



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

**DATE**

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Governing Board was held on Monday, April 17, 2023, in person at the Transit County Transportation Council, Administration Building, 2 S. Green Street, Sonora, CA, 95370 and was called to order by Chair Haff at 1:10 p.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  
Bobby Macaulay, Madera County Supervisor  
Jordan Wamhoff, Madera County Supervisor  
Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa County Supervisor

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Lisa Mayo, YARTS Authority Advisory Committee  
Jim Donovan, Yosemite National Park

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stacie Guzman, Executive Director  
Nav Bagri, Deputy Executive Director  
Jose Perez, Assistant Transit Manager  
Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager  
Adam Perez, Assistant Transit Manager, Maintenance  
Emily Haden, Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning & Programming

Tara Rodriguez, Staff Services Analyst  
Lucia Huerta, Transit Administrative Assistant

Arrived after roll call\*

## 1. Call to order

- a. Roll call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Haff led the introductions and called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Director Haff led the pledge of allegiance.

## 2. Public comment

None.

## 3. Authority Advisory Committee report

Lisa Mayo gave the Authority Advisory Committee report.

## 4. National Park Service Report

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

- Road damage following winter storms has been extensive. Wawona Road and Big Oak Flat Roads will have temporary traffic lights and use a single lane.
- Mariposa Grove is open to walk-in visitors but the road is damaged and cannot be used by visitor vehicles or shuttle buses. There will be no shuttle service provided to Mariposa Grove until the roadway is repaired.
- Construction on Glacier Point Road was cut short by the onset of winter so the road will remain closed until July or later.
- Tioga Road re-construction was completed last fall but we will not know the condition of the pavement until snow removal is underway. Snow removal begins after April 15. Shuttle bus service was suspended during the worst of the storm, but service resumed on March 18. All visitor services are opening on Friday in Yosemite Valley and Wawona.

Director McDaniel asked about the Merced River and the Yosemite Waterfall.

Jim Donovan responded that the waterfalls are spectacular at the moment, and Yosemite is expecting flooding in the valley resulting from the snow melt.

Director Smallcombe asked about the status of the Welcome Center.

Jim Donovan responded that construction was delayed but the hope is for the Welcome Center to reopen in July 2023. There were minor roof collapses at the Yosemite Valley Lodge Post Office and the Cabins at Curry Village.

## 5. Information items:

- a. YARTS Quarterly Marketing and Media update
- b. Service Update, Ridership History and Customer Service Reports
- c. YARTS/Mariposa County Annual Agreement for Services – Fiscal Year 2023-24
- d. YARTS/Tuolumne County Annual Agreement for Services – Fiscal Year 2023-24
- e. YARTS/ National Park Service Cooperative Agreement Modification No. 3 – Fiscal Year 2023-24
- f. Federal Community Project funding request
- g. Draft minutes of the April 5, 2023, Authority Advisory Committee

Director Smallcombe asked why the exhibits and scope of work for each of the Agreements for Service were not provided in the agenda packet and requested that staff provide them in the future.

Staff commented that the exhibits referenced are in item 6e.

Emily Haden commented that staff would be happy to provide copies of the items to any board member or member of the public upon request. The omission does not prevent taking action on the items and does not remove the items from Board consideration.

**6. Consent calendar:**

- a. Accept YARTS Fiscal Year 2021-22 Audit
- b. Approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023, YARTS Governing Board Meeting
- c. Appoint representative to the Authority Advisory Committee
- d. Authorize the Low Carbon Operations Program Fiscal Year 2022-23 and adopt Resolution No. 2023/04-17-02
- e. Approve YARTS/MCAG Annual Agreement for Services – Fiscal Year 2023-24
- f. Adopt amended YARTS AAC/GB meeting schedule through calendar year 2024

Public Comment: None.

Director Silveira moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded by Director Campbell.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Action items:**

**a. Authorize YARTS to adjust fares and hold a public hearing**

Jose Perez summarized the request to authorize YARTS to adjust fares and hold a public meeting.

Chair Haff opened the public hearing at: 1:37 p.m.

No public comment was received.

Chair Haff closed the public hearing at: 1:38 p.m.

Silveira moved to authorize the Board:

- 1.) Hold a public hearing regarding fare adjustments.
- 2.) Adjust fares per the attached fare schedule and in-town fare, effective May 1, 2023 on all corridors.

Seconded by Director Macaulay.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Hold a public hearing to adopt FY 2023-2024 YARTS Operating and Capital budget and authorize 5311 funding**

Nav Bagri summarized the request to adopt the YARTS Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and adopt Resolution No. 2023/04-17-01 authorizing funding under FTA Section 5311 with the California Department of Transportation.

Stacie Guzman commented that this budget includes new revenue in the amount of \$500,000 in 5311f funding that the agency has not previously benefited from.

Chair Haff opened the public hearing at: 1:45pm

No public comment was received.

Chair Haff closed the public hearing at: 1:46pm

Director Campbell moved to authorize the Board:

- 1.) Hold a public hearing to allow for public comment on the proposed budget for FY 2023-24;
- 2.) Adopt the proposed YARTS budget for FY 2023-24
- 3.) Adopt Resolution No. 2023/04-17-01 authorizing funding under FTA Section 5311 (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) with the California Department of Transportation.

Seconded by Director McDaniel.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c. Authorize summer service expansion on Highway 41**

Jose Perez summarized the request to authorize Summer Service Expansion on Highway 41.

Director Macaulay questioned if this service expansion will alter other routes or is this just an extension of service.

Jose Perez stated that the service expansion is an extension and would not affect existing service.

Director Smallcombe questioned what the proposed time of service will be for the expansion on Highway 41.

Jose Perez responded that the proposed schedule for the Highway 41 Fresno/Oakhurst service is May 5-September 8.

Director Smallcombe asked if YARTS staff has had conversations with First Transit and the Fresno Airport about future partnership.

Stacie Guzman commented that YARTS staff and Fresno are working towards a permanent service for Highway 41 and a proposal to expand the JPA to include the County of Fresno. YARTS staff will be working on a ridership structure moving forward.

Director Wamhoff asked if there was a possibility for an additional stop to be added on the Highway 41 route at the Park and Ride at the intersection of Highway 41 and Highway 145.

Jose Perez commented that YARTS staff developed the 2023 summer schedule based on historical schedules, but that staff would look into adding this stop. Stacie Guzman stated her support for this suggestion.

Public comment: None.

Director Silveira moved to approve the Summer Service Expansion on Highway 41.

Seconded by Director Campbell.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**d. Adopt resolution declaring the Mariposa Park and Ride exempt surplus property**

Stacie Guzman summarized the request to declare the Mariposa Park and Ride property located at 4974 Joe Howard Road, Mariposa to be “exempt surplus property” and adopt the associated Resolution No 2023/04-17-03.

There was no public comment.

Director Smallcombe moved to declare:

Mariposa Park and Ride property located at 4974 Joe Howard Road, Mariposa to be “exempt surplus property” and adopt the associated Resolution No 2023/04-17-03.

Seconded by Director Campbell.

Roll call vote:

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

**Noes – None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**e. Authorize the lease of buses for summer service**

Nav Bagri summarized the request to authorize agreement with Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority to lease three buses in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.

Stacie Guzman commented that there is a delay in receiving the newly procured YARTS buses and YARTS staff are working closely with the manufacturer. Buses should be delivered in the first two weeks of May and/or early June 2023.

Director Smallcombe questioned the amount requested in this item compared to the expenditure listed on the FY 23/24 budget item presented earlier in the meeting.

Stacie Guzman stated that this amount reflects costs to be incurred in May and June rather than the amount designated in the next fiscal year budget.

There was no public comment.

Director Campbell moved to approve agreement with Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority to lease three buses in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.

Seconded by Director Smallcombe.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Noes – None**

## **8. Discussion items:**

### **a. Bicycle storage on buses**

Jose Perez gave a presentation on bike storage on YARTS buses and covered the following:

- All YARTS buses are 45-feet and do not have bike racks or designated bike storage.
- There are certain YARTS routes that discourage the use of bike racks in the front or rear of the buses, because of the limited turning radius.
- The new YARTS buses are a vestibule style vehicle, which provide more space for wheelchairs. However, the additional space on the bus limits the space under the bus for luggage and storage of items such as bicycles.
- YARTS staff will continue to track the number of bikes transported, as well as any issues that may arise due to the lack of space available in the under storage.

Director Haff asked if the YARTS buses could have bike storage inside the bus.

Jose Perez commented that it would be unsafe to place the bike storage inside the bus as they have the potential to become flying objects during transport.

Stacie Guzman stated that an on-board survey during summer service may help determine the need or desire from the public to have bicycle storage.

Director Haff commented that the current storage under the YARTS buses is not great.

Staff will explore other options such as bike storage that can be installed inside the luggage compartments.

Public comment. None.

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

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

- Introduced Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming at MCAG. Stacie and Elizabeth will be meeting with Assembly Member Soria and State Senator Gil in Sacramento to discuss YARTS.
- Submitted a community funding request to Congressman Duarte's office; he attended the MCAG Board meeting last month.
- Discussion of advertising in YARTS buses to move forward at July Board meeting.
- Reminder the Governing Board Meeting in July will be at 10:00 am in Mammoth Lakes, CA. YARTS will provide dinner if attending the day before.
- The July agenda will include a request for membership from Fresno and a budget amendment for the Fresno Service.
- The October meeting will be held on October 16, 2023.

**10. Directors' report**

Director Smallcombe - Asked if YARTS staff would explore advertising at the Redwoods in the Wawona area.

Director Macaulay responded that we already have advertising in the Wawona area.

**13. Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:35 p.m.**