumer price index is used as the bases for comparison.

Nav Bagri replied that a Western Region consumer price index is used.

Director Frazier moved to accept the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the year ending June 30, 2021.

Seconded by Director Campbell.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Directors Campbell, Corless, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Christine Chavez gave a presentation on the YARTS' fare increase, providing contributing factors, history, and increase analysis.

Public hearing opened at 1:33 pm.

No public comments received.

Public hearing closed at 1:35 pm.

Director Roman commented that she disagrees with the fare increase as she is concerned this would affect YARTS ridership at this time.

Director Corless moved to 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 Director McDaniel.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Directors Campbell, Corless, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d. Appoint Madera County representatives to the Authority Advisory Committee

Mary-Michal Rawling summarized the need to appoint Rhonda Salisbury and Chris Baker as representatives of Madera County to the AAC.

Director Frazier moved to appoint Madera County representatives to the Authority Advisory Committee
Seconded by Director Smallcombe.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Directors Campbell, Corless, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Menetrey, Silveira, Smallcombe

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Discussion items:

None.

9. Executive Director's report

Executive Director, Stacie Guzman and Director Silveira thanked Director Roman for her comments regarding the fare increase and commended staff for their hard work.

Christine Chavez reported and discussed the following topics:

- Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal application – waiting for approval
- Transportation Development Credits (Toll Credits) – final stages for approval
- YARTS Governing Board Special Meeting – March 7, 2022

10. Director's report

None.

13. Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS
ADJOURNED AT 1:47 p.m.**