

AGENDA ITEM III – B

**YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2024**

I. **Call to Order & Roll Call** (4:08 P.M.)

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

II. **Public Business from the Floor**

None.

III. **Reports**

A. **Cooperative Agreement for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant Program.**

Executive Director Mauk stated that Habitat for Humanity Yuba/Sutter (HFHYS) will be submitting a grant application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program which is due March 19, 2024. The AHSC grant is for approximately \$36 million and \$6.1 million would be for transit related projects. Mauk stated that for HFHYS to realize the Green House Gas (GHG) reduction benefits needed, Yuba-Sutter Transit needs to execute an MOU with HFHYS that would be included in the grant application. The overall grant application is for funding Phase 2 of the Merriment Village apartment complex in Yuba City.

Mauk stated that in reviewing the draft MOU with legal counsel, there were some potential issues that warranted Board consideration. Mauk provided a description of the following four projects that would be Yuba-Sutter Transit's responsibility to deliver under the MOU:

1. Purchase of microtransit buses in the amount of \$3 million. This amount is estimated at half of the cost of fifteen microtransit vehicles. Yuba-Sutter Transit was previously awarded \$3 million from the TIRCP grant for the other half for the microtransit vehicles. These will be low floor, battery electric cutaways for the purposes of running the new microtransit zones recommended in the NextGen Transit Plan.
2. Microtransit operating assistance in the amount of \$2 million. This would partly fund the expansion of microtransit services beyond the first year of the NextGen Plan, per the timing of this grant's award and five-year performance period.
3. Construction of mobility hub improvements in the amount of \$660,000 at the NextGen Transit Facility in Linda. This would include passenger amenities, landscaping/greening, vehicle charging for the public and vehicle share programs, and solar equipment at the NextGen Transit Facility.
4. Bus Stop Amenities in the amount of \$450,000 for stops within a mile of the Merriment Village development. Staff have identified five locations for possible infrastructure and technology improvements. These stops would still be served by fixed route bus routes and/or microtransit at major trip generators.

Mauk stated that per our legal counsel's analysis, the MOU commits Yuba-Sutter Transit to spending this money explicitly on microtransit service, even if down the road we decide that microtransit is not the direction we want to continue. With this agreement in place, it commits us to funding microtransit, or we could jeopardize HFHYS's grant. Brant Bordsen, Legal Counsel stated that this MOU does tie the hands of future Boards for the life of the grant, even if we decide a few years later we have a better way of providing service than the microtransit, because we are not going to jeopardize \$36 million dollar grant.

Mauk stated that HFHYS had proposed indemnity language and we are working with legal counsel on this. Mauk also stated that if any one of these transit projects were not approved by the Board for inclusion in the agreement, it would not preclude HFHYS from submitting their grant application. However, it would lower the GHG benefits and lower the competitiveness of the grant.

Director Blaser asked if the \$2 million is specifically for the Merriment Village project? Mauk stated the \$2 million is not specific to Merriment Village, and we can use it for any of the microtransit operations for the expansion after Phase One because the services would be interconnected.

Director Kirchner inquired about the public charging portion. Mauk stated that a mobility hub at the new NextGen facility is planned in conjunction with the new bus stop on North Beale, that would include bike amenities, passenger amenities, some urban greening, landscaping, and solar covered parking that could support public vehicle charging and vehicle share programs.

Director Bains made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute the attached Cooperative Agreement with HFHYS and any additional documents necessary to support a grant application to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program, pending approval of the indemnity clause by legal counsel. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Caltrans Temporary construction Easement (TCE) Agreement Extension No. 2.

Mauk stated that because of a delay in construction, Caltrans has requested a one-month extension to the current TCE through April 30th. Mauk reported that staff had secured written approval from the Yuba County Airport for one more month on the lease for overflow parking of our buses. Per the attached TCE amendment, Caltrans will pay Yuba-Sutter Transit \$4,800 and pay the cost of the Airport lease for the additional month.

Director Bains made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute the attached Amendment to the Caltrans Binney Junction/SR 70 Phase 1 Temporary Construction Easement (TCE), identified as parcel #37882-4 as proposed. Director Hudson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.