

AGENDA ITEM IV – A

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

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

Present: Blaser, Flores, Hudson and Kirchner (Chair) and Shaw

Absent: Bains (Vice Chair), Buttacavoli, and Fuhrer

**II. Public Hearings**

**A. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application for FY 2025.**

Executive Director Mauk stated that the Federal Transit Administration requires that a formal public hearing be held prior to the submission of federal grant applications. Director Kirchner opened the public hearing at 4:03 pm. There was no public comment. Director Bains closed the public hearing at 4:03 pm.

Director Hudson made a motion to authorize the federal funding applications as submitted. Director Flores seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**B. NextGen Transit Plan Phase 1 Service Changes and Fare Structure.**

Mauk stated this item is opening the formal public hearing process for the NextGen Plan Phase 1 service changes and fare structure recommendations planned for the launch on or about January 1st.

Staff presented the proposed changes and fare structure recommendations. Phase 1 will include the discontinuation of local routes 2 and 5 in Yuba City, to be replaced with a general public on demand service available in an area encompassing at least the limits of Yuba City and just beyond in some cases. In addition, Route 1 in Yuba City will be streamlined, rerouting it off Plumas Street, Forbes Ave and Gray Ave south of Highway 20, effectively dropping fixed route service to six bidirectional stops between the Alturas and Shasta transfer point and the Yuba Sutter Marketplace.

Weekday hours will be extended for all local services to approximately 8:00 pm, including the remaining local fixed routes and the new on demand service. With the extended system hours, the recommendation also includes a discontinuation of the underutilized weekday evening Dial-A-Ride.

Mauk summarized fare recommendations in Phase 1, including a one-way fare for the on-demand service (same as the fixed route service) of \$1.50 or .75 cents if you qualify for a discount, and a daily cap of three one-way fares. Last month the Board adopted the staff's recommendation to continue offering the monthly passes for fixed routes and the new on demand service with a 25% increase in the base cost.

Director Kirchner opened the public hearing at 4:11 pm.

The first speaker, Heather Esemann, expressed concerns with Route 2 being eliminated because of the vulnerable clients who use the route to get to the Live Oaks Blvd facility and with most riders being senior or disabled they may have issues using the app. The other issue is students who use the bus, are parents going to have to call every single morning to get a ride on the bus.

The next speaker (unidentified) requested Routes 2 and 5 not be replaced or shut down, because Route 2 covers all the essential services, like County services, hospitals or wherever you need to go, and for some people this is their only mode of transportation. Route 2 is also a connector to get on the Route 1 bus. For the majority of the Indian community that use Route 5 are elderly and don't have licenses and it gets them to essential places and also their place of worship.

Director Bains translated questions and answers for attendees in their native language. In response to questions, Director Bains explained that the routes are going to be replaced with on demand buses, wait times are anticipated to be 15 to 20 minutes, and the app will not be the only option for scheduling rides.

Renick House, Supervisor Elect for Yuba County, relayed issues from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. They are concerned about additional barriers for people to get their Behavioral Health services. At this time if someone is having a behavioral health episode, they can get on a bus that just happens to be there and ride it, but next time they will have to get a phone, book a ride and wait 15 minutes for a ride. Mr. House also thanked the Authority for being responsible with the proposed fare changes.

Next speaker (Donna) stated she rides the 4a and 4b, and she is not sure what the new service is but is requesting not to eliminate Route 4.

Director Kirchner closed the public hearing at 4:27 pm.

Director Shaw acknowledged that we have kept fares low, but inquired as to whether there would be issues in the future if the state stops funding the grants? Director Shaw also asked regarding the potential timeframe for modifying the monthly pass prices, if needed.

Mauk stated that with such a fare change, we would have at least a 60-day period prior to the Board deciding, and then a period before the fare change is implemented, during which the proper public notices would be made.

Director Shaw asked if we needed to modify the existing route to make sure it hits key stops, how long would it take?

Mauk stated that if we are keeping or reinstating stops from an existing or former route, that is an easier fix from a planning standpoint, than it would be to add brand new stops. The plan for conversion from fixed route to the micro transit is to keep all of the existing fixed route stops as available options on the new service. The difference being that you would use the phone app, your desktop, or call into dispatch to get your on-demand ride when needed instead of the route coming every hour.

Mauk also stated that we will not be dropping Dial-A-Ride initially, so they will be working in conjunction. He stated that where there have been capacity issues with Dial-A-Ride as a standalone service, we foresee this micro transit service being added capacity for those same

types of trips. Mauk stated the on-demand service can reach beyond the fixed route service, so rather than having to walk to a fixed bus stop, one could conceivably get picked up right at the end of the block, just down the street, or maybe close to the front of one's house.

Mauk also responded to the issue brought up regarding the students at River Valley and Yuba City high schools, stating that four or five vehicles with a capacity for ten to twelve people each, in the project we will still be able to provide at least as good or better service to the numbers of students that we are currently moving on our fixed route.

Director Hudson stated there still seems to be a shortfall on the educational process of how the new services will work and asked how the public can get educated.

Mauk responded that we have resources on our website about the NextGen Transit Plan with some videos that talk about the micro transit service and how it works. We have hired a new staff member, and have brought on a consulting firm, to help with the marketing effort. We are doing public outreach events, and we are utilizing our email subscriber database and social media to push this information.

Mauk responded to the concern about Route 4, stating that we are not planning to do anything with Route 4 as part of this phase, except for the extension of service hours to later in the evening on weekdays in conjunction with the rest of the system. In Phase 2, a similar micro transit zone is proposed in Marysville, which covers well beyond where Route 4 currently serves.

Director Bains expressed concerns for Punjabi riders not understanding or being misinformed.

Mauk stated that we will have Punjabi materials in written form and to have a few pop-up events so we can meet with the public one on one to discuss the changes and demonstrate what the new options are for them in their native language.

Director Bains requested that this be done before the September 19<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

Director Flores stated that we have done a great job putting all this together. This is a great opportunity that we are presenting to this community and really is worth bragging about and really spreading the word.

Discussion was had regarding the need for the requested action to include setting the September 19<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

Director Shaw made a motion to set a public hearing for the NextGen Transit Plan Phase 1 Service Changes and Fare Structure for the September 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting as proposed. Director Flores seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mauk gave the Board and meeting attendees a preview of the new Yuba-Sutter Transit logo.

### **III. Public Business from the Floor**

Heather Esemann stated an issue with the driver of the Route 5 bus not waiting for the Route 1 bus to arrive before they drive away, stating she had to wait an hour before the next Route 5, even

though she could see the Route 5 drive away while the Route 1 was stopped. She would like more communication between bus drivers, so this doesn't keep happening.

**IV. Consent Calendar**

Director Bains made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Hudson seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

**V. Reports**

**A. NextGen Transit Facility Environmental and Preliminary Design Project Award.**

Mauk stated staff's recommendation for authorization to finalize and execute a contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,499,999 to complete environmental review, preliminary engineering in the form of a project manual, and to provide related support services for the NextGen Transit Facility project. The AECOM proposal team is well qualified, and the negotiated price proposal has been determined to be fair and reasonable. If approved, staff and the consultant team will finalize the contract, forward it for legal review and execute it as soon as possible.

Director Flores made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,499,999 to provide environmental review, preliminary engineering documents, and related support services for the NextGen Transit Facility project, pending concurrence by funding partner agencies and final approval of legal counsel. Director Hudson seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

**B. Special Service Authorization for the 2024 Sikh Parade parking Shuttle.**

Mauk discussed the requested action for Board authorization to operate another shuttle service during the 2024 Sikh festival parade in November. A letter (received after agenda publication) with a commitment from Temple representatives for prepayment of \$19,500 in fares was presented. Mauk stated this amount is expected to cover the direct operating cost of the service as we anticipate a commitment of up to 18 vehicles operating for the same hours and to the same locations as in past years.

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

**C. Project & Program Updates.**

**1. Caltrans Binney Junction SR70 Project**

Mauk stated we are working towards a September effective date for construction easements and the property lease for the preferred alternative site, which is the former Coke processing plant near the Yuba County Airport. Construction is likely to start no earlier than May 2025 with the part of the construction that affects our facility. Caltrans's staff reported that their headquarters approved the request for early acquisition despite the recent court ruling on the

project's environmental process. However, they are still waiting for approval of the settlement terms of our agreement and have requested backup documentation of our protected costs.

## 2. Legislative Update

Mauk reported on the enactment of the state budget act of 2024 which preserves the \$10.2 million allocated to our facility project by SACOG from SB125, and payments were subsequently unfrozen by the Governor's office.

## VI. Correspondence / Information

## VII. Other Business

Mauk introduced our new Program Analyst, Jessica Solis.

Mauk also stated that our August meeting will likely be canceled unless new business comes up.

Director Bains asked if the public has to come to the public hearing. Legal counsel stated they don't have to come to the meeting in person. They can make their voice heard in other ways including letter or email. Mauk as stated we have opened a survey tool on our website and started distributing information cards on our buses and at our brochure distribution locations.

## VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 4:00PM in the Yuba County Board of Supervisors Chambers, unless otherwise noticed.**