

AGENDA ITEM III – A

**YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2022**

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

In the absence of Chairman Hudson, Vice-Chairman Kirchner called the meeting to order.

Present: Bains, Blaser, Buttacavoli, Fuhrer, Kirchner (Vice-Chair), and Shaw
Absent: Hudson and Micheli

II. Public Business from the Floor

Ms. Judy Birdsong addressed the board in regards to the Sacramento commuter bus schedule. Ms. Birdsong wants the 5:35 pm bus from P & 5th Streets in Sacramento to Yuba City to leave 10-15 minutes later to accommodate her husband's work schedule. She provided a proposed commuter schedule for this purpose to all board members.

Director Fuhrer thanked Ms. Birdsong for her suggestions and stated that the board will look at her proposed schedule stating that it would be a good thing if a later bus increased ridership.

Martin responded that the 5:35 pm schedule has historically been the least used of the Sacramento Commuter schedules as most of our passengers leave downtown between 3:30 and 4:30 pm. Martin also stated that the commuter schedules have been set over the years through direct passenger input and there has been little demand for service after 5:30 pm. He did note that the NextGen Transit Plan will be an opportunity for riders and non-riders alike to provide their input should they want to change our schedules.

III. Public Hearings

A. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307, 5311 and 5339 Grant Applications for FY 2022.

Martin stated that a finding from the recent Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review requires Yuba-Sutter Transit to provide an opportunity for public comment on the pandemic related service reductions.

Director Kirchner opened the public hearing at 4:24 pm. There were no public comments. Martin noted that staff had received one e-mail prior to the meeting and a copy of that e-mail requesting that weekday service on Route 2 return to half hour frequency has been handed out to all board members. Director Kirchner closed the hearing at 4:24 pm.

Director Shaw asked how many seats are on the bus and Martin answered that the local fixed route buses have 32 seats and are currently operating at around eight passengers per service hour. Director Shaw asked when the NextGen plan recommendations will be brought to the board and Martin stated that they should be brought to board in Spring 2023.

Director Fuhrer made a motion to maintain reduced service levels as temporary suspended service pending further action. Director Shaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

IV. Presentations

Kacey Lizon Deputy Director of The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) presented the 2024 Blueprint which outline recommendations for public land use policy and transportation investments strategies for the Sacramento region for the next 30 years. She highlighted how a triple bottom line approach that strives to advance coequal goals in equity, economy, and environment is imperative to prepare the region to meet the complex growth and mobility challenges that we face in the coming decades. She noted the opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement in the regional planning process and the many programs SACOG has available or is developing to support public agencies to implement the region's vision for the future.

Director Blaser requested that the Union Pacific Railroad trestle connecting Yuba and Sutter Counties should be included in the trails plan and Director Fuhrer requested a bike bridge from Olivehurst to Sutter County.

V. Consent Calendar

Director Shaw made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Buttacavoli seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Special Service Authorization for the 2022 Sikh Parade Parking Shuttle.

Martin discussed a request for special service for the 2022 Sikh Parade parking shuttle noting that this service has been provided for many years except in 2020 when the event was cancelled due to the pandemic. The Sikh Temple Gurdwara is requesting the service and committing to a contribution \$21,500 in lieu of passenger fares which is expected to cover the direct operating cost of the service. The parade will be on Sunday, November 6th and the service is expected to include up to 22 buses operating approximately 235 hours of service

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

B. Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) Blue Sky Grant Projects for FY 2022/2023.

Noting that we had just received the FRAQMD notice regarding this annual program and that just \$100,000 will be available for this cycle, Martin recommended just one application be submitted to continue the discount pass program for area seniors, disabled and youth for another year. This program has been very successful over the years and now averages around 8,000 passes sold annually. Applications are due by October 11th.

C. Storer Transit System Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Martin stated that Yuba-Sutter Transit is required to maintain a drug and alcohol regulation and policies consistent with federal standards and that this done through our contractor. The last policy, which was adopted in November 2019, has recently been updated with minor changes and now needs adoption.

Director Shaw made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-22 adopting the Storer Transit Systems Drug and Alcohol Policy for the Yuba-Sutter Division effective August 1, 2022. Director Blaser seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

D. November Meeting Cancellation.

Martin requested that the regular November 17, 2022 Board meeting be cancelled. The date for this meeting conflicts with the annual statewide California Transit Association conference that he regularly attends.

Director Fuhrer made a motion to cancel the regular monthly board meeting of November 17, 2022. Director Shaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

E. FY 2022 Annual Performance Report.

Martin stated that the FY 2022 Annual Performance Report was included in the agenda packet noting that this was the first fiscal year comparison to illustrate how the service and ridership has recovered since the pandemic. Referencing the graphic comparing total system ridership by month over the last four fiscal years, he noted that ridership had increased by an average of 29 percent each month in FY 2022 compared to the same month in FY 2021.

F. Project & Program Updates.

1. Next Generation Transit Facility Project (Grant & Project Announcements)

We have been awarded a \$15 million federal grant under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. This was our second try at this rather exclusive annual funding program having fallen just a bit short with our 2021 grant application for \$20 million. Historically, about 10 percent of applications are successful each year.

Yuba-Sutter Transit was one of 166 grant recipients for this \$2.2 billion program and just 33 transit-specific projects averaging about \$14.4 million each were selected. Only eight projects were selected from California applicants, one of which was a \$5 million planning grant to study "Mobility Zones" in the six county SACOG region.

Our \$14 million Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Buses and Bus Facilities Program application was not among the grants that were announced this week. A reported \$5+ billion in applications were submitted for the \$1.66 billion that was awarded. Eighteen California projects were selected and almost all of them were for the purchase for ZEBs and related charging/fueling infrastructure. This was our second try at this program, and we will be seeking a post-award consultation as it is likely that we will be making another run at this funding source in 2023.

The RAISE grant award brings the secured funding figure for the NextGen Facility Project to \$26.6 million which is 56% of the \$47.5 million Year-of Expenditure cost estimate that is now being used for this project in the approved Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP). Committed and anticipated future year revenue from a variety of federal, state, and local sources is expected to increase the funding amount to nearly \$30 million (63%) leaving an estimated unfunded gap of about \$17.5 million.

Based on recent conversations with Caltrans regarding the Binney Junction Highway 70 project, it is now almost certain that this project will not permanently displace us from the current facility. Project construction will, however, require months-long use of significant portions of the bus parking area so some provision for the relocation of the fleet will need to be made beginning as early as 2023. We are now working with Caltrans on temporary construction easements and associated mitigation measures. Staff is planning a funding and project schedule update for the September Board meeting.

2. NextGen Transit Plan (www.yubsutternextgen.com)

A customer and community survey should be available by the end of the month. The availability of the survey will be promoted widely through a variety of platforms, and we will be asking for the assistance of our member jurisdictions to promote the survey through their networks (website, social media, etc.).

The second meeting of the Project Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 7th. Key stakeholder meetings are still be conducted, and the draft Existing Conditions Report will soon be available. The first Community Workshop is planned for October potentially in conjunction with the October Board meeting. The project remains on schedule for completion by the end of FY 2023.

3. Regional Waste Management Authority (RWMA) Staff Transition

The RWMA Board of Directors was supposed to be interviewing an Executive Director candidate as part of their meeting this afternoon, but that meeting was canceled after the candidate withdrew their name at the last minute. Staff is working with member jurisdiction administrators to explore other candidates with the hope of bring someone to the RWMA Board for consideration at their September 15th meeting. The RWMA Management Analyst started work on August 1st.

VI. Correspondence/Information

None

VII. Other Business

None

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.