August 2023 Volume 34 – Number 8



SACRAMENTO SERVICE CHANGES NOW BEING CONSIDERED

SPECIAL EVENING PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR 6:00 PM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

Yuba-Sutter Transit is now seeking public input on proposed changes to our Sacramento Commuter and Midday services to reset these schedules to better reflect post-pandemic ridership patterns and traffic conditions. Based on the input received, a final draft Sacramento service plan will be the subject of a public hearing that will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21st as part of a special evening meeting of the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors.

To inform this process, past, present, and possible future Sacramento passengers were surveyed to gain a better understanding of how our services are currently being used and for ideas on how those services might be tailored to best serve them in the future. More than three years since the start of the pandemic, our Sacramento ridership is averaging only about 25% of the pre-COVID level. As a result, the emergency May 2020 suspension of six commuter schedules (three AM and three PM) are likely to be made permanent and further schedule reductions/ adjustments will be needed to reset the service to reflect what now appears to be the new post-pandemic "normal".

Based on the survey responses and an analysis of current ridership patterns and traffic conditions, a preliminary draft Sacramento service plan has been developed that is now being circulated for comment. The key features of this draft service plan include:

- 1. Permanent elimination of the six suspended schedules,
- 2. Elimination of the existing 2nd morning and 4th afternoon Highway 99 schedules,
- 3. Elimination of the existing 3rd Midday schedule,
- 4. Realignment of the 2nd Midday schedule to operate on Highway 70 instead of Highway 99 while still providing some service to the Yuba City stops upon request,

 Minor time changes (and some name changes) for the remaining schedules, but the last afternoon Highway 99 bus would leave downtown at 5:45 pm – 10 minutes later than it is now scheduled to depart.

The preliminary draft Sacramento service plan is now available on the agency website at www.yubasuttertransit.com and it is also being emailed to our list of Sacramento Commuters (see story below). Comments should be provided to Adam Hansen, Planning Manager, by email at adam@yubasuttertransit.com or by phone at (530) 634-6880. The final draft service plan that results from this process will be the subject of a public hearing to be held as part of the special evening meeting of the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21st. Any related service and policy changes are expected to become effective November 1st.



SACRAMENTO COMMUTER EMAIL LIST

Yuba-Sutter Transit maintains a database of more than 450 email addresses for any service and program updates specifically regarding our Sacramento Commuter and Midday Express services. If you use this service and have not received an email from us in in the last month, you are probably not on our list. Make sure that you receive all future Sacramento Service Alerts by registering on our website under the "Stay Informed" today.



LABOR DAY HOLIDAY NOTICE

Yuba-Sutter Transit will not be in operation and the Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day. Regular service will resume on Tuesday, September 5th.



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

Basic general-public monthly bus passes, good for unlimited use on any Yuba-Sutter Transit local or rural route have been discounted since July 2020 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.

As a result, the price of a general-public monthly bus pass is now more comparable to a discount monthly pass for youth (ages 5 through 18), seniors (ages 65 and over) and eligible persons with disabilities which has long been reduced from \$15 to just \$5 each month. The \$10 subsidy for that discount program is funded by the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD).

At these deeply discounted prices, the best value by far for most passengers is to purchase a full fare or discount monthly pass as appropriate. No matter the fare category, a monthly pass more than pays 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 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 each month or to add cash value when your balance drops to a certain level.

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

REPLACE EXPIRING CONNECT CARDS

Discount photo-identification Connect Cards are typically issued for five years, and many are beginning to expire. Expiring cards need to be replaced before they expire because expired cards will not work. Discount card holders (youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities) should regularly check the expiration date on their card to see if it is approaching. If so, bring your card to our Administrative Office during normal business hours where we will confirm your current information and issue you a new card (with a new picture) at no cost.

For Connect Card questions, please contact the Administrative Office at (530) 634-6880 or by email at info@yubasuttertransit.com.

AUGUST 17TH TRANSIT BOARD MEETING CANCELED

The monthly meeting of the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors has been canceled for August. Unless posted otherwise, regular Board meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Yuba County Government Center at 915 Eighth Street, Marysville, CA. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21st though at a special evening time of 6:00 p.m.

To receive the agenda for future Board meetings, sign up today using the "Stay Informed" tab in the "Quick Links" section of our website home page to receive board agendas and other public notices. Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.



CONNECT CARD SALES OUTLETS

Connect Cards may be loaded at any of the sales outlets below or on the Connect Card website. 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 Administrative Office in Marysville. Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

Please check with locations for current business hours as they may change without notice.

- Sutter County Library Yuba City (530) 822-7137 Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Friday & Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm [Cash or Check Only]
- Yuba County Library Marysville (530) 749-7380
 Tuesday Friday, 12:00 6:00 pm & Saturdays 9:00 am 1:00 pm
 [Cash, Credit or Debit Fee Applied for Credit/Debit]
- Yuba College Bookstore Linda (530) 741-6998
 Monday Thursday, 9:00 am 3:00 pm
 [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office Marysville Weekdays, 8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 5:00 pm [Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- Connect Card Website www.ConnectTransitCard.com [Credit or Debit / Auto-Load]

Yuba-Sutter Transit 2100 B Street Marysville, CA 95901 Administration: (530) 634-6880 Service Information: (530) 742-2877

Web Site: www.yubasuttertransit.com
Connect Card: www.connecttransitcard.com
General Comments/Questions: info@yubasuttertransit.com