

**AGENDA ITEM III – A**

**YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 16, 2020**

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

Present: Cardoza, Fletcher, Hudson, Leahy, Samayoa (4:01), Shaw, Sullenger, and Whiteaker (Chair)

Absent: None

**II. Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307, 5311 and 5339 Grant Applications for FY 2021. Director Whiteaker opened the public hearing at 4:02 p.m. There were no questions and no public comment. Director Whiteaker closed the public hearing at 4:03 p.m.

Director Fletcher made a motion to approve the federal funding applications as submitted. Director Cardoza seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**III. Public Business from the Floor**

None.

**IV. Consent Calendar**

Director Fletcher made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Sullinger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**V. Reports**

**A. COVID-19 Impacts, Response & Outlook.**

Martin provided an update on the COVID-19 impacts on Yuba-Sutter Transit, the agency's response, and the outlook for the future. After an initial drop of 65 percent in systemwide ridership at the onset of the pandemic, ridership has since increased steadily through June. This caused issues such as riders being bypassed at stops due to the capacity limits that had been imposed on the local fixed route buses to allow for social distancing. In response, the capacity limit was increased from 10 to 12 passengers assuming that at least some are traveling with family; adding limited stop Route 1 Express buses during peak hours; and a return to front door boarding to improve passenger flow.

The most significant change was the July 1<sup>st</sup> resumption of fare collection on local fixed route buses. To mitigate the financial impact of this change, a previously approved project to reduce the price of the basic monthly bus pass from \$30 to \$10 using State Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding to cover the discount. The return to fare collection has gone rather smoothly. As expected, local fixed route ridership through the first eight weekdays of July is down approximately a bit (12 percent) compared to the first eight weekdays of June which has helped with capacity issues and riders being passed by at bus stops at least for now.

While ridership on our Sacramento service is gradually increasing, it is still down about 85 percent of normal which is certainly up from being down 90 percent of normal during the initial days of the pandemic. Local fixed route ridership was increasing at a faster pace through June is now down approximately 46 percent of normal on weekdays and 75 percent of normal on Saturdays. Dial-a-Ride ridership is still down significantly and has remained rather flat due to local programs supported by the Alta California Regional Center still being closed.

Looking to the future, the local school districts are still in the process of deciding how they will operate at the beginning of the school year which is especially important as student are a large part of our local ridership base. Yuba College is expected to announce a decision on in-person classes, but their course offerings appear to be mostly online for the Fall Semester which will also impact our ridership as well as the Yuba College Shuttle Service to the Sutter Center Campus which we are not expecting to operate this fall.

For safety, driver screens are being added to the Dial-a-Ride and Sacramento buses to help protect the drivers. New high-efficiency filter fabric is being installed on the commuter buses to improve the filtration system and we are looking into what can be done, if anything, to do the same on other bus models. Storer has also acquired a new fogging system to disinfect buses overnight more efficiently.

Renick House, Storer General Manager, gave an update stating that all employees that had been furloughed have returned and are back to work.

## **B. Project & Program Updates**

### **1. Next Generation Transit Facility Plan**

Martin noted that ten potential sites were compared through a site selection matrix with three sites being carried forward to an environmental review process that will include more developed conceptual designs. He stated that the first working paper is expected to be available for Board review and discussion at the September meeting.

### **2. Yuba College Sutter County Center Student Shuttle (Fall Schedule Cancellation)**

Martin stated that due to the lack of in-person classes, there is no plan to operate the Sutter County Center Student Shuttle this fall, but that a formal announcement should be made soon.

### **3. FRAQMD Discount Pass Program Grant Extension & New FRAQMD Grant Schedule for 2021**

Martin stated that FRAQMD is changing their program schedule for this year to delay the application submittal process until later in the year since they are unsure of their funding. This will result in a move to a fiscal year cycle starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> instead of the calendar year cycles of the past. As part of this process, they are offering extensions of up to six months on contracts that are already open. Since no discount passes were sold for three months and continued reduced ridership and pass sales are expected, staff will be requesting the full six-month extension for the discount bus pass program which would extend it through September 2021. Unfortunately, funding to support the Live Oak Route will have been exhausted on December 31, 2020 so that subsidy will not be available at least until July 2021 assuming the program continues. Grants for the next cycle are expected to be submitted in January or February 2021.

## **VI. Correspondence/Information**

None.

## **VII. Other Business**

Director Whiteaker announced that the Sutter County Board of Supervisors allocated \$600,000 of grant funding for local businesses emphasizing bars, restaurants, salons, and barbershops. This is one-time funding offered to assist business owners that does not have to be paid back. An additional \$8,000 has been allocated to the Downtown Business Association to assist with outside eateries. Sutter County businesses are encouraged to apply for this funding.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 AT 4:00 PM IN THE YUBA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTICED.**