



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

**DATE**

**Monday, February 13, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Governing Board was held on Monday, February 13, 2023, in person at the Transit Joint Powers Authority, Front Conference Room, 357 W 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA, 95340 and was called to order by Chair Haff at 1:04p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County Supervisor, Chair  
Daron McDaniel, Merced County Supervisor, Vice Chair  
Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County Supervisor  
Lynda Salcido, Mono County Supervisor  
Bob Gardner, Mono County Supervisor,  
Scott Silveira, Merced County Supervisor  
Jordan Wamhoff, Madera County Supervisor\*  
Robert Macaulay, Madera County Supervisor

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor  
Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Karen Baker, Merced County  
Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park  
Annie Self, First Transit  
Serenity Anderson, First Transit  
Steve Herr, Member of the Public

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director  
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director  
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager  
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager  
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel  
Lucia Huerta, Transit Administrative Assistant

Arrived after roll call\*

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## 1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Haff led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Chair Haff led the pledge of allegiance.

## 2. Public comment

Member of the public, Steve Herr, submitted public comment in writing, which was read aloud to the Governing Board by Mary-Michal Rawling. Steve Herr expressed his concern and disappointment with the proposed 2023 summer season schedules, and his belief that the decision to terminate service from Fresno is extremely short-sighted.

## 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:

- The NPS closed a 60-day comment period for a Visitor Access Management Plan last Friday; 4,230 letters were submitted by individuals and organizations. These letters are now being analyzed so that similar comments can be grouped and considered.
- Due to the "firefall," or seasonal backlighting of Horsetail Fall, limited parking, and excess visitor demand, a reservation requirement is in effect for the last three weekends in February: 10, 11 and 12; 17, 18 and 19, and 24, 25 and 26.
- In early spring, construction begins at two shuttle bus stops in Orchard Parking at Curry Village, two stops at campgrounds on the Happy Isles Loop, and three stops in Yosemite Village. Improvements include raised platforms for waiting passengers, pathways that will facilitate passenger loading and unloading, and benches. Construction will continue through October. Shuttle bus stops will be temporarily relocated during construction, and buses will stop in roadways to load and unload passengers. These improvements are funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2022.
- After May 15, roadways in Yosemite Valley will be modified to eliminate stops at intersections and promote free-flowing travel conditions. Sentinel Drive will be closed during construction. Travelers may experience 15-minute delays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. This work is funded by the Federal Lands Transportation Program.

## 5. Information items:

- a. Service Update, Ridership History and Customer Service Reports for July 2022 – December 2022
- b. Summer 2023 Service Schedule update
- c. Quarterly Marketing Update
- d. Letter of Support – SR41 Expressway Project and Fact Sheet

Chair Haff requested an item be added to the January agenda during the October board meeting regarding bike storage on YARTS buses, and requested that the item be added to the April agenda.

## 6. Consent calendar:

- a. Approve the minutes of the July 18, 2022 YARTS Governing Board Regular Meeting
- b. Approve the minutes of the August 15, 2022 YARTS Governing Board Special Meeting
- c. Approve the minutes of the October 17, 2022 YARTS Joint Powers Authority Planning Workshop
- d. Adopt the updated YARTS Operations Plan for Emergencies and Other Critical Events
- e. Approve the YARTS Governing Board and YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting schedules for the remainder of calendar year 2023 and calendar year 2024
- f. Approve the State of Good Repair Annual Allocation and adopt Resolution No. 2023/02-13-01
- g. Appoint representatives to the Authority Advisory Committee
- h. Authorize the delay of the adoption of the YARTS Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget

Director McDaniel moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Roll call vote:

**Ayes – Directors Haff, McDaniel, Silveira, Salcido, Macaulay, Gardner, Campbell, Wamhoff**

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. Action items:**

### **a. Direct staff to explore advertising opportunities on YARTS buses**

Mary-Michal Rawling discussed advertising opportunities on YARTS Buses. The public-private partnership is a promising opportunity that would see the prospective advertising agency apportion 50% of net proceeds to YARTS. Monies that are generated from the sale of ads would be placed in the capital reserve.

Director McDaniel stated it is a great idea but to also approach other agencies.

Director Haff moved to approve action items.

Seconded by Director Silveira.

Roll call vote:

**Ayes – Directors Haff, McDaniel, Silveira, Salcido, Macaulay, Gardner, Campbell, Wamhoff**

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **a. Updates to Brown Act meetings as it pertains to teleconferencing requirements**

Mary-Michal Rawling presented Brown Act Updates for public meetings:

- AB 361 allowed teleconferencing without providing a physical location for the public during a state of emergency.
- The State of Emergency for COVID-19 expires 02/28/23.
- AB 2449 went into effect 01/01/2023.
- AB 2449 outlines teleconferencing options for public meetings and preserves the ability of the Board to meet by teleconference from physical locations within the territory of the governing body that have been publicly noticed.

- The law allows for remote participation via teleconference from private locations in limited circumstances. If a board member is requesting 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)
  - 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 meetings in a calendar year or 2 meetings if the body meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.
  - Emergency circumstance definition: any physical or family medical emergency that prevents in-person attendance
  - Just Cause definition:
    - Childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, 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

Director McDaniel stated County policy is that notification must be provided by requesting party 10 days in advance.

Emily Haden stated that two members of the Governing Board cannot be hybrid and to consider the 10-day advance notice.

Stacie Guzman stated there are options to consider. The Board may either go back the meeting format used prior to AB 361 or provide 10-day advance notice. Stacie also discussed the need to have one physical location available in each county for both YARTS Governing Board and AAC meetings.

#### **b. Disposition of the Mariposa Park and Ride**

Stacie Guzman stated staff is working with legal counsel to develop the required resolution. The draft resolution will then be provided to Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review. If a favorable review from HCD is achieved, an item will be placed on the following Governing Board agenda requesting adoption of the final resolution declaring the Park and Ride exempt surplus land.

#### **c. Update on Workshop Items**

Stacie Guzman went over the following items from the October 2022 workshop:

- Applications for the 5311f by corridor
- Began discussions with NPS on future opportunities
- Pursued new operating and capital revenue options
- Developed earmark requests and other direct funding requests for MCAG's state and federal lobbying programs
- Focused on efforts to increase ridership/farebox revenue
- Creation of a technical working group with staff from each member agency

Executive Director, Stacie Guzman, welcomed Director Bobby Macaulay and Director Jordan Wamhoff to the YARTS Governing Board. Stacie also discussed the following:

- Meeting logistics for teleconference locations
- The necessity for all meeting locations to be ADA-accessible and open to the public
- Staff and the Governing Board will work together with the YARTS AAC to secure satellite locations for each county for future meetings.

Member remarks:

Director Silveira requested that the July Governing Board meeting be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> verses July 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. rather than 1:00pm.

Chair Haff also liked the idea of an earlier meeting time, so Governing Board members can get back to their respective counties.

**10. Director's report**

None.

**11. Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:12 p.m.**