

AGENDA ITEM IV – A

YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2023

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

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

II. Public Business from the Floor

Ms. Brittany Gray addressed the Board as an advocate for her daughter, a high school freshman who also attends classes at the Yuba College Sutter Center. Noting that no transportation is available for her daughter and other students to the campus and the lack of sidewalk make it unsafe to walk, she asked that the shuttle that had previously been offered be reinstated.

III. Reports

A. Yuba-Sutter NextGen Transit Plan Service Alternatives Workshop.

Martin stated that the purpose of this special meeting is to present and receive early policy input on preliminary service concepts that are being considered for the NextGen Transit Plan. Martin introduced Raul Kumar from Innovate Mobility for the NextGen Transit Plan presentation.

Mr. Kumar began by reviewing the goals for the NextGen Transit plan:

- Improve Rider Experience – faster travel time and connections to previously unserved areas.
- Provide More Regional Connections – Connect more communities that are farther away.
- Improve Local Access – Serve new areas and connect them with fast and effective transit solutions.
- Improve operating Performance – Reduce expected travel times.

Yuba-Sutter Transit now offers six fixed routes, Dial-A-Ride, and commuter service to Sacramento. While the current transit system is accessible to the general-public as most of the population is within a quarter mile away from a bus stop, we are looking at Yuba-Sutter Transit as a single network of services composed of the following components:

- Core – Service the major urban communities of Yuba City, Marysville, Linda, and Olivehurst.
- Community – Service the smaller and more distant areas of Live Oak, Wheatland, and the Foothills.
- Commuter – Service Sacramento and look at new areas to connect.

The first new service concept would be creating an on-demand transit zones which is an Uber like service throughout both counties. This new on-demand service would be accessible to the public by calling dispatch, text message, email, smartphone application, and other methods to book a ride within the zone

or using the Core routes to travel outside the zone. The new on-demand zones would include the following:

- Yuba City – Generally following the entire urban area boundary
- Marysville
- Linda – Both West and East Linda
- Olivehurst – Would include Wheeler Ranch and the Yuba County Airport Industrial Park.
- Plumas Lake – This future service area would be added as Plumas Lake further develops.

The second new service concept would be the creation of two new Core routes. With the new on-demand service covering a large area in Yuba City, Marysville, Linda and Olivehurst, four of the six existing fixed routes would be eliminated with the other two being modified and rebranded as Core routes as follows:

- Yuba City to Yuba College – This new route would be like the current Route 1, but about 30 minutes faster in roundtrip travel time.
- Linda to Olivehurst – This new route would be like the current Route 3, but would begin and end at the Yuba County Health & Human Services (Peach Tree Clinic) instead of Yuba College.

The third new service concept is a Volunteer Driver Program to expand rural service in the Yuba County Foothills. This program would allow residents of these communities to use new technology to coordinate a volunteer driver program with Yuba-Sutter Transit's service.

The fourth new service concept is to initiate a new service between Marysville and the Roseville Galleria Transit Center. This would be made possible by making permanent the pandemic-related service reductions on the Sacramento service and further consolidating that service by one AM and one PM trip with those service hours being used to offer an AM and PM trip to Roseville where passengers can connect to both the Roseville and Placer County transit systems.

Director Blaser asked if we have coordinated these concepts with the affordable housing plan and with new housing developments. Mr. Kumar stated that they have been in touch with them, but the new on-demand system that is being proposed is easy to expand as population increases.

Director Blaser left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

In response to a question if the new on-demand service is door to door, Mr. Kumar explained that it is not door to door for ambulatory passengers as it will use the technology to create nearby virtual bus stops for pick-up. When a passenger requests an on-demand ride, the system will direct them to walk to a certain place to get picked up.

Director Hudson asked how this new system will be implemented and would it have to wait for the new transit facility to be complete. Martin stated that this new system could happen before the new facility is complete because the on-demand service requires smaller vehicles. The smaller vehicles are low profile, hold up to 12 passengers, and can be gas powered buses as they are below the state mandated zero-emission bus purchase threshold of 14,000 GVWR.

He also stated that the new system can be rolled out in phases, but we would need to have the on-demand software to make the system work. The software offers on-demand scheduling with app and

website-based reservations, but passengers could still call dispatch to schedule their rides. Mr. Kumar said that the new software package would cost about \$5,000 - \$6,000 per year per vehicle.

Director Micheli left the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Director Fuhrer wanted to know if the number of passengers per vehicle is usually around two per ride. Mr. Kumar stated we are building the on-demand system to operate around four to six passengers per ride with a normal trip time of about 15 – 20 minutes.

Director Fuhrer also asked if smartphones are required to make this on-demand system work. Mr. Kumar explained a passenger that doesn't have a smartphone can still call in to dispatch or use texting to schedule their ride.

Martin stated that Yuba Sutter Transit will be conducting two community open house events for the transit plan on Thursday February 16, 2023, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. and asked the Board for their help to get the word out. He also stated that public outreach on the plan will continue through our newsletter, website, Facebook, and the project website page. Mr. Kumar also mentioned that he has about 440 email address from people who took the survey or requested information and that the project advisory committee members are also doing public outreach through their own network of contacts.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.