



MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, July 16, 2020

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

PLACE: Pursuant to state and local public health orders and directives, this meeting will be held remotely with members of the Board of Directors and staff attending from separate remote locations. The meeting will be live cast via Zoom for members of the public to observe and offer comment whether on-line or by telephone.

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, please use the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81266913135?pwd=bFJERk81VXJvY00vOTJhd0NHL3pzQT09>

To join by telephone conference call: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 812 6691 3135
Password: 842460

Please note that the public will be muted by default. If you would like to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting, you have the following options:

- Online: Raise your hand or use the Q&A panel to submit your comments.
- Phone: Press *9 to raise your hand or press *6 to send a request to be unmuted to submit comments.

Board members and participants are encouraged to join the meeting 10 minutes early to resolve any technical issues before the session begins.

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Cardoza, Fletcher (Vice-Chair), Hudson, Leahy, Samayoa, Shaw, Sullenger and Whiteaker (Chair)

II. Public Hearings

A. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307, 5311 and 5339 Grant Applications for FY 2021. (Attachment)

1. Staff Presentation
2. Open /Close Public Hearing
4. Board Discussion and Action

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize federal funding applications as submitted.

III. Public Business from the Floor

Members of the public may address the Authority on items of interest that are within the Authority's jurisdiction and are not on the agenda for this meeting. Public comment regarding agenda items will be permitted as each agenda item is considered by the Board.

IV. Consent Calendar

All matters listed under Consent Calendar are considered routine and can be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board, staff, or public request specific items to be discussed or removed from the Consent Calendar for specific action.

- A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2020. (Attachment)
- B. Disbursement List for June 2020. (Attachment)
- C. Monthly Performance Report for June 2020. (Attachment)

V. Reports

A. COVID-19 Impacts, Response & Outlook. (Attachment)

RECOMMENDATION: Direct staff as desired.

B. Project & Program Updates.

1. Next Generation Transit Facility Plan
2. Yuba College Sutter County Center Student Shuttle (Fall Schedule Cancellation?)
3. FRAQMD Discount Pass Program Grant Extension & New FRAQMD Grant Schedule for 2021

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

VI. Correspondence/Information

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020
AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED**

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If you need assistance to attend the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board Meeting, or if you require auxiliary aids or services, e.g., hearing aids or signing services to make a presentation to the Board, please contact the Yuba-Sutter Transit office at (530) 634-6880 or (TTY) 634-6889 at least 72 hours in advance so such aids or services can be arranged.

AGENDA ITEM II – A
STAFF REPORT

**FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) SECTIONS 5307, 5311, AND 5339 GRANT
APPLICATIONS FOR FY 2021**

Federal funding requirements stipulate that a public hearing must be held prior to the submittal of grant applications. The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment regarding the program or programs to be funded by the subject grants. This public hearing is for the federal grant applications to be submitted for FY 2021.

Attached is a copy of the public hearing notice which summarizes these applications for an estimated combined total of \$5,153,630 in federal funding for both operating (\$4,579,000) and capital (\$574,630) purposes. All of these projects for which federal funding will be requested are included in the adopted Yuba-Sutter Transit operating and capital budget for FY 2021.

The operating assistance portion of this program includes \$4,284,000 in Section 5307 (small urban) funding and \$295,000 in Section 5311 (rural) funding. The capital portion of this program includes \$235,290 in Section 5311 (rural) funding and \$339,340 in Section 5339 (small urban capital) funding for the replacement and expansion of six 2014 model Glaval demand response/rural route buses with seven buses.

Staff will be prepared at the meeting to review the entire federal program as desired.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the federal funding applications as submitted.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A public hearing will be held by the Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020 for the purpose of receiving comments on Yuba-Sutter Transit's proposed FY 2020-2021 operating and capital assistance projects to be funded in part through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307, 5311 and 5339 grant programs. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, this meeting and hearing will be held via teleconference with members of the Board of Directors attending from separate remote locations. Public access to observe and participate in the meeting and hearing will be provided by both internet and telephone. Contact Janet Frye at (530) 634-6880 or janet@yubasuttertransit.com for more information.

The projects are generally described as shown below. This shall serve as the final program notice unless amended.

1. The projects include funding for urbanized and non-urbanized area operating and capital expenses of Yuba-Sutter Transit including transportation, maintenance, administration, accessibility improvements, and other related expenses for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Yuba-Sutter Transit is the applicant and mass transportation operator to be assisted.
2. The projects will be administered at Yuba-Sutter Transit's headquarters at 2100 B Street, Marysville, but the projects will have area-wide implications.
3. The combined urbanized and non-urbanized federal operating and capital assistance for the period is estimated at \$5,153,630. The capital program includes \$235,290 in Section 5311 funds and \$339,340 in Section 5339 funds. The operating program includes \$4,284,000 in Section 5307 funds and \$295,000 in Section 5311 funds. Local funds required to complete the proposed FY 2020-2021 projects are estimated at \$3,544,370 for a total cost of \$8,698,000. Local funding will be primarily derived from state and local Transportation Development Act funds, state bond funds and passenger fares.

No persons, families or businesses will be displaced by the projects. No significant environmental impact is anticipated by initiation of the proposed projects. The projects are in conformance with the comprehensive land use and transportation planning for the area and will be consistent with the adopted Transportation Improvement Program. The special needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities have been considered.

Interested persons or agencies will be given an opportunity to comment at the hearing on the social, environmental and economic aspects of the proposed projects. Interested persons may submit, orally or in writing, evidence and recommendations with respect to said projects.

A copy of the grant applications and the Transportation Improvement Program for the area will be available for public inspection by appointment at 2100 B Street, Marysville, California during normal business hours. Call (530) 634-6880 for more information or to make an appointment.

AGENDA ITEM IV – A

YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES JUNE 18, 2020

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

Present: Cardoza, Fletcher, Hudson, Leahy, Samayoa, Shaw, Sullenger (4:06) and Whiteaker (Chair)

Absent: None

II. Public Business from the Floor

None.

III. Consent Calendar

Director Cardoza made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. COVID-19 Impacts, Response & Outlook.

Martin discussed the COVID-19 impact on transit services in the area and the agency response. While ridership on the rural, Sacramento and Dial-A-Ride services has changed little from the low numbers that were seen at the end of March, ridership on the local fixed route system has since jumped by almost 60 percent. This increase combined with the staff imposed on-board capacity limit of 12 persons on local fixed route buses has resulted in riders being left at a bus stop because the bus is at capacity. As a result, front door boarding has been reinstated since the buses are equipped with plexiglass “sneeze guards” to allow for a more efficient passenger flow on and off the bus. In addition, the Route 1 Express service was added on June 12th to provide additional capacity on this busy route. The Express serves just five major bus stops on this busy route – the North Beale Transit Center in Linda; D and 2nd Streets and the Yuba County Government Center in Marysville; and, the Shasta and Alturas stop and the Walton Terminal in Yuba City. Martin also noted that new state guidelines require all bus drivers to wear a face covering as well as all passengers while on or waiting for a bus.

Martin stated that staff is now recommending the reinstatement of fare collection on all local fixed route services starting July 1st. This move is expected to free up space on the system and reduce the number of passengers being passed up by reducing non-essential travel. To mitigate the financial impact of this change, as previously approved by the Board of Directors, the general local fixed and rural route bus pass will be reduced from \$30 to just \$10 a month starting in July using State Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding for the difference. Discount monthly bus passes will remain \$5 under the on-going Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) grant program. Rural routes and Dial-a-Ride services would remain fare free at this time and fare collection was never suspended on the Sacramento services.

Regarding the new State face covering guidance, Director Cardoza stated that he believes that the drivers should request that riders wear a mask and state why, but that they should not be confrontational to maintain

the drivers' safety and welfare. Director Fletcher agreed stating that he thought the driver should not have to be an enforcer of the requirement. Director Samayoa concurred with these positions and recommended signage on the buses about the regulations, as well as understanding that there may be those that have limitations and are unable to wear a mask.

In response to the new Route 1 Express, Director Samayoa expressed support for the service stating that we should consider adding even more buses during heavy commute times if the data supports it. He also asked how the drivers would know if someone was on the bus without a destination. Martin stated that drivers are familiar with their regular passengers. Renick House, General Manager for Storer Transit System, stated that the drivers are regularly asking the passengers what their destination is so that they will know when they should be exiting the bus. Director Samayoa also asked if the Public Health Department would have some funding available to help with advertising and signage. Martin responded that we do have a lot of informational signage on and inside buses including some provided by the CDC and the local Public Health Officer.

Director Samayoa made a motion to authorize the reinstatement of fares starting July 1, 2020 as proposed. Director Cardoza seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for FY 2020/2021.

Martin presented the annual authorization request to submit the Transportation Development Act Claim to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) in accordance with the adopted budget for FY 2021. Due to the available CARES Act funding, Martin stated that all the STA funds have been allocated this year for capital and operating reserve. He noted that STA and LTF funds are expected to be reduced for both FY 2020 and FY 2021 so this claim will set the upper limit on those funding sources.

Director Leahy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 7-20 authorizing the submittal of Yuba-Sutter Transit's FY 2020/2021 TDA Claim as proposed. Director Shaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Project Updates/Additions for the Sacramento Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Martin presented the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the five-year period including FY 2021 through FY 2025. CARES Act funds are identified in FY 2021. All projects that are requesting Federal funds are listed. The adoption of the five-year plan is not restrictive as any further action would require approval from the Board.

The long-range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a 20-year plan for inclusion in SACOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan is generally consistent with the last plan. Not yet incorporated into this plan is a specific strategy for complying with the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) requirement from the California Air Resources Board. The only major change in the CIP is that the facility replacement project has been moved up by five years to 2030 and the cost has been increased by \$5 million in anticipation which is believed essential to comply with the ZEB requirement. which is believed to be essential. Martin also mentioned that he just received word that the Caltrans grant to conduct a systemwide operational assessment was not awarded to Yuba-Sutter Transit.

Director Cardoza made a motion to approve the revised Capital Improvement Plan and the FY 2021 – FY 2025 Transportation Improvement Plan as proposed. Director Fletcher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

D. Project & Program Updates

1. Caltrans Planning Grant – Comprehensive Operational Analysis

Martin previously mentioned that the Caltrans Planning Grant for a Comprehensive Operational Analysis which was not awarded to Yuba-Sutter Transit. He noted that an application for this project would be submitted again next year.

2. Next Generation Transit Facility Plan

Martin stated that a design charrette for the Next Generation Transit Facility Study has just been completed to review different types of layouts and how they fit on different properties. The consultants, WSP, will look at the ten optional sites to determine which sites would work best based upon several factors including operational, financial, environmental and access issues. The first working paper should be presented to the board in the next few months.

3. Yuba College Shuttle (Summer Schedule Cancelled)

Martin stated that the Yuba College Shuttle Service has been suspended due to the cancellation of most in-person classes at Yuba College for the Summer Semester. The next opportunity to operate the service will be for the Fall Semester.

V. Correspondence/Information

None.

VI. Other Business

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 AT 4:00PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.

**AGENDA ITEM IV-B
YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT
DISBURSEMENT LIST
MONTH OF JUNE 2020**

CHECK NO.	AMOUNT	VENDOR	PURPOSE
EFT	\$ 5,321.28	PERS HEALTH	HEALTH INSURANCE
EFT	\$ 2,831.94	PERS RETIREMENT	RETIREMENT PAYMENT (EMPLOYER SHARE)
EFT	\$ 600.00	CALPERS 457 PLAN	EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION
EFT	\$ 33,601.92	PAYROLL	PAYROLL
EFT	\$ 1,525.94	PRINCIPAL MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE	L/D/LTD INSURANCE
EFT	\$ 318.93	CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE	WATER
EFT	\$ 34.42	CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE	FIRE SUPPRESSION
EFT	\$ 4,060.93	PG&E	ELECTRIC
EFT	\$ 48.25	PG&E	ELECTRIC #2 - PARKING LOT LIGHTS
EFT	\$ 52.53	PG&E	GAS
EFT	\$ 68.21	CARDMEMBER SERVICES	CREDIT CARD - MS, ADOBE & ZOOM SUBSCRIPTIONS
EFT	\$ 213.72	UTILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES	SEWER
EFT	\$ 4.88	ELAVON	MERCHANT SERVICE FEE - JUNE
EFT	\$ 162.84	PRIMEPAY	PAYROLL FEE
17043	\$ 128.79	ADVANCED DOCUMENTS CONCEPTS	COPY MACHINE CHARGES - MAY 2020
17044	\$ 175.00	ALL SEASONS TREE & TURF CARE	LANDSCAPE & WEED CONTROL MAY 2020
17045	\$ 414.33	CETRA LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS	TRANSLATION SERVICES - COVID-19 MEMOS
17046	\$ 50.00	DAVID SHAW	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17047	\$ 13,375.00	DOUBLEMAP	SUBSCRIPTION FEE - CAD/AVL & AVA, WARRANTY
17048	\$ 40.00	EMILIANO PEREZ	CONNECT CARD CASH VALUE REIMBURSEMENT
17049	\$ 12,049.21	FLYERS ENERGY	BUS FUEL - DYED DIESEL
17050	\$ 168.87	FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA, INC	POSTAGE RENTAL 5/16/20 - 8/15/20
17051	\$ 50.00	JIM WHITEAKER	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17052	\$ 50.00	MANNY CARDOZA	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17053	\$ 40.00	MARYSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT	ALARM PERMIT ANNUAL RENEWAL FEES
17054	\$ 50.00	MIKE LEAHY	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17055	\$ 914.17	QuEST	MAINTENANCE OF BUS STOPS/SHELTERS
17056	\$ 387.41	QUILL CORPORATION	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES - TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS
17057	\$ 3,830.12	RAMOS OIL COMPANY	BUS FUEL - GAS
17058	\$ 50.00	RANDY FLETCHER	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17059	\$ 50.00	RICKY SAMAYOA	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17060	\$ 50.00	RON SULLENGER	BOARD MEETING 5/21/2020
17061	\$ 482.34	SC FUELS	DEF FLUID
17062	\$ 50.00	SHELBY'S PEST CONTROL	PEST CONTROL SERVICES - JUNE 2020
17063	\$ 509.08	STANLEY SECURITY SOLUTIONS, INC	SECURITY SERVICES - JULY 2020
17064	\$ 449.43	STAPLES	JANITORIAL & COVID SUPPLES - PAPER TOWELS
17065	\$ 451,129.09	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	CONTRACT SERVICES APRIL 2020
17065	\$ 22,196.00	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	VEHICLE INSURANCE - APRIL 2020
17065	\$ 5,698.39	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	COVID-19 EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT
17066	\$ 1,557.16	T-MOBILE	WIFI SERVICES FOR BUSES MAY 2020
17067	\$ 3,938.63	TEHAMA TIRE SERVICES INC	TUBES/TIRES
17068	\$ 272.79	TIAA COMMERCIAL FINANCE, INC	COPIER LEASE MAY 2020
17069	\$ 46,963.39	WSP USA	NEXT GEN FACILITY PLAN SERVICES 4/1/20 - 4/30/20
17070	\$ 50.00	BRAD HUDSON	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17071	\$ 363.86	COMCAST BUSINESS	TELEPHONE SERVICES JUNE 2020
17072	\$ 295.32	COMCAST BUSINESS	INTERNET SERVICES JUNE 2020
17073	\$ 50.00	DAVID SHAW	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17074	\$ 450.00	DIGITAL DEPLOYMENT	WEBSITE SERVICES JUNE 2020
17075	\$ 12,507.49	FLYERS ENERGY	BUS FUEL - DYED DIESEL
17076	\$ 50.00	JIM WHITEAKER	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17077	\$ 50.00	MANNY CARDOZA	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17078	\$ 50.00	MIKE LEAHY	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17079	\$ 12.00	PAM COOLIDGE	CONNECT CARD CASH VALUE REIMBURSEMENT
17080	\$ 1,100.00	RC JANITORIAL	JANITORIAL SERVICES MAY 2020
17081	\$ 1,833.24	RAMOS OIL COMPANY	BUS FUEL - GAS
17082	\$ 50.00	RANDY FLETCHER	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17083	\$ 50.00	RICKY SAMAYOA	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17084	\$ 50.00	RON SULLENGER	BOARD MEETING 6/18/2020
17085	\$ 300.05	STAPLES	OFFICE SUPPLIES: PAPER, ENVELOPES, LAMINATING
17086	\$ 418,562.33	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	CONTRACT SERVICES MAY 2020
17086	\$ 22,196.00	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	VEHICLE INSURANCE - MAY 2020
17086	\$ 2,773.71	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	COVID-19 EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT
17086	\$ 14,029.70	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	COVID-19 ADMIN LEAVE HOURS MAY 2020
17086	\$ 7,053.92	STORER TRANSIT SYSTEMS	COVID-19 FULOUGH REIMBURSEMENTS
17087	\$ 69.17	SUTTER COUNTY LIBRARY	DEFERRED CREDITS CONNECT CARD
17088	\$ 17,776.55	WSP USA	NEXT GEN FACILITY PLAN SERVICES 5/1/20 - 5/31/20
17013	\$ (5.00)	VOIDED CHECK - JOHN LUCERO	LOADED PASS IN LIEU OF REFUND
	\$ 1,113,683.33		

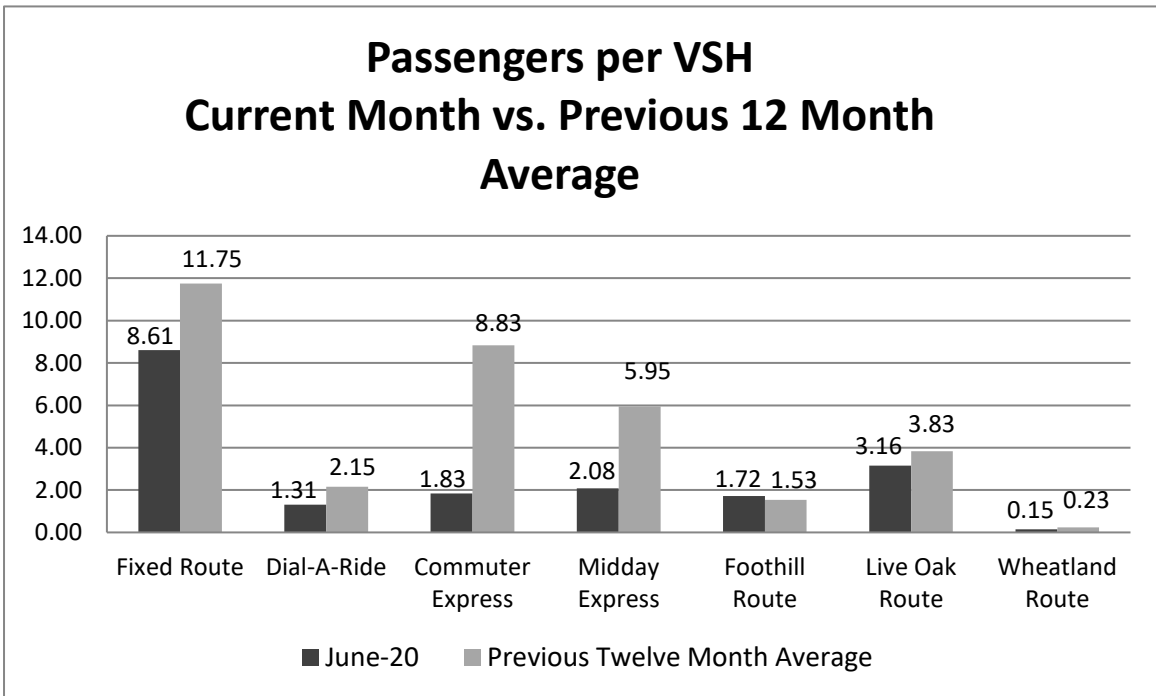
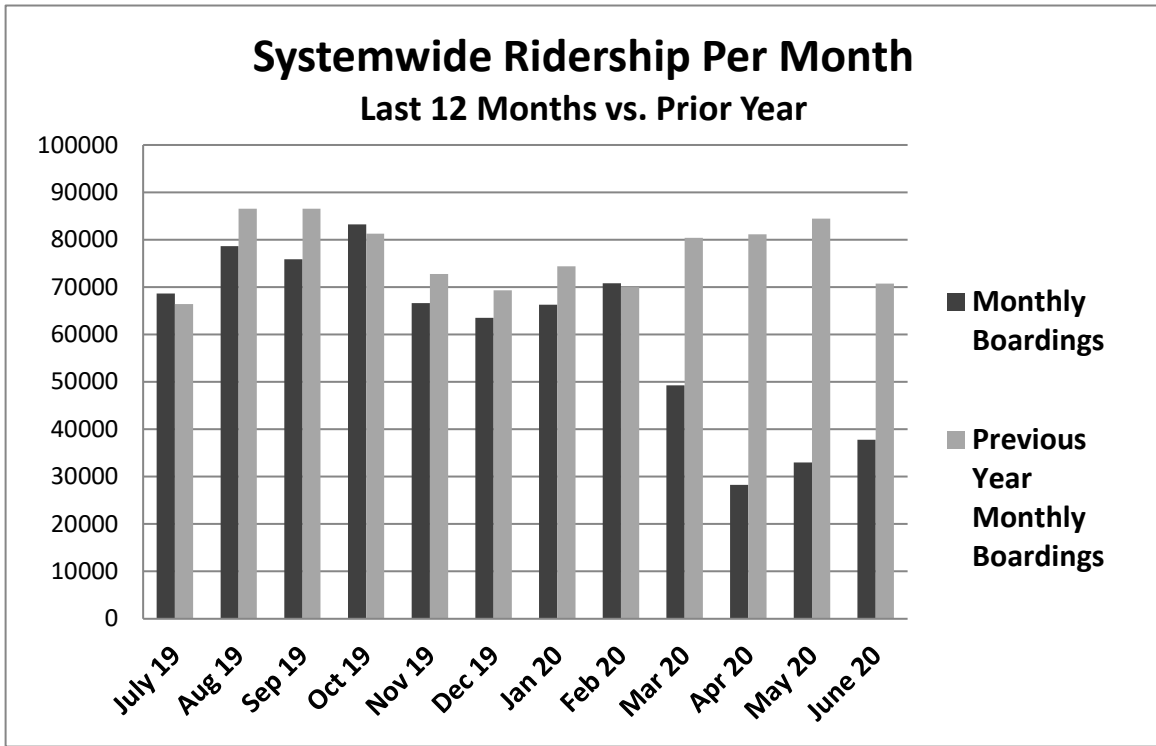
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AGENDA ITEM IV - C

JUNE 2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT

	June-20	Previous Twelve Month Average	Fiscal YTD	Previous Fiscal YTD
Ridership:				
Fixed Route	34,246	49,007	567,872	731,507
Dial-A-Ride	1,470	3,709	41,526	59,093
Commuter Express	1,328	8,831	96,946	121,842
Midday Express	324	937	10,605	12,539
Foothill Route	134	120	1,426	2,135
Live Oak Route	254	298	3,441	4,211
Wheatland Route	7	11	124	624
Total Ridership:	37,763	62,911	721,940	931,951
Vehicle Service Hours:				
Fixed Route	3,979.09	4,172.35	49,849.14	51,816.74
Dial-A-Ride	1,119.00	1,721.10	19,923.12	24,290.96
Commuter Express	724.31	999.73	11,766.81	12,129.67
Midday Express	155.66	157.41	1,889.97	1,930.23
Foothill Route	77.72	78.58	945.59	964.03
Live Oak Route	80.44	77.67	940.26	919.41
Wheatland Route	47.13	45.56	550.40	520.45
Total VSH's:	6,183.35	7,252.41	85,865.29	92,571.49
Passengers Per Hour:				
Fixed Route	8.61	11.75	11.39	14.12
Dial-A-Ride	1.31	2.15	2.08	2.43
Commuter Express	1.83	8.83	8.24	10.04
Midday Express	2.08	5.95	5.61	6.50
Foothill Route	1.72	1.53	1.51	2.21
Live Oak Route	3.16	3.83	3.66	4.58
Wheatland Route	0.15	0.23	0.23	1.20
Total Passengers Per VSH:	6.11	8.67	8.41	10.07

JUNE 2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT



AGENDA ITEM V – A
STAFF REPORT

COVID-19 IMPACTS, RESPONSE & OUTLOOK

Background

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Yuba-Sutter Transit and our service contractor, Storer Transit Systems, have made several changes to our policies, procedures, and services to help protect passengers and transit personnel alike. In March, these changes included reducing the Dial-A-Ride service in response to the sudden drop in ridership; ramping up the vehicle sanitation schedule and intensity; increasing related public and operating personnel education and training; eliminating fare collection on all but the Sacramento schedules; implementing rear door boarding on local fixed-route buses; and, closing the administrative office except by appointment.

In April, in response to a revised health order, Yuba-Sutter Transit expanded the public education campaign to limit service to essential travel only, established passenger capacity limits on local fixed route and Dial-A-Ride buses to allow for social distancing, and strongly encouraged the use of facial coverings by all passengers. Storer also provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitizer for operating personnel and installed aisle barrier straps and large plexiglass sneeze guards near the driver’s compartment on local fixed route buses. In May, the local fixed route and Sacramento commuter services were reduced in response to the steep ridership declines on both services.

As shown in the table below, after an initial 65 percent drop in average weekday ridership (58 percent on Saturdays) from February (pre-COVID) to the last two weeks of March, local fixed route ridership climbed rather quickly through June with the gradual reopening of the Yuba-Sutter area and the continued suspension of fare collection. Through June, average weekday ridership had increased by 53 percent over the March low (81 percent on Saturdays).

**Average Daily Local Fixed Route Ridership
(Month to Month)**

	Average Weekday	Percent Change	Average Saturday	Percent Change
February	2,558		1,279	
March 23 - 31	900	-64.8%	538	-57.9%
April	1,044	16.0%	640	19.0%
May	1,280	22.6%	913	42.7%
June	1,380	7.8%	973	6.6%
Change from End-of-March to June		53.3%		80.9%

Due to increased ridership, as many as 10 or more local fixed route passengers were being passed by at local stops up to 20 times a day through mid-June especially on Route 1 – the primary cross-town route. In response, the on-board capacity limit for the local fixed route buses was increased from 10 to 12 (assuming that at least a few passengers were traveling with a family member); a supplemental, limited stop Route 1 Express service was initiated during peak ridership periods to provide additional capacity; and we returned to front door boarding to

make it easier for the drivers to enforce the capacity limit and directly engage with anyone being left behind. Using the front door to enter and the rear door to exit improved passenger flow in and out of the bus greatly reducing the congestion that occurs due to the increasing number of passengers that were previously using only the rear door to both enter and exit. While the purpose of fare free service and rear door boarding was to limit contact between drivers and passengers in the early days of the pandemic, the installation of plexiglass sneeze guards and strongly encouraging the use of face coverings largely met the same goal. As a result of these changes, both the frequency and number of passengers being left behind was significantly reduced in June.

Current Status

At the June meeting, the Board of Directors concurred with the staff recommendation to resume fare collection on the local fixed route system on July 1st primarily for the purpose of slowing ridership growth to preserve capacity for those traveling for essential purposes in anticipation of still more passengers in the future. While staff will provide an up-to-date report at the meeting on the initial impact of this major policy change, the very early results appear promising as average local fixed route ridership over the first three weekdays in July was down 12.3 percent compared to the first three weekdays in June. In addition, using the same three weekday comparison, the average number of times that passengers were passed up at a local fixed route bus stop dropped from 19 in June to less than 3 in July with the major changes being fare collection and the new Route 1 Express service.

Significantly mitigating the financial impact to passengers, the previously approved demonstration program to discount the basic monthly local fixed route bus pass from \$30 to \$10 coincidentally became effective with the sale of July passes. As a result, all cash fare passengers can now substantially reduce their cost per trip through the purchase of either a \$5 discount monthly pass for seniors, youth and persons with disabilities or a \$10 monthly pass for the general public both of which are also accepted on all rural routes.

With the decision to resume fare collection, the Yuba-Sutter Transit administrative office was also reopened to the public as a local Connect Card sales outlet and to process discount fare eligibility requests. This was made possible through adjustments in office procedures and the installation of counter sneeze guards. Fare collection continues to be waived on the Dial-A-Ride service and on all three rural routes at least until the smaller buses that are used to operate these services can be equipped with sneeze guards. Until such time or unless otherwise directed, fares will be charged only on the local fixed routes and on all Sacramento Commuter and Midday schedules.

Looking to the future, the recent surge in local COVID-19 infections may have a chilling effect on ridership growth especially if some businesses must again close or reduce operations. This is likely to directly impact the recovery of the Sacramento service as downtown offices remain largely empty. In addition, decisions that have yet to be made by the local school districts and Yuba College regarding in-person instruction for the fall semester will certainly impact the pace of ridership growth on the local fixed-route system at least through December. Finally, Dial-A-Ride service levels will continue to be dramatically reduced from what was previously operated as long as the Alta California Regional Center programs remain closed.

Staff will be prepared at the meeting to discuss these issues in more detail.

RECOMMENDATION: Direct staff as desired.