October 2021 Volume 32 – Number 9



FREE RIDES FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS EXTENDED THROUGH DECEMBER

Anyone age 12 and over is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. To make this process even easier, in cooperation with the Yuba and Sutter County Public Health Departments, Yuba-Sutter Transit is offering free service to anyone traveling to or from their scheduled COVID-19 vaccination appointment. This exciting offer, which was originally scheduled to end on September 30th, has been extended at least through December 31, 2021.

To ride free of charge, passengers must present valid confirmation of their appointment that day at any COVID-19 vaccination site in Yuba or Sutter Counties when boarding the bus. Confirmation may be in the form of an appointment card, email, or text with the passenger's name and appointment information (date, time, and location). The driver will acknowledge that the confirmation meets the requirement, and that the passenger may continue boarding.

This offer is good on all services operated by Yuba-Sutter Transit, including Dial-A-Ride, though all service eligibility and passenger policy requirements still apply. Anyone traveling with a passenger that has a scheduled appointment must provide their own appointment confirmation to qualify for a free fare.

For more information on free rides for vaccination appointments or for any transit service, route, and schedule information, please call (530) 742-2877 or visit www.yubasuttertransit.com.

SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINE APPOINTMENT TODAY

For vaccine appointments, please visit www.myturn.ca.gov or call the California COVID-19 hotline at (833) 422-4255.



SENIOR DIAL-A-RIDE VOUCHER PROGRAM EXTENDED

The FREED Center for Independent Living has provided free transportation vouchers for qualified area seniors for use on Yuba-Sutter Transit's Dial-A-Ride service for many years. This grant funded program has been extended again, but previous vouchers with expiration dates of June 30, 2021, or earlier are no longer valid and will not be accepted. Currently valid vouchers are printed on purple or pink paper with an expiration date of December 31, 2021.

The Senior Transportation Vouchers can be redeemed on any Dial-A-Ride bus for their \$3.00 face value. The program is funded by the Area Agency on Aging / Area 4 for assistance to older adults, but the minimum Dial-A-Ride age requirement of 65 or more years old still applies. These vouchers can be used for any trip purpose without restriction.

Contact the FREED Program Coordinator at (530) 742-4474 to sign up for the program or for instructions on how to use the vouchers. Call (530) 742-2877 for Dial-A-Ride service information.



FACE MASKS ARE STILL REQUIRED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recently extended through January 18, 2022, the national directive requiring the use of an approved face covering by anyone using public transit and other public conveyances regardless of vaccination status. For additional information on the TSA directive, visit www.tsa.gov/coronovirus.

Exemptions are available based on age or a medical condition and we are not currently refusing service for non-compliance, but please wear an approved face mask every time you ride – for everyone's sake. For your convenience, a supply of face masks is available on all local fixed route buses from a dispenser that is located just behind the driver.



DEEPLY DISCOUNTED MONTHLY PASSES AVAILABLE FOR ALL LOCAL & RURAL ROUTE PASSENGERS

Since July 2020, basic general-public monthly bus passes for use on Yuba-Sutter Transit's local and rural routes have been discounted from their regular price of \$30 to just \$10 each month. The \$20 subsidy on the cost of each pass is being funded through the State Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) under a three-year demonstration program. These monthly passes are also valid on Yuba-Sutter Transit's three rural routes.

Because of this program, full fare general-public monthly bus passes are now more equitably priced compared to the discount monthly pass for youth (ages 5 through 18), seniors (ages 65 and over) and eligible persons with disabilities. Under that program, the regularly priced \$15 discount passes are available for just \$5 for unlimited use each month on any of Yuba-Sutter Transit's local or rural fixed route service. The \$10 subsidy for the discount fare categories program has long been funded by the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) whose support was recently extended at least through March 2023.

At these deeply discounted prices, the best value by far for most passengers is to purchase a full fare or discount monthly pass as applicable. No matter the fare category, a monthly pass will more than pay for itself in just a few days of travel compared to paying in cash.

Monthly passes are available only with a Connect Card electronic fare card. General public Connect Cards are available free of charge from any Connect Card sales outlet or at www.ConnectTransitCard.com. Discount photo I.D. Connect Cards for any available discount fares or passes for seniors, youth or persons with disabilities are only available with eligibility verification at the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office in Marysville.

Up to three monthly passes can be loaded at any one time on a Connect Card along with up to \$360 in cash value if so desired. You can even set up your Connect Card account to auto-load your monthly pass or cash value each month.

For more information on the discounted bus pass program or on how to get your discount photo Connect Card identification card, which is required for all discount pass fare categories, please contact the Administrative Office by email at info@yubasuttertransit.com or by phone at (530) 634-6880.



COLUMBUS DAY NOTICE

Yuba-Sutter Transit will be in full operation on Columbus Day, Monday, October 11, 2021. The office will be open for business and all services will operate as scheduled on this date.



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you aren't already doing so, would you like to receive this newsletter electronically? Never miss an issue, save the agency some money and save the environment as well! If you didn't receive this issue by e-mail, you are not on our list.

You can sign up for future newsletters and service alerts from the "Stay Informed" tab at www.yubasuttertransit.com (our website) or send your name and e-mail address to Amy White at amy@yubasuttertransit.com and ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list.



CONNECT CARD SALES OUTLETS

Connect Cards can be loaded on-line or at any of the following local sales outlets or on the Connect Card website. Check with each location for current business hours as they may change without notice. <u>The Sutter County Library remains closed to the public for a remodel</u>.

- Yuba County Library Marysville (530) 749-7380
 [Cash, Credit or Debit Fee Applied for Credit/Debit]
- Yuba College Bookstore Linda (530) 741-6998
 Currently Open Monday Friday from 10:00 AM 2:00 PM
 [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office Marysville [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Connect Card Website www.ConnectTransitCard.com [Credit or Debit / Auto-Load]

New full fare Connect Cards are available from any sales outlet, but new and replacement discount photo ID Connect Cards are only available during normal weekday business hours at the Yuba-Sutter Transit office in Marysville. Cards can hold up to \$360 in cash value and/or passes for up to three months.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

Yuba-Sutter Transit 2100 B Street Marysville, CA 95901 Administration: (530) 634-6880 FAX: (530) 634-6888

Service Information: (530) 742-2877
Web Site: www.yubasuttertransit.com
Connect Card: www.connecttransitcard.com
General Comments/Questions: info@yubasuttertransit.com