

**AGENDA ITEM IV – A**

**YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 20, 2023**

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

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

**II. Introductions**

New Executive Director Matthew Mauk introduced himself to the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors.

**III. Public Hearings**

**A. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307, 5311, and 5339 Grant Application for FY 2024.**

Martin stated that federal funding requires that a public hearing be held prior to the submission of federal grant applications. Director Bains opened the public hearing at 4:04 pm. There was no public comment. Director Bains closed the public hearing at 4:04 pm. Director Shaw made a motion to authorize the federal funding applications as submitted. Director Kirchner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**B. Permanent Weekday Route 2 Service Frequency Reduction.**

Martin stated that certain services were temporarily reduced on May 1, 2020, in response to a pandemic related drop in ridership. These reductions included a cut in the frequency of weekday Route 2 service from every 30 minutes in each direction to every 60 minutes. The Saturday frequency had always been 60 minutes. Due to continued low ridership, staff is now recommending that the reduced weekday service frequency be made permanent effective September 1, 2023.

Martin noted that one comment has been received from Jeffrey Alan Coker on this subject and he expressed support for the staff recommendation.

Director Bains opened the public hearing at 4:07 pm. There was no public comment. Director Bains closed the public hearing at 4:07 pm. Director Hudson made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Director Buttacavoli seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

**IV. Public Business from the Floor**

None.

**V. Consent Calendar**

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

## **VI. Reports**

### **A. Yuba-Sutter NextGen Transit Facility Funding and Schedule Update.**

Martin gave funding and schedule updates on the facility project now that we are through the 2023 funding cycle. He noted that the property at 6035 Avondale Avenue in Linda will be the site of Yuba-Sutter Transit's Next Generation Zero Emission Facility.

Martin stated that we received funding from two of the three grant applications that were submitted in the current round. As a result, we are now up to \$41 million in secured funding, which is about three quarters of the estimated project funding need though several funding sources have expiration dates, and some are attached to zero emission bus procurements. Major funding sources to date include the federal RAISE grant (\$15 million), the state TIRCP grant (\$10 million), the state housing grant (\$8.5 million), and the SACOG grant (\$3.5 million). We recently discovered that we were not awarded a \$12.5 million federal bus and bus facilities grant. We will be applying for these same federal funds in the spring of 2024 at which point they will represent the final piece of the funding package.

Even if this new federal grant application is unsuccessful, staff has identified an alternative funding path using formula funding that can be diverted from operations to capital uses to complete the project. In addition, the new state budget included billions in new and reallocated funding that SACOG will be allocating to local transit agencies in FY 2024 from the Zero Emission Transit Capital Program and the Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program. While the program guidelines have not yet been established, staff has estimated that Yuba-Sutter Transit would be eligible for up to \$12 million from the regional portion if it is allocated on a straight population basis.

Martin stated that the next step in the project scope will be to get environmental clearance for the use of federal funding for the new facility. This effort will be based on the conceptual plan that was done by WSP in 2019 (pre-pandemic). That concept assumed just four zero emission buses (ZEBs) on opening day, but we are now estimating nineteen ZEBs with a shift to more small buses and less heavy-duty buses going forward. Staff will be working with Yuba County staff regarding the scope of the environmental process and an RFP for this work is expected to be brought to the Board for approval within the next month or two. Concurrent with the environmental process, the funding process is continuing. Martin stated that we also need to start getting the word out regarding the sale of the current facility.

Director Hudson asked if we have an appraisal for the current market value of the existing facility. Martin responded that no appraisal has been done.

Director Blaser inquired as to the timeline for the Highway 70 project in Marysville. Martin responded that we don't have that information, but we have received draft agreements for the next round of easements that are dated from September 2024 – December 2026.

Director Bains announced that the August SACOG meeting will be held in the Yuba County Board Chambers and that might be a good time for Yuba-Sutter Transit to advocate for a fair share of new transit funding.

### **B. August Meeting Cancellation.**

Director Hudson made a motion to cancel the regular monthly meeting on August 17, 2023. Director Buttacavoli seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**C. Projects & Program Updates.**

1. Yuba-Sutter NexGen Transit Plan Implementation

Martin noted that we just completed a Sacramento Commuter passenger survey as well as a survey of other peer commuter bus systems in our region. The peer systems are all doing about as poorly as Yuba-Sutter Transit – or worse. We initially reduced our commuter service by 30% and are now considering even more service reductions for which a public hearing will be held in September.

Martin stated that the NextGen transit plan includes staffing changes, and we expect to bring the staffing plan and schedule to the board in September or October.

2. Binney Junction / State Route 70 (B Street) Highway Project

Martin noted that we have are meeting with Caltrans and Granite Construction on Friday July 21<sup>st</sup> and the project is supposed to start on Monday July 31<sup>st</sup>.

3. Special Evening Meeting Reminder – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Martin reminded the board that the next scheduled meeting is an evening meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2023.

**VII. Correspondence / Information**

None.

**VIII. Other Business**

Based on the unreliability of the system and the lack of participation, Martin recommended that we stop offering a Zoom option to the public for the monthly board meetings. After a brief discussion, legal counsel Brant Bordsen requested that it be put on the next agenda under consent calendar so the board can vote on this item.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.**