



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

DATE

Monday, May 16, 2022

A special meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Governing Board was held on Monday, May 16, 2022 via teleconference/webinar and in person at the Merced County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2222 M Street, 3rd Floor, Merced, CA, 95340 and was called to order by Vice Chair Haff 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*
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor
Rey Leon, Mayor, City of Huron
Michelle Roman, Mayor, City of Kingsburg

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Mark Elias, First Transit
Dave Smith, First Transit
Darin Grossi, Tuolumne County Transportation Council

STAFF PRESENT

Alexandra Arroyo, Transit Admin Assistant
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Xavier Garcia, Staff Services Analyst
Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Robert Haden, Legal Counsel
Stephanie Jackson, Executive Assistant
Alicia Ochoa-Jones, Procurement Manager
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manger
Griselda Villa, Public Program Specialist

*After Roll Call

1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. 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**

Director Wheeler moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Roll call vote:

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

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Action items

Nav Bagri and Christine Chavez gave a presentation on the Proposed Operation and Maintenance Contract and YARTS Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Operating and Capital Budgets and discussed the following topics:

- The requested action
- Current Contract with VIA Adventures
- Procurement Process and selection of First Transit
- Status of proposals and process
- Variations from current to future contract
- Fiscal Impact
- Fiscal year 2021/2022 achievements and financial challenges
- Anticipated financial challenges/opportunities in FY 2022/2023
- YARTS Workshop in October 2022 to discuss future opportunities/paths for YARTS
- Strategic Plan
- Generating New Revenue

Governing Board directors and those who attended the One Voice trip to Washington, D.C. in early May 2022 mentioned that YARTS was the topic of conversation with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Governing Board directors suggested that the funding agencies and the Department of Transportation be added to the invitee's list for the YARTS workshop in October 2022.

- a. **Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a five-year base contract with two, one-year options for operations, maintenance, and bus fuel services in the amount of \$18,991,534.29 with the selected vendor, First Transit, Inc.**

Christine Chavez summarized the request to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a five-year base contract with two, one-year options for operations, maintenance, and bus fuel services in the amount of \$18,991,534.29 with the selected vendor, First Transit, Inc.

Denise Demery commented that VIA Adventures will continue to provide the same level of service for the remainder of their contract as they have provided over the last 22 years and that the transition to the new contractor will go as smoothly as possible.

Mark Elias thanked the board for the opportunity to partner with YARTS and thanked VIA Adventures for their years of dedicated service.

Director Wheeler moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a five-year base contract with two, one-year options for operations, maintenance, and bus fuel services in the amount of \$18,991,534.29 with the selected vendor, First Transit, Inc.

Seconded by Director Smallcombe

**Ayes – Directors Campbell, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Silveira, Smallcombe, Wheeler
Noes – None
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. **Adopt the YARTS Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and adopt Resolution No. 2022/05-16-01 authorizing funding under FTA Section 5311 with the California Department of Transportation**

Christine Chavez summarized the request to adopt the YARTS Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and adopt Resolution No. 2022/05-16-01 authorizing funding under FTA Section 5311 with the California Department of Transportation.

The Public hearing was opened by Chair Haff at 1:58 pm.

No public comments received.

The Public hearing closed at 1:59 pm.

**Ayes – Directors Campbell, Frazier, Gardner, Haff, McDaniel, Silveira, Smallcombe, Wheeler
Noes – None
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **Executive Director's report**

- a. **Discuss July and October Governing Board meetings**

Stacie Guzman informed the Board that several Board members would not be able to attend the July 25, 2022 regular meeting and suggested an alternate date of July 18, 2022. After a brief discussion, the YARTS Governing Board July 2022 regular meeting was rescheduled to Monday, July 18, 2022.

Stacie Guzman also mentioned that the YARTS Governing Board regular meeting on Monday, October 17, 2022 in Yosemite Valley would be a joint meeting with Authority Advisory Committee members.

6. Directors' reports

Director Silveira thanked VIA Adventures for their excellent work and professionalism during their 22 years of partnership.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:11 P.M.