

## AGENDA ITEM III – A

### YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES JULY 15, 2021

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call (4:00 pm)

Present: Blaser, Buttacavoli, Fuhrer, Hudson, Kirchner (for Harris), and Shaw (Chair)  
Absent: Bains, Harris and Micheli

#### II. Public Business from the Floor

None.

#### III. Public Hearings

##### A. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307, 5311 and 5339 Grant Applications for FY 2022.

Martin stated that federal funding requires that a public hearing must be held prior to the submission of federal grant applications. Director Shaw opened the Public Hearing at 4:02 pm. There was no public comment. Director Shaw closed the Public Hearing at 4:02 pm. Director Hudson made a motion to authorize the federal funding applications as submitted. Director Buttacavoli seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### IV. Consent Calendar

Director Buttacavoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### V. Reports

##### A. Next Generation Transit Facility Project.

Martin discussed the Next Generation Transit Facility Project and introduced Resolution No. 9-21 which was handed out to the Board prior to the meeting. The purchase agreement for the Avondale property provided that the Board had the responsibility to accept all the conditions of the purchase. For that purpose, staff has assessed the property and is recommending the acceptance of all conditions as noted in the resolution. In addition, the resolution will also designate the Executive Director as the representative to sign all documents necessary to close escrow and complete the purchase of the property. In summary, the owner has completed the property clean-up; the necessary survey has been completed for the title insurance company; the appropriate title insurance is in the process of being issued; and it is now anticipated that the transfer will be recorded on July 23, 2021, assuming Board approval of the proposed resolution.

Director Buttacavoli asked if the acquisition schedule was provided in the recent grant applications would be met with the July 23<sup>rd</sup> closure date. Martin responded that while the initial goal was to secure title to the property by July 12<sup>th</sup> when the RAISE grant application was due, it was known prior to that date that such a timeline was not possible and the July 23<sup>rd</sup> date will satisfy the timeline that was used for the two grants that have already been filed.

Director Shaw asked staff to confirm that the property owners have met all conditions that were set in the purchase agreement. Martin answered that they have done so.

Director Buttacavoli made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 9-21 approving the purchase of the property at 6035 Avondale Avenue, Linda, CA and designate the Executive Director as the Authority's representative to sign all documents necessary to close escrow and complete the purchase of the property as proposed. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Martin added that the first intended action following the transfer of the property is to remove all vegetation to discourage encampments and give law enforcement a clear line of sight across the entire site.

## **B. Zero-Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Policy Statement.**

Martin presented the draft Zero-Emission Bus Fleet Conversion Policy Statement for Board discussion and consideration. The proposed statement is to address one of the first questions in recent grant applications as to the commitment of the agency to develop a zero-emission bus facility and convert the fleet to zero-emission vehicles. This resolution was drafted to reflect the current facility situation and demonstrate the agency's willingness to advance the timeline to convert to zero-emission buses contingent upon the necessary funding being available to build the facility and cover the incremental cost of the zero-emission vehicles. Based on the current replacement schedule, the entire fleet will be replaced between 2025 and 2033 and it would be advantageous on future grant applications for the Board to make an official policy statement committing to 100 percent conversion to zero emission buses by 2035, which is five years in advance of the state goal of 2040.

Director Buttacavoli asked if the new facility would be able to handle the conversion to zero-emission or if additional work would be needed. Martin responded that the first phase of the facility plan would not be able to accommodate a 100 percent zero-emission fleet, but later phases would do so as funding becomes available and more zero-emission buses are added to the fleet.

Director Kirchner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 8-21 committing to 100 percent conversion to zero-emission buses by 2035 if sufficient funding is available by 2025 to construct a new facility and finance the incremental cost of all replacement and/or expansion buses purchased thereafter. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Director Shaw suggested that because these items are important to the community at large, this would be a great opportunity for press releases and public notices to inform the public about the work being done. Martin agreed and stated that this information would be included in future newsletters and press releases.

## **C. Project & Program Updates**

### **1. COVID-19 Impacts & Response**

The week of June 21st was the Fare Free Fair Week promotion as a sponsor for the Yuba-Sutter Fair. Ridership did go up slightly as a result, including a 21 percent increase in ridership on that Saturday compared to the average for the other Saturdays in June, so there was a good response to that promotion. In general, however, overall ridership in June remained in line with the numbers in May. Systemwide, average weekday ridership remains at about 40 percent of pre-pandemic levels. Approximately 80 percent of Sacramento Commuter riders are State of California employees, so ridership numbers on that service are not expected to rise until those employees return to in-person work. Ridership is expected to rise in August and September

when schools reopen, and employees start to return to their offices. Martin noted that free rides for Covid vaccinations continue, but only 39 rides have been provided through June.

## **2. Pacific Coast Producers Seasonal Oroville Employee Shuttle (July 12 – September 3)**

The new Pacific Coast Producers employee shuttle to Oroville started on Monday, July 12, 2021. This service is fully sponsored by Pacific Coast Producers and is a no-risk way to test a service to Oroville which includes stops in Live Oak and Gridley. This is the first time there has been a service to Butte County. Martin noted that ridership has started slowly through the first three days, averaging just 35 passenger trips per day. This is an around the clock service with three scheduled rides a day, seven days a week and ridership is expected to increase as employee counts increase with production at the cannery. The fare is a flat \$5 per ride with no discounts and the fares are credited back to Pacific Coast Producers.

Director Fuhrer asked if the 35 was 35 unique people. Martin answered that it represents 35 boardings or an average of 17.5 people traveling round trip each day which equals approximately six riders on every bus in both directions. Director Fuhrer asked if a smaller bus would be used if ridership remains low. Martin stated most of the operating costs are labor related; that the buses being used are available due to the decrease in commuter schedules; and that these high-quality buses are part of the marketing for this service so the use of smaller buses is not anticipated.

## **3. Yuba City Parks & Recreation Department Youth Program Shuttle (July 6 – August 6)**

Martin noted that the Yuba City Parks & Recreation Department reached out because their bus driver resigned right before the start of their summer youth program. Yuba-Sutter Transit is providing a bus and driver for a one-way trip from Gray Avenue school to Gauche Aquatic Park in Yuba City for approximately 60 kids with the City of Yuba City covering the direct cost.

Director Buttacavoli had a question about how Pacific Coast Producers is subsidizing that service. Martin stated that Pacific Coast Producers has agreed to cover the fully allocated cost for each hour of service (approximately twelve hours a day) after being credited for any passenger fares collected.

## **4. RAISE Grant Application (July 12<sup>th</sup> Submittal Date)**

As noted earlier, the \$20 million RAISE grant application was submitted prior to the 2:00 p.m. deadline on July 12, 2021. The submittal included a 30-page narrative and a massive Excel workbook. This was completed with the assistance of our consultant AECOM and the hard work of Planning Program Manager Adam Hansen and Finance Program Manager Simone Reed. Martin noted that while this is a very competitive grant program with only around 10 percent of grant applications being awarded in past annual funding cycles, the package that was developed for this application should be very helpful for future grant opportunities. Award announcements are required to be made by November 21, 2021.

## **5. Caltrans Planning Grant Award – Comprehensive Operational Analysis**

Caltrans recently announced that Yuba-Sutter Transit was awarded an almost \$200,000 Planning Grant for the Comprehensive Operational Analysis. With the \$25,000 local match, the \$225,000 project will allow for a top to bottom review of the Yuba-Sutter Transit system – the first since 2015. The project is now expected to start in early 2022 and be completed by early over 2024.

Director Fuhrer asked if the operational analysis will be useful in building the new facility or since everything is currently in flux, could this be deferred until things become closer to normal. Martin responded that the grant funds will lapse in early 2024 so it can't be deferred much, but the analysis will be useful regardless of the facility site which should certainly be developed during the five-to-ten-year planning horizon.

Director Blaser asked for clarification on the Caltrans contribution. Martin stated that the Caltrans contribution is \$200,000 and the local match is \$25,000.

Director Shaw thanked staff for their hard work over the last several months preparing all these projects.

**VI. Correspondence/Information**

None.

**VII. Other Business**

None.

**VIII. Closed Session**

**A. Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8.**

There was no closed session.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021 AT 4:00 PM  
IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS.**