



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

DATE

Monday, January 10, 2022

A special meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Governing Board was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 via teleconference/webinar and was called to order by Chair Gardner at 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brett Frazier, Madera County Supervisor
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor, Chair
Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County Supervisor, Vice Chair
Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County Supervisor
Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor
Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor
Tom Wheeler, Madera County Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
Christine Chavez, Transit Manager
Xavier Garcia, Staff Services Analyst
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

None.

1. Call to order

Chair Gardner led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Public comment

None.

3. Action item

- 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 affirm the adoption of Resolution No. 2021/10-18-02 declaring the Governing Board's need to continue to meet virtually in accordance with AB 361 and provide direction to staff on the Governing Board's preferences for future meetings.

Seconded by Director Frazier.

Roll call vote:

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

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Discussion item

a. Fare Increase – Staff Recommendations

Christine Chavez and Jose Perez summarized the staff recommendation to increase fares by 15 percent.

Director Wheeler asked what the decrease in ridership was for the 2019 and 2020 fare increases.

Christine Chavez replied there was a larger reduction in Highway 41 ridership due to a reduction in service that took place simultaneously, but the other corridors' ridership decreased by the amount expected in the Short Range Transit Plan but was also affected by the Briceburg fire.

Director Frazier asked if the 7% elasticity rate would be applicable to a 15% increase in fares.

Christine Chavez replied that the Short Range Transit Plan indicated a 7% elasticity would be applicable to fare increases between 5% and 25%.

Director Silveira asked how COVID factors into the analysis and what would happen if fares are not increased.

Christine Chavez replied that ridership did decrease significantly due to COVID but YARTS customers are loyal and YARTS is essential for travel into Yosemite National Park. A recovery in ridership is expected, though it will take time. She also explained without a fare increase, YARTS will either have to utilize its reserves to fill the budget gaps or possibly reduce service leaving necessary funds unavailable for capital needs.

Director Frazier asked if it is possible to reduce fares in the future if ridership increases substantially.

Christine Chavez replied that it is possible and would be at the discretion of the Board.

Director Wheeler suggested adjusting fares periodically to account for changes in costs of living.

Director Silveira agreed and asked if the public hearing meeting would be an acceptable time to consider adding a cost-of-living adjustment to the fares.

Emily Haden replied that the Board can have that discussion during consideration of the action item at the February meeting.

Christine Chavez added that she would review YARTS' Title VI plan and provide an update to the Board on whether a cost-of-living adjustment can be added to the fares at the February meeting.

5. Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS
ADJOURNED AT 1:44 p.m.**