



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

**DATE**

**Monday, April 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Governing Board was held on Monday, April 11, 2022 via teleconference/webinar and in person at the Merced County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2222 M Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Merced, CA, 95340 and was called to order by Chair Gardner at 1:05 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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor  
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor  
Rey Leon, Mayor, City of Huron  
Michelle Roman, Mayor, City of Kingsburg

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Karen Baker, YARTS Authority Advisory Committee  
Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park  
Denise Demery, VIA Adventures  
Curtis Riggs, VIA Adventures

**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  
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager

Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager  
Skyler Summers, Assistant Transit Manager

Arrived after roll call\*

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**1. Call to order**

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gardner led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Director Menetrey led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Public comment**

None.

**3. Authority Advisory Committee report**

Karen Baker gave the Authority Advisory Committee report.

**4. National Park Service Report**

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

- Day-Use Reservations (May 20, 2022 through September 30, 2022) – No reservations required before 6:00 am or after 4:00 pm
- Repeating traffic management pilot program – May 20, 2022 through the middle of October 2022
- Yosemite Valley Shuttle Service - resumed December 18, 2021
- Mariposa Grove Shuttle Service - expected to resume Memorial Day weekend in 2022

Director Corless asked if there would be a pass-through policy for residents of gateway communities during the reservation period.

Jim Donovan later stated that no reservation or fee would be required for local residents, but they do need to show proof of residency.

**5. Information items:**

- a. Service Update, Ridership History and Customer Service Reports for January 2022 – February 2022
- b. YARTS Quarterly Marketing and Media update

So noted.

**6. Consent calendar:**

- a. Approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022 YARTS Governing Board regular meeting
- b. Approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 YARTS Governing Board special meeting
- c. Affirm adoption of Resolution No. 2021/10-18-02 authorizing the YARTS Governing Board to hold virtual meetings in accordance with AB 361

Director Silveira moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Menetrey.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Action items:**

**a. Authorize the YARTS/Merced County Association of Governments Agreement for Services – Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Jose Perez summarized the request to authorize the YARTS/Merced County Association of Governments Agreement for Services for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year.

Director Frazier 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, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2023.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Authorize the YARTS/Amtrak Thruway Bus Agreement Contract Extension– Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Jose Perez summarized the request to authorize the YARTS/Amtrak Thruway Bus Agreement Contract Extension for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year.

Director Haff asked how the Amtrak agreement connects with YARTS and why the daily rate increase.

Christine Chavez responded that historically Amtrak has contributed to YARTS as a farebox revenue for providing thruway service. YARTS provides Amtrak passengers a thruway service into Yosemite Valley. In 2020, Amtrak reduced their payment amount so this action would reinstate the pre-pandemic rates with annual increases and a rate per passenger.

Director Haff moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute the YARTS/Amtrak Thruway Bus Agreement amendment for a three-year agreement extension with tiered rates.

Seconded by Director Frazier.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Authorize the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Fiscal Year 2021-22 and adopt Resolution No. 2022/04-11-01**

Christine Chavez summarized the request to authorize the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Fiscal Year 2021-22 and adopt Resolution No. 2022/04-11-01.

Director Silveira moved to:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2022/04-11-01 authorizing the allocation request submittal for the distribution of free fare vouchers for YARTS at corridor businesses and attractions; and
2. Authorize the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Executive Director as an Authorized Agent to sign and execute related grant documents, including the Certifications and Assurances.

Seconded by Director Campbell

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the YARTS Governing Board for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Director Gardner summarized the request to nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the YARTS Governing Board for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Director Campbell moved to nominate and elect Kathleen Haff as Chair and Daron McDaniel as Vice Chair of the YARTS Governing Board for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Seconded by Director Corless.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Discussion items:**

**a. Review the YARTS Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Nav Bagri and Christine Chavez gave a presentation on the YARTS Budget and provided the fiscal year 2021/2022 achievements and financial challenges, anticipated financial challenges/opportunities in FY 2022/2023, and operating revenues and expenditures.

Director Silveira asked where YARTS is finding the funding for the shortfall.

Nav Bagri responded that YARTS would try to generate revenue through the LCTOP program.

Executive Director Stacie Guzman added that YARTS is still in the middle of its Operations and Maintenance contract process, so the numbers used in the PowerPoint presentation are calculated assumptions. YARTS has challenges with its long-term sustainability and is now starting to see numbers. YARTS is funded through a percentage of gate fees, and for YARTS to continue, YARTS needs to identify new revenue, who benefits, and how we can increase revenue coming for those beneficiaries.

## **9. Executive Director's report**

Executive Director, Stacie Guzman reported and discussed the following topics:

- YARTS in-person workshop in October 2022
- Strategic Plan
- Grant Opportunities
- Fleet Replacements
- Generating New Revenue
- Earmark Requests
- LSC Program Funding
- Passenger Rail Investments

## **10. Directors' report**

Director Corless and Director Frazier announced that they will not be seeking reelection.

## **13. Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:11 p.m.**