



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

DATE

February 1, 2023

A regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) was held Wednesday, February 1, 2023, via teleconference/videoconference and was called to order by Chair Baker at 1:33p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Baker, Chair, Merced County representative
Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park representative
D.S. Gorder, Yosemite National Park representative
Candy O'Donel-Browne, Executive Director representative*
Lisa Mayo, Tuolumne County representative
Nanette Villegas, Merced County representative
Rhonda Salisbury, Madera County representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jonathan Farrington, Mariposa County representative
Hilda Sousa, Department of Transportation representative
Maddie Brown, Executive Director Representative
Vacant, Madera County representative
Vacant, Mono County representative
Vacant, Mono County representative
Vacant, Tuolumne County representative
Vacant, Mariposa County representative

GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Serenity Anderson, First Transit
Marcella Rose, Mono County Representative

STAFF PRESENT

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager
Lucia Huerta, Transit Administrative Assistant
Myrissa Bravo, Multimedia Specialist

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 1:33 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Chair Karen Baker led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. National Park Service Report

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

- Permanent Day-use reservation System –Open for comment
- NPS Invites public comment on the restoration of Great Meadow
- Reservations –A Reservation will be required to drive into Yosemite for visitors arriving February 10–12, February 17–19, and February 24–26
- Great American Outdoors Act will fund improvements to Acadia National Park Systems

4. Update on Workshop Action Items

Stacie Guzman spoke about the Workshop Homework Assignments:

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5311(f) Corridor was on Hwy 140; not official to other routes at the moment.
- Pursuing new operating and Capital Revenue-Dedicated state funding
- Revenue from advertising on YARTS
- Capital Grants –Partnership with First Transit
- Direct Funding Request –Successfully included \$3.68 million in federal budget through Congressman Costa’s office for four YARTS buses
- Ridership –Ridership is increasing and the farebox helps; always looking for ways to increase ridership
- Potential Opportunities with Oakhurst Hotels

5. Information items:

- a. Service Update, Ridership History and Customer Service Reports for July 2022 – December 2022
- b. YARTS Marketing and Media Update
- c. Sign-up sheet for AAC representative at YARTS Governing Board meetings

Lisa Mayo volunteered to provide the AAC report to the YARTS Governing Board at the February 13, 2023 and April 17, 2023 meetings.

6. Consent calendar:

- a. Recommend the YARTS Governing Board adopt the updated YARTS Operations Plan for Emergencies and other Critical Events
- b. Approve the minutes of the July 13, 2022 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
- c. Recommend the YARTS Governing Board approve the State of Good Repair Annual Allocation and adopt Resolution No. 2023/02-13-01

Nanette Villegas moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Jim Donovan.

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Members Baker, Donovan, Gorder, Salisbury, Mayo, O’Donel-Browne, Villegas

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Action items:

a. Recommend the YARTS Governing Board direct staff to explore advertising opportunities on YARTS buses

Mary-Michal Rawling discussed that YARTS has advertising opportunities on its buses. This was identified as a public-private partnership opportunity that seems very promising. The prospective advertising agency would share 50% of net proceeds with YARTS. Monies that are generated from the sale of ads would be set aside for capital reserves.

Candy O’ Donel Brown asked if there was an Illustration of the ads for the buses.

Jim Donovan mentioned the National Park Service would be okay with ads on the buses.

Candy O-Donel-Browne moved to recommend the YARTS Governing Board direct staff to explore advertising opportunities on YARTS buses.

Seconded by Rhonda Salisbury

Roll call vote:

Ayes – Members Baker, Donovan, Gorder, Salisbury, Mayo, O’Donel-Browne, Villegas

Noes – None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Discussion items:

a. Update on Brown Act

Mary Michal Rawling presented Brown Act Updates for public meetings.

- AB 361 allows teleconferencing without providing public a physical location during a state of emergency.
- State of emergency for COVID-19 expires 02/28/23.
- Outlines ongoing options for teleconferencing for public meetings and retains ability for Boards to meet by teleconferencing from publicly posted physical locations within the territory of the body.
- It would allow for remote participation via teleconference from private locations in limited circumstances. If a board member is wanting to participate remotely from a private teleconference location:
 - At least a quorum of the body must participate in a singular physical location
 - The public must also be able to participate via a two-way teleconference option which will be posted on the agenda
 - Any disruption in the teleconference connection that prevents public viewing or participation halts meeting until connection is restored (same as AB 361)
 - Public comments cannot be required to be submitted in advance (same as AB 361)

If a Board member is remote:

- They must notify the body at the earliest opportunity, including at the start of the meeting, that they need to participate remotely
- May not be remote for 3 consecutive months or 20% of regular meeting/calendar year or 2 meetings if the body meets few than 10 times/calendar year

- Just Cause definition:
- Childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grand child, sibling, spouse/domestic partner
- Contagious illness
- Need related to physical or mental disability
- Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency
- Must provide general description of circumstance
- Cannot be used more than 2 meetings/calendar year
- No action required, this is a notification request

Discussion ensued and it was determined that based on the new law, only physical in-person meeting locations would be available to AAC members going forward.

b. Summer 2023 Service Schedule update

Jose Perez mentioned that YARTS partners with Amtrak, National Park Service, and First Transit. There may be a change of schedule to eliminate the last route on Highway 140 this summer and Highway 395 service will be reduced by 30 days. In addition, Highway 120 will only have one trip back to Groveland and Highway 41 will be starting from Oakhurst instead of Fresno.

D.S. Gorder asked why we would eliminate the last run on Highway 140 when people have things to do in the city and have to return back home. Jose Perez commented that the schedule(s) were not set in stone and welcomed feedback from the Authority Advisory Committee. The schedules were made using past ridership information for all trip to and from Yosemite National Park.

9. Transit Managers Report

Stacie Guzman mentioned that she will speak at the YARTS Governing Board meeting regarding having public meeting spaces for the AAC and Governing Board meetings including ensuring we have an IT person to support members in all satellite locations.

10. Member remarks

None.

There being no further business of the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.