September 2020 Volume 31 – Number 7



COVID-19 UPDATE FARE COLLECTION TO RESUME ON THE DIAL-A-RIDE AND RURAL ROUTE SERVICES SEPTEMBER 1ST

Fares will again be collected on all Dial-A-Ride and rural route services starting Tuesday, September 1st. No fares have been charged on these services since March 23rd to minimize contact between passengers and bus operators, but new driver barriers have now been installed on all the smaller buses that are used for these services.

Rural route passengers can dramatically reduce the financial impact of this change by purchasing a monthly bus pass which is accepted on the local fixed route system and all three rural routes. Since July 1st, the regular \$30 general public monthly pass has been reduced to just \$10. The regular \$15 discount monthly pass has long been offered for just \$5 using special grants to cover the lost revenue on each pass.

All monthly bus passes for September are now available on-line or at any Connect Card outlet and it only takes a few trips each month to more than recover the cost of a pass. Dial-A-Ride passengers can also load cash value on their Connect Card discount photo I.D. at the same outlets to minimize their boarding time on that service.

For more information regarding this change or any COVID-19 related policies and procedures, please call our Administrative Office at (530) 634-6880 or email us at info@yubasuttertransit.com.

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Yuba-Sutter Transit has long encouraged the use of face coverings while riding the bus, but California Department of Public Health guidance now states that "face coverings must be worn when waiting for or riding on public transportation". This guidance also applies to the drivers of public transit vehicles when passengers are on board.

While exemptions are available based on age and certain medical conditions and we are not currently refusing service for non-compliance, please wear a face covering every time you ride – for everyone's sake!

LIMITED STOP ROUTE 1 EXPRESS NOW SERVES YUBA CITY WALMART

A change has been made to the stops served by the limited stop Route 1 EXPRESS service. It now serves the Harter & Walmart Terminal in west Yuba City instead of the Walton Terminal near Sam's Club. This change was made in response to ridership data and expressed passenger demand to improve the effectiveness of this demonstration service that has been operated since mid-June to increase passenger capacity and speed travel on our busiest route.

In addition to the four regularly scheduled Route 1 buses, two EXPRESS buses operate in opposite directions with service to just the following five Yuba-Sutter Transit bus stops every half hour between Yuba City and Linda.

Harter & Walmart Terminal
Alturas & Shasta Terminal
Yuba County Government Center Terminal
D & 2nd Street (Habitat for Humanity)
North Beale Transit Center (Walmart)

Crosstown passengers on the Route 1 Express experience quicker and more direct service to these five stops where they can transfer to one or more of our five other local fixed routes. The Route 1 EXPRESS is scheduled to operate during the peak ridership hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. The buses are identified by "EXPRESS" destination signs and the list of stops that are posted near the front door. The five bus stops also have Route 1 EXPRESS signage posted inside the passenger shelters.

This service is being operated as drivers and buses are available and the route and schedule may be adjusted with minimal or no notice as experience dictates. Passengers should check their Yuba-Sutter Transit DoubleMap app or call (530) 742-2877 to confirm availability.



LABOR DAY HOLIDAY NOTICE

Yuba-Sutter Transit will not be in operation and the Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020 in observance of Labor Day. Regular service will resume on September 8^{th} .



STROLLERS, GROCERY BAGS, UTILITY CARTS, ETC.

It has been awhile since we last reviewed our long-standing policy regarding the transport of the wide assortment of carry-on items that people need or want to bring with them on the bus. Carry-on items are allowed on all services with the following restrictions:

- Passengers must be able to personally lift and carry all items on board the bus in a <u>single</u> trip or boarding;
- Each passenger is entitled to one seat only so please keep your feet, bags, backpacks, etc. on the floor in front of you or in your lap as appropriate;
- Items must remain within the control of the passenger at all times;
- Items cannot block any aisle, doorway or area reserved for persons in wheelchairs or those who use mobility aids;
- Children must be removed from strollers and the stroller must be folded and stored so as not to block any area listed above;
- Personal utility carts must be similarly emptied, folded and stored (they will not be strapped down in the wheelchair securement area); and,
- Upon the request of the driver, passengers with strollers, personal carts and/or extra personal items are expected to vacate priority seating areas that are reserved for persons in wheelchairs or those who use mobility aids.

Please note that if a passenger is using a wheelchair or other mobility device for something other than its intended purpose (i.e. carrying groceries or personal items), it will be considered a personal utility cart and will **NOT** be treated or secured as a wheelchair. Commercial grocery carts are never permitted on the bus.

This policy is consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and designed to improve the safety and service timeliness for all passengers. A large number of grocery bags may block the aisle or take up seating space; loose items can become tripping hazards or dangerous projectiles in an accident; and, large or heavy items require additional time to load and unload causing schedule delays and missed transfers.

If you have any questions regarding these policies, please call (530) 742-2877 before you ride to avoid a possible service denial.

Yuba-Sutter Transit 2100 B Street Marysville, CA 95901 Administration: (530) 634-6880 FAX: (530) 634-6888

Service Information: (530) 742-2877 / TTY 634-6889
Web Site: www.yubasuttertransit.com
Connect Card: www.connecttransitcard.com
General Comments/Questions: info@yubasuttertransit.com



BASIC LOCAL & RURAL ROUTE MONTHLY BUS PASSES JUST \$10 – DISCOUNT PASSES JUST \$5

Yuba-Sutter Transit's basic monthly bus pass has been reduced from the regular price of \$30 to just \$10 each month. The \$20 subsidy on the cost of each pass is being funded through the State Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) as a three-year demonstration program.

Discount monthly pass for youth (ages 5-18), seniors (age 65 and up) and eligible persons with disabilities have long been reduced from the regular price of \$15 to just \$5 each month. The \$10 subsidy on this pass is being funded by grants from the Feather River Air Quality Management District at least through September 2021.

These monthly passes are valid on Yuba-Sutter Transit's six local and three rural fixed routes. Rather than paying a cash fare each time you board, most will find that the best value by far is to purchase a monthly pass which is only available on a Connect Card electronic fare card.

For more information, please call the Administration Office at (530) 634-6880 or email us at info@yubasuttertransit.com.



CONNECT CARD SALES OUTLETS

Connect Cards can be loaded on-line or at the following local sales outlets or on the Connect Card website. Please note that the Sutter and Yuba County Libraries are currently closed for Connect Card transactions due to COVID-19. Cards can hold up to \$360 in cash value and/or passes for up to three months. Check with each location for current business hours as they may change without notice.

- Bel Air Market Yuba City (530) 755-3991
 [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Yuba College Bookstore Linda (530) 741-6998
 [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office Marysville [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Connect Card Website www.ConnectTransitCard.com [Credit or Debit / Auto-Load]

New full fare Connect Cards are available from any sales outlet, but new and replacement discount photo ID Connect Cards are only available during normal weekday business hours at the Yuba-Sutter Transit office in Marysville.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.