

## AGENDA ITEM IV – A

### YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2021

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

Present: Bains, Blaser, Fuhrer, Gilchrist (for Buttacavoli), Harris (4:02), Hudson, Micheli, and Shaw (Chair)

Absent: Buttacavoli

#### II. Public Business from the Floor

None.

#### III. Consent Calendar

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

#### IV. Reports

##### A. Next Generation Transit Facility Project.

Prior to the discussion of the Next Generation Transit Facility Project, Director Bains recused himself from the discussion. Martin presented an update on the Next Generation Transit Facility Project noting that the property at 6035 Avondale Avenue has been designated as the preferred site. Since that time, staff has provided the property owner with a letter of intent to purchase the property and received authorization to enter for the appraisal and environmental assessment. Two vendors are now engaged at \$3,000 each for the appraisal and the environmental assessment and both are expected to be complete within 30 days.

On the funding side, an administrative amendment to add the facility project to the SACOG Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) has been completed to put the project into SACOG's five-year plan and make it eligible for funding. Staff is currently working with Congressman Garamendi's office to submit a request for a member designated project, formerly known as an earmark, as part of the surface transportation act reauthorization measure coming up later this year. This request is for \$4 million for the engineering and design portion of the project. Letters of support have already been received from Caltrans and SACOG for this project. Other funding sources being considered are the federal RAISE grant program, which is an annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program for transportation funding with a maximum award of \$25 million grant program limited to \$100 million maximum per state. This program will be presented on the May agenda and applications are due by July 12, 2021.

##### B. Regional Housing Authority Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant Application.

Martin presented the draft cooperative agreement that has been prepared by the Regional Housing Authority and reviewed by legal counsel. The total project is a \$30 million request toward a 176-unit affordable housing project in the Richland Housing area on Garden Highway in Yuba City. The scoring process for the program

depends on a variety of factors not directly tied to housing, including sustainable transportation infrastructure and transportation related amenities. The Yuba-Sutter Transit portion includes approximately \$6.5 million for four different projects. The first is \$3.9 million for three battery electric commuter buses and related charging equipment for replacement vehicles. The second is \$500,000 for two battery electric demand response (Dial-A-Ride) buses that would also be replacement vehicles. The third is \$195,000 for bus stop enhancements for stops in the Garden Highway area as well as at the new facility site on North Beale Road at Avondale Avenue. The last is for \$1.9 million for solar collection systems for the buses at the new facility including both support structures and solar panels. Martin noted that the project list is still being refined and that there may be some changes before the final filing date due on June 8, 2021. Staff will report on any significant changes at the May Board meeting.

Director Shaw asked for clarification that all the above projects are contingent on the Regional Housing Authority receiving the grant. Martin confirmed this is the case noting that awards are expected to be announced in the fall and that it could be up to one year later to receive a signed grant agreement.

Director Bains made a motion to authorize execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the Regional Housing Authority for the AHSC Grant Application as proposed. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **C. State of Good Repair (SGR) Project Designation.**

Martin noted that annual project designations are required for the annual State of Good Repair (SGR) program under SB1. Previous allocations have been used for vehicle replacements and other miscellaneous capital improvements. The current recommendation is to commit the current year allocation to the facility project for initial engineering and design as well as future construction. Approximately \$280,000 will be available this year and the project must be listed for the state to allow Yuba-Sutter Transit to qualify for the funds, but if a project falls off the list, the funds can be re-allocated to other eligible projects.

Director Fuhrer made a motion to adopt Resolution 4-21 authorizing the submittal of Yuba-Sutter Transit's FY 2021/2022 SGR Project List as proposed. Director Bains seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **D. Project & Program Updates**

#### **1. COVID-19 Impacts & Response (Free Rides for COVID-19 Vaccinations)**

In discussing the current impacts of COVID-19 on the Yuba-Sutter Transit operation, Martin noted that there has been a small increase in ridership with area middle and high schools now in session at least part time with hybrid and remote options. In anticipation of an increase, the long standing 12-passenger capacity limit on the local fixed route buses has been informally waived, but there have been few cases to-date of exceeding the former limit. While crowding has not yet become an issue, staff is prepared to act if it does. Martin informed the Board that both school districts had previously reached out about adding supplemental service, but neither district has responded regarding any funding to do so. Looking to the future, Yuba College has announced that they will not be holding a significant number of in-person classes before the Spring 2022 semester. In addition, Sacramento Commuter ridership remains unchanged at approximately 10 – 15 percent of pre-pandemic levels as most state workers continue to work remotely and are likely to keep doing so for some time.

The fare free ride program for COVID-19 vaccination appointments did garner significant media attention including an interview with Good Day Sacramento that is now featured on our website. To date, nine free trips have been provided to vaccination appointments – all on the Dial-a-Ride service.

## **2. FY 2021-22 Operating & Capital Budget Development**

Martin stated that there have been no significant changes in the budget development process and that he sees no need for a special budget workshop. The final draft budget will be presented for Board review and action consideration at the next regular meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Director Blaser asked if there would be service to the Harmony Village Project on Highway 99 near Oswald Road south of Yuba City. Martin responded that Habitat for Humanity representatives had been informed early in the process that no service was available to that location and that he was informed that Harmony Village would provide its own van service for facility residents. Furthermore, there have been no conversations since the site opened regarding a need for public transportation service or how it would be funded.

### **V. Correspondence/Information**

None.

### **VI. Other Business**

None.

### **VII. Closed Session**

#### **A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957. Position Title: Transit Manager**

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:26 p.m. The Board returned from closed session at 4:30 p.m. and Chairman Shaw announced that no reportable action had been taken and that matter was continued to the next meeting.

#### **B. Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8.**

A closed session was not held on this issue.

Director Fuhrer asked if SACOG's "Green Means Go" grant and loan program has been considered as a funding source for the facility project. Martin stated that all sources within SACOG's regional funding program is being considered, but the application due date was missed for the current cycle. Director Fuhrer asked why the filing date was missed. Martin responded that the site had not been selected when applications were due late last year, but that we will be ready for the next round of regional funding. He noted that many funding sources require property to actually be acquired before a grant award is considered as they want "shovel-ready" projects.

### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.**