



## **COVID-19 UPDATE** **FARE COLLECTION RESUMES JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>** **ON LOCAL FIXED ROUTES ALONG** **WITH A NEW DISCOUNTED \$10** **GENERAL PUBLIC MONTHLY PASS**

Yuba-Sutter Transit will resume fare collection on local fixed route buses starting Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. To reduce the financial impact of this change, the regular \$30 general public monthly pass will be discounted to just \$10 beginning with the July pass. All monthly bus passes for July are now available on-line or at any Connect Card outlet including the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office which is again open to the public (see related story). Fares are still not being collected on the Dial-A-Ride service or on any rural routes.

After an initial 65 percent drop in passengers in March, local fixed route ridership has been climbing quickly as the Yuba-Sutter area gradually opens. Through early June, average weekday ridership had increased by 58 percent over the March low with Saturday ridership up 68 percent. Due to on-board capacity limits to provide the necessary social distancing, numbers of passengers were being passed up at local bus stops as many as 20 times a day.

In response, the capacity limit was increased from 10 to 12 under the assumption that some travel with a family member and passengers were again asked to board at the front door for better flow through the bus and for better enforcement of the capacity limit. Finally, the experimental limited stop Route 1 EXPRESS service (see related story) was initiated to provide additional capacity on this busy route.

Despite these changes, it is increasingly difficult to provide the needed social distancing without operating significantly more service to avoid even more passengers being left behind. To address these issues, the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors approved the resumption of fare collection on the local fixed routes to free up space now and slow ridership growth in the future as passengers will have to decide if their trip is essential enough to warrant paying a fare. Fare collection will continue to be waived on the Dial-A-Ride service and on all three rural routes. Fares were never suspended on the Sacramento services.

Stay tuned for more updates as conditions are likely to change in response to public orders, further ridership changes and/or staff shortages. The best way to do that is by signing up for our email alerts under the “Stay Informed” tab on our website. For more information regarding the above changes or our COVID-19 related policies and procedures, please call our Administrative Office at (530) 634-6880 or email us at [info@yubasuttertransit.com](mailto:info@yubasuttertransit.com).

For current information on the pandemic, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or either [www.bepreparedyuba.org](http://www.bepreparedyuba.org) or [www.bepreparedsutter.org](http://www.bepreparedsutter.org).

## **NEW DISCOUNTED \$10** **GENERAL PUBLIC MONTHLY PASS** **PROGRAM BEGINS WITH JULY PASSES**

Basic general public monthly bus passes for use on Yuba-Sutter Transit’s local and rural routes are now being discounted from the 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). These monthly passes continue to also be valid on Yuba-Sutter Transit’s three rural routes.

This three-year demonstration program is designed to help reverse the declining ridership trend on the local fixed route service and better serve those from disadvantaged and low-income communities. The result is that the full fare general public pass is now more equitably priced with the \$5 monthly pass for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities that has long been subsidized with local air quality district funds. For most passengers, the best value by far will be the purchase of a discount or full fare monthly pass as applicable.

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](http://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 each month.

For more information, please call our Administrative Office at (530) 634-6880 or email us at [info@yubasuttertransit.com](mailto:info@yubasuttertransit.com).



## **INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY**

In observance of Independence Day, please note that Yuba-Sutter Transit will not be in operation on Saturday, July 4, 2020. All service will operate as scheduled and the Administrative Office will be open on both Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and fun-filled holiday!

## LIMITED STOP ROUTE 1 EXPRESS SERVICE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Yuba-Sutter Transit is now operating a limited stop Route 1 EXPRESS service to increase capacity and speed travel on this popular cross-town route. While the regular Route 1 buses will continue to operate as scheduled, the supplemental Route 1 EXPRESS buses are scheduled to operate during the peak boarding hours of approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. The two EXPRESS buses operating in opposite directions serve just the following five Yuba-Sutter Transit bus stops every half hour between Yuba City and Linda.

Walton Terminal (Sam's Club)  
Alturas & Shasta Terminal  
Yuba County Government Center Terminal  
D & 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Habitat for Humanity)  
North Beale Transit Center (Walmart)

After an initial 65% drop in late March, Yuba-Sutter Transit has since seen a steady increase in local fixed-route passengers with the gradual reopening of the area and continued availability of fare-free service. Unfortunately, due to a 12-person capacity limit to provide the necessary social distancing inside the bus, an increasing number of passengers were being passed by at local stops.

The Route 1 Express is intended to reduce these occurrences by taking passengers off the regular Route 1 buses with quicker and more direct service to these five stops where they are able to transfer to one or more of the other five routes in the Yuba-Sutter Transit local fixed route network. The buses are identified by the "EXPRESS" destination sign and the list of stops that are posted on the side of the bus. The five bus stops also have Route 1 EXPRESS signage posted inside the passenger shelters.

The Route 1 EXPRESS is a demonstration service that is being operated as drivers and buses are available and the route and schedule may be adjusted with minimal or no notice as experience dictates. Passengers should check their Yuba-Sutter Transit DoubleMap app or call (530) 742-2877 to confirm availability.

For more information, please call us at (530) 634-6880, email us at [info@yubasuttertransit.com](mailto:info@yubasuttertransit.com) or sign up for our service alerts at [www.yubasuttertransit.com](http://www.yubasuttertransit.com).

## FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Yuba-Sutter Transit has for some time strongly encouraged the use of face coverings while riding the bus, but recent guidance from the California Department of Public Health now states that "face coverings must be worn when waiting for or riding on public transportation". This guidance also applies to those who drive a public transit vehicle. Exemptions are available based on age and certain medical conditions.

Pursuant to this guidance, our contractor is now requiring that unless otherwise exempt, drivers will wear face coverings while operating a Yuba-Sutter Transit revenue vehicle when passengers are on board. We will continue to urge the use of face coverings by passengers, but service will not be denied for non-compliance.



## THE YUBA-SUTTER TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE IS AGAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The customer service counter in the Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office, which has been closed since March 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the COVID-19 crisis, is once again open to the public for all business transactions. The office is located at 2100 B Street in Marysville and it is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are closed for lunch except by appointment.

We look forward to seeing you again! For more information, please call (530) 634-6880 or e-mail us at [info@yubasuttertransit.com](mailto:info@yubasuttertransit.com).



## CONNECT CARD SALES OUTLETS

Connect Cards can be loaded on-line or at the following local sales outlets or on the Connect Card website. **Please note that the Sutter and Yuba County Libraries are currently closed for Connect Card transactions due to COVID-19.** Cards can hold up to \$360 in cash value and/or passes for up to three months. Check with each location for current business hours as they may change without notice.

- **Bel Air Market – Yuba City – (530) 755-3991**  
[Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- **Yuba College Bookstore – Linda – (530) 741-6998**  
[Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- **Yuba-Sutter Transit Administrative Office – Marysville**  
[Cash, Check, Credit or Debit]
- **Connect Card Website – [www.ConnectTransitCard.com](http://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.

Call (530) 634-6880 for more information.

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