

AGENDA ITEM IV – A

YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES SEPTMEBER 17, 2020

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

Present: Cardoza, Fletcher (Vice-Chair), Leahy, Samayoa, Shaw (4:04), and Whiteaker (Chair)

Absent: Hudson and Sullenger

II. Public Business from the Floor

None.

III. Consent Calendar

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

Martin stated that a minor correction was needed for Agenda Item III-C. In the Monthly Performance Report, the previous fiscal year-to-date ridership number for the Foothill Route should read 289 instead of 137.

IV. Reports

A. Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) Blue Sky Projects for FY 2020/2021.

Martin stated that the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) is now accepting applications under the Blue Sky Grant Program for fiscal year 2020/2021. The amount of funding available for this cycle has dropped to just \$150,000 which is down 40 percent from \$250,000 over the last several years. Applications are due October 19th, just after the October board meeting. The schedule of the grant cycle has been changed from a yearly cycle starting on January 1st to March 1st to give some additional time between the action of the board and the actual start of the project period. Yuba-Sutter Transit received \$152,000 in two grants from the FY 2019/2020 cycle of funding.

Staff is recommending that another grant be submitted to extend the Discount Monthly Bus Pass Program as the top priority project. Because fares were not charged for a few months with the Covid-19 outbreak and ridership has remained low since fare collection resumed on July 1st, staff has requested an extension of the existing Discount Monthly Pass Program for an additional six months through September 2021. As a result, especially due to the reduced amount of funding, staff is recommended that the new request be made for just six months of funding (\$72,000) to extend the existing program through March 2022.

The recommended second priority project is for another \$10,000 to help continue the expanded Live Oak Service for another year from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022. The combined \$82,000 value of these two projects would be 46 percent less than what was received this year which is greater than the overall reduction in funding. No new projects are being recommended this year due to the reduced funding level.

Director Fletcher and Director Cardoza voiced consent to the recommendations and staff was directed to move forward with preparing draft grant applications for Board consideration at the October meeting.

B. Project & Program Updates

1. COVID-19 Impacts and Response

Martin discussed the continuing COVID-19 efforts of Yuba-Sutter Transit and the industry in general. The California State University system has announced they will be providing mostly distance learning for the spring 2021 semester and Yuba College staff has expressed that they hope to make their decision by October. Martin noted that it is unlikely that local middle and high schools will open this semester and no decision has been made about the spring semester. Staff has also reached out to the Alta California Regional Center and QuEST and they have no timetable for reopening their day programs which account for a major part of the Dial-a-Ride service.

Martin reported that fare collection resumed on the Dial-a-Ride and rural route services on September 1st. Average daily Dial-a-Ride ridership was down 5-7 percent compared to the same period in August. On the rural routes, Live Oak ridership actually increased by 21 percent, Foothill Route ridership decreased and the Wheatland Route has yet to carry a passenger in September. Average weekday fixed route ridership-to-date in September is up 4 percent over the same period in August, but Sacramento Commuter ridership has seen very little change. Staff is planning to survey our Sacramento riders this fall to gauge when they are planning to return to work and if they will be using the commuter service. The Rout 1 Express service continues to operate and the number of passengers being passed by remains low.

Director Samayoá asked if the on-time metrics have improved. Martin responded that although he did not have data available, he expects that is true due to reduced traffic in the area and lower ridership. Renick House stated that one thing that has affected on-time performance is the extra time required to conduct the increased sanitation measures that Storer has implemented. They are sanitizing every time they change drivers for shift and lunch relief and it takes three to four minutes for sanitation procedures in addition to the normal bus inspection.

2. Annual Sikh Parade Parking Shuttle

Martin stated that although there the Sikh Parade has not been officially cancelled, temple officials have agreed that they will not be asking for assistance with a shuttle service this year.

3. Next Generation Transit Facility Plan (Consultant Presentation Postponed to October 15th Meeting)

Martin stated that the project consultant will be presented the first two working papers for this project at the October meeting and that a video has been created introduce the project and to highlight the top priority sites for public outreach.

4. Annual Fiscal Audit (Week of September 21st)

Martin reported the annual fiscal audit is scheduled to start Monday, September 21st. The final audit is normally presented at the January meeting where staff also anticipates sharing mid-year projections for FY 2021 and the outlook for FY 2022.

Director Cardoza asked if a list of proposed facility sites would be available soon. Martin responded that those sites would be part of the October 15th presentation.

V. Correspondence/Information

None.

VI. Other Business

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.