

AGENDA ITEM III – A

**YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2024**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call (4:00 P.M.)

Present: Bains (Vice Chair), Blaser, Buttacavoli, Flores, Kirchner (Chair) and Shaw
Absent:

II. Public Business from the Floor

Heather Esemann addressed the Board and complimented Dial-A-Ride staff. Ms. Esemann also stated that all bus stops need to have benches. Ms. Esemann specifically stated that Happy Park and 14th & H stops don't have benches. She also suggested that the 14th & H stop needs to be moved because the stop is small and hard for passengers to use.

III. Consent Calendar

Director Blaser made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Shaw seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Director Bains abstained from Item A.

IV. Reports

A. Revised Draft Operating and Capital Budget for FY 2025.

Executive Director Mauk noted that the joint powers agreement requires that a preliminary draft budget for the next fiscal year be presented by the end of March of each year and that the final budget is to be adopted by the end of May. Mauk discussed the revised draft budget FY 2025, reflecting increased budgeting for Contract Operations, Services- Other Maintenance, Fuel and Lubricants, Tires and Tubes and Other Materials and Supplies Consumed, due to projected increases in service hours from 72,000 to 82,000.

Mauk stated the revised budget for the Administration Expenditures is for Fringe Benefits which will increase by \$2,000 with updated benefit numbers, and the Miscellaneous Professional line item is for support of the upcoming projects, including the NextGen Plan implementations and IT services. The Media, Advertising and Promotions line item was increased because some expenses were shifted from the professional services line item.

Mauk stated the jurisdiction's LTF contributions will remain flat at \$4 million. The increase in vehicle service hours will be supported by STA and FTA funding, as needed. An additional \$250,000 American Rescue Act funds are also included.

Director Blaser inquired as to how we are going to stay ahead of inflation, wages and fuel costs. Mauk stated that we projected the 2025 budget based on the current inflation trends.

Director Shaw stated his concern with the likely increase in fuel costs and inquired about how long we can sustain a rise in diesel fuel prices without impacting our ability to serve. Mauk stated that room was built in the budget for the fuel cost increases and the issue can be addressed at the mid-year budget, but if fuel prices skyrocket additional consideration may be given deployment of the new services.

B. NextGen On-Demand Scheduling and Dispatching System Procurement.

Mauk stated the Phase 1 implementation of the NextGen Transit Plan includes an on-demand general public service which will need a new hardware and software system for dispatching and tracking of the vehicles. The requested action is to initiate the procurement.

Director Flores made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to release a Request for Proposals to acquire an on-demand scheduling and dispatching software solution. Director Shaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Project & Program Updates.

1. Caltrans Binney Junction SR70 Project

Mauk reported that our yard has been returned to us following Phase 1 construction with repairs being completed and striping being done. Caltrans Phase 2 TCE will be extended from 27 months to 32 months and will start on September 23, 2024, and the work on our property will begin in March 2025. Yuba County Airport has received authorization from the Board of Supervisors to negotiate a lease for the old Coca-Cola Facility which is located at the Yuba County Airport as the preferred A relocation sight.

2. NextGen Transit Facility Project

Director Bains reported that at the SACOG meeting, their Board approved the updated allocations plan for Senate Bill 125 awarding Yuba-Sutter Transit \$10.3 million which would represent the last dollars needed for the NextGen Transit Facility Project.

Mauk reported that staff closed the RFQ for environmental & preliminary design on April 10th and are currently evaluating the proposals received.

3. APTA Ridership Report

Mauk reported that in April the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) released their public transportation ridership update and among the key takeaways is that ridership nationwide has returned to 79% of pre pandemic levels in cities with 100,000-500,000 occupants, and 74% of pre pandemic levels in medium size urban areas. Mauk reminded the Board that Yuba-Sutter Transit is trending at about 65% of pre pandemic ridership levels.

V. Correspondence / Information

None.

VI. Other Business

Director Bains stated he has received concerns from riders regarding the 3 routes in Yuba City going away. He inquired about public outreach efforts for the new services. Mauk stated we are working on a public outreach marketing plan at this time with our new consultant. Director Bains asked that the drivers are educated on the new services since they are the ones that give the passengers the information. Mauk reported that agency staff has already begun meeting with the drivers to give them the information about the new services.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.