

AGENDA ITEM III – A

YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2021

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

Present: Bains, Blaser, Buttacavoli, Fuhrer (4:14 pm), Harris, Kirchner (for Shaw), and Micheli

Absent: Hudson and Shaw

Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Martin called the meeting to order and called for the selection of a temporary chair. Director Buttacavoli nominated Director Kirchner. Director Harris seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. Public Business from the Floor

None.

III. Consent Calendar

Director Bains made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Harris seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Special Service Authorization for the 2021 Sikh Parade Parking Shuttle.

Martin discussed Special Service Authorization for the 2021 Sikh Parade parking shuttle. This service has been provided for many years with the exception of 2020 which was cancelled due to the pandemic. A letter from the Sikh Temple Gudrwara requesting the service has been provided. The contribution in lieu of passenger fares will be \$19,200 and is expected to cover the direct operating cost of the service. The parade is scheduled for Sunday, November 7, 2021. The service is expected to include up to 22 buses and 235 hours of service.

Director Bains made a motion to authorize the operation of a parking lot shuttle service under the proposed terms and conditions. Director Harris seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. State Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Authorized Agent Designation.

Martin presented the State Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Authorized Agent Designation. On June 22, 2021, Caltrans awarded Yuba-Sutter Transit just under \$200,000 in grant funds toward the \$225,000 comprehensive operational analysis project. The last transit plan was adopted 2018 and a new plan is needed. The local match for this project \$25,808 and was included in budget. This will be apportioned over the next two fiscal years. The next step in the process is to secure the funding agreement, which requires the designation of an authorized agent, and the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP), which should come before the board later this year. The staff report had the resolution listed as 9-21 and it is actually Resolution 10-21, and the title is Executive Director not Transit Manager.

Director Bains made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-21 designating the Executive Director or their designee as the authorized representative for the execution of all sustainable Communities Grant related agreement and amendments as proposed. Director Harris seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. FY2021 Annual Performance Report

Martin reviewed the FY 2021 Annual Performance Report. The numbers have been dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The comparison is for three fiscal years to compare pre-COVID cycles. The low in ridership was in January 2021 and there has been a gradual increase since that time.

There were no questions.

D. Project & Program Updates

1. Pacific Coast Producers Seasonal Oroville Employee Shuttle Service (Ending August 20th)

The sponsored seasonal employee shuttle for Pacific Coast Producers in Oroville started on July 12, 2021. The service started out slow but by the third week, ridership was up to approximately 75 boarding per day. Unfortunately, this was only about one-quarter of what Pacific Coast Producers was hoping to see as they are paying the full cost of the service minus any fares received from passengers. As a result, on August 10th they submitted the required 10-day notice to terminate the service effective Friday, August 20th, which is two weeks short of the originally scheduled September 3rd end-date for service. Pacific Coast Producers has been having staffing issues and scheduling challenges made the service difficult to fill. Despite the setbacks, they are willing to consider a similar service in the future.

2. Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) Discount Monthly Pass Program Grant Amendment to Extend the Program through March 2023

At their August 2nd meeting, the FRAQMD Board of Directors approved the consolidation of the two grants for Yuba-Sutter Transit's Discount Monthly Pass Program for area senior, youth and persons with disabilities and extended the program through March 2023, bringing the cost of the pass from \$15 to \$5 per monthly pass. The grant had previously been extended to September 2021 in response to decreased sales due to the pandemic and the four months of fare free ridership. This left a substantial balance of funding available. The program was scheduled to end on March 31, 2022. Due to the consolidation of the grants, staff will not be recommending the submission of any FRAQMD grant applications in the next cycle.

3. COVID-19 Impacts & Response (Hosting Sutter County Contracted COVID Testing Bus

There has been some positive ridership growth with the re-opening of schools for in-person instruction this month. Average weekday ridership on the local fixed route system is up 21 percent over the first 12 weekdays of August 2020, but it is still just 54 percent of the pre-pandemic ridership average for the same period in August 2019. This is still better than numbers for the Sacramento Commuter Service, which is increasing, but at a much slower rate. Those numbers are not expected to increase until downtown in-office employment resumes. The free rides for COVID-19 vaccination appointments continues. While service was scheduled to end on September 30, 2021 and usage has dropped significantly since peaking in April, staff now intends to extend it at least through December due to the recent surge in local COVID-19 cases. Even though the numbers are low, it is a good promotional tool so that will continue going forward. TSA announced that they are extending the mask mandate through January 18, 2022. Finally, Yuba-Sutter Transit is hosting a specially equipped bus call the "Bus Test Express" that is being operated by our contractor, Storer Transit Systems. Sutter County is contracting with Storer for this mobile COVID-19 testing lab and it will be parked in our yard

at night. Renick House stated the Bus Test Express that Sutter County is contracting is a 45 foot luxury bus that has been converted into a mobile testing lab. They are used for different purposes around the state and are 100 percent self-contained. The driver takes the bus and sets it up for the contracted personnel, which is LHI for Sutter County. There were approximately 150 people seen the first day and it gives employers an accessible point to send their employees that don't want to go to a clinic for testing.

Director Blaser asked how rapid the results come back. Renick stated that it depends on the testing the contracted county is performing. Martin stated that the bus will be parked at the Yuba-Sutter Transit facility overnight for security reasons.

4. Next Generation Transit Facility Project

The property has been purchased and Yuba-Sutter Transit now holds the title to the property at 6035 Avondale Avenue in Linda. There were plans to remove the trees and vegetation for the property to improve the sightlines for law enforcement and reduce the habitat for the homeless encampments. That project has been put on hold because during the process of receiving bids for that work, it was discovered that there are several federally protected bushes that were identified along the North Beale frontage road. Staff is now working to achieve much of the same short-term goal without negatively impacting the subject bushes until they can be addressed as part of the facility design and permitting process.

Director Micheli asked if the bushes could be pulled out and used as part of the landscaping of the new facility. Martin stated that they can be transplanted so that could be a possibility. Director Kirchner asked if the bushes were discovered after the sales was complete. Martin stated that was correct. There was an environmental review done prior to the completion of the purchase but it did not identify each plant on the property. According to the County Planning Department, this is not usual.

V. Correspondence/Information

None.

VI. Other Business

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 AT 4:00 PM
IN THE MARYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**