

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
(YARTS) JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Monday, July 20, 2009– 1:00 p.m.

Sierra Center Mall
3rd Floor Large Meeting Room
452 Old Mammoth Road
Mammoth Lakes, California
(209) 723-3153

**THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION:
MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS,
369 W. 18TH STREET, MERCED, CA
MEMBERS OF THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AUTHORITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND
AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING AT THE
VIDEO CONFERENCE LOCATION. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
APPEARING AT A VIDEO LOCATION WILL BE
PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE LEGISLATIVE
BODY DIRECTLY AS PROVIDED BY LAW.**

1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

**PERSONS WISHING TO COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA MAY DO
SO AT THIS TIME. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO A MAXIMUM OF FIVE
MINUTES PER PERSON. STATING YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD IS OPTIONAL,
BUT USEFUL IN ACTING ON COMMENTS AND REQUESTS. FOR ITEMS NOT ON
THE AGENDA, NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME.**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO SPEAK ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

**PERSONS WISHING TO COMMENT ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA MAY DO
SO WHEN THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THAT ITEM. THE CHAIRPERSON WILL
CALL FOR COMMENTS FOLLOWING STAFF INTRODUCTION OF THE ITEM AND
QUESTIONS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED.**

COPIES OF STAFF REPORTS OR OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS REFERRED TO ON THE AGENDA ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS. PERSONS WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS MAY CALL MCAG TO INQUIRE ON THE NATURE OF THE ITEM DESCRIBED ON THE AGENDA.

ITEM

STAFF

3. Oral Report – Authority Advisory Committee Chair Report

Candy O’Donel-Browne

* **4. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the April 6, 2009 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting
- b. YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Nomination
- # c. YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan for FY 2009/10

5. Information/Discussion Only

- # a. VIA Monthly Service Reports for March 2009 – May 2009
- # b. YARTS Ridership History by Fiscal Year
- # c. YARTS Revenue History by Fiscal Year
- d. Minutes of the April 6, 2009 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting

6. YARTS Funding Update

Dick Whittington

For information and discussion only.

* **7. Cooperative Agreement – National Park Service Yosemite**

Dick Whittington

Approve the Cooperative Agreement between YARTS and the National Park Service, Yosemite, and allow the YARTS Executive Director authorization to sign the Agreement so long as no significant changes are proposed.

* **8. Directors’ Liability Coverage**

Dick Whittington

Discuss the need for Directors’ Liability Coverage and direct staff on what action to take.

9. Project Updates

Dick Whittington

For information and discussion only.

10. Oral Report - Managers' Report

Dick Whittington

For information and discussion.

11. Oral Report – National Park Service

Marty Nielson

12. Board of Commissioners Remarks

** Action*

Attachment

+ Enclosure

*The next YARTS JPA meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2009 at the
Mariposa County Government Center, Mariposa, CA*

**YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
(YARTS) JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2009

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority held Monday, April 6, 2009, at Merced County Association of Governments, Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA was called to order by Brad Aborn at 1:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brad Aborn, Mariposa County Supervisor
Vikki Magee-Bauer, Mono County Supervisor (via video conference)
Hub Walsh, Merced County Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Denise Demery, VIA Adventures
Kenneth Gosting, TIE
Robin Lamas, YARTS staff
Marty Nielson, Yosemite National Park
Candy O'Donel-Brown, Authority Advisory Committee
Frank Quintero, Authority Advisory Committee
Dick Whittington, YARTS Staff

1. Introductions

So noted.

2. Public Comment

Ken Gosting, Transportation Involves Everyone, wanted to commend VIA on two new drivers that are doing a great job as YARTS bus drivers. Ken Gosting also requested a policy be set, or an item put on a future agenda, regarding the use of seat belts on the YARTS buses. He would like to have the bus drivers, at this time until a possible policy is set, recommend that passengers use seatbelts if they are available. Ken also advised staff that the Butterfly Festival Parade is May 2nd in Mariposa and he would like notices being posted at the YARTS bus stops announcing a service interruption and also notices being posted on the buses.

Dick Whittington requested adding Item 2a to the agenda – Oral Report – Authority Advisory Committee; and Item 8a – Agreement for Services between Mariposa County and YARTS.

Commissioner Walsh moved to add Items 2a and 8a to the agenda.
Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Minutes of the January 12, 2009 YARTS Joint Powers Authority Meeting

Commissioner Magee-Bauer moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.
Abstained – Commissioner Walsh.
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Information/Discussion Only

- a. VIA Monthly Service Reports for December 2008 – February 2009
- b. Ridership History by Fiscal Year
- c. YARTS Revenue History by Fiscal Year

4b. Dick Whittington handed out a revised Ridership History showing the latest figures.

5. YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan for FY 2009/10

Commissioner Magee-Bauer moved to adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-03 approving the FY 2009/10 YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan.
Seconded by Commissioner Walsh.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Public Hearing - Federal Transit Administration Grants – 5320 Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – 5311(f) Funding Allocations for the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)

Dick Whittington stated that staff was preparing two grant applications. One grant is from the ARRA funds in the amount of \$717,421 and will be funded under Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program and the second grant will be funded through the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands program 5320 in the amount of \$582,579. These funds will be used to construct a Park and Ride facility in the town of Mariposa.

It was noted to staff that the Resolution for this item needed a correction to the date in Section 3 from June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2010.

A Public Hearing is required to hear comments on the Federal Transit Administration Grants – 5320 and 5311(f).

Public Hearing opened: 1:39 p.m.

Public Hearing closed: 1:40 p.m.

No comments were received during the Public Hearing.

After a Public Hearing, where no comments were received, Commissioner Walsh moved to:

- a. Adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-02 authorizing the filing of an ARRA grant for Section 5311(f) funds for FY 2009-2010 and an Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands program grant funded through Section 5320; and
- a. Direct the Executive Director to sign and execute documents related to the grant application and subsequent contracts.

Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Public Hearing - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Allocations for the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)

Dick Whittington stated that staff was preparing a grant application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds in the amount of \$535,000. YARTS has been approved by Caltrans as eligible for this funding under the Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program. These funds will be used for the purchase of one diesel, 45-foot, over-the-road coach.

YARTS has been asked by Caltrans to additionally submit a second application for use of the ARRA funding. The second YARTS application would be a duplicate of the first, and would not be considered unless the state gets insufficient applications in the first round to fully use the ARRA funding that is being appropriated to the state.

A Public Hearing is required to hear public comments on this issue.

Public Hearing opened: 1:46 p.m.

Public Hearing closed: 1:47 p.m.

After a Public Hearing, where no comments were received, Commissioner Walsh moved to:

- a. Adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-01 to authorize the filing of an ARRA grant for Section 5311(f) funds for FY 2009-2010; and
- b. Direct the Executive Director to sign and execute documents related to the grant application and subsequent contract.

Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. YARTS Funding Update

So noted.

Commissioner Magee-Bauer requested to add Item 8a – Agreement for Services between Mariposa County and YARTS as an emergency item as the information came to the attention of staff after the agenda had been sent out.

Commissioner Magee-Bauer made a motion to add Item 8a to the agenda as an emergency item.

Seconded by Commissioner Walsh.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8a. Agreement for Services between Mariposa County and YARTS

Dick Whittington stated that it was time to renew the Agreement with Mariposa County. This Agreement needs to be approved prior to July 1, 2009.

Commissioner Magee-Bauer moved to adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-04 approving the Agreement of Services between Mariposa County and YARTS effective July 1, 2008 to July 1, 2009.

Seconded by Commissioner Walsh.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Public Hearing - YARTS Proposed Budget – Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Dick Whittington gave a review of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

A Public Hearing is required to hear comments on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Public Hearing opened: 2:30 p.m.

Public Hearing closed: 2:31 p.m.

After a Public Hearing, where no comments were received, Commissioner Walsh moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 proposed budget.

Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Agreement for Services - MCAG

Commissioner Magee-Bauer moved to authorize the Chair to sign a new Agreement for Services between the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) for a period of one year from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Seconded by Commissioner Walsh.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. 5320 Program – Funding Update

So noted.

12. Election of Officers for FY 2009-2010

Commissioner Walsh moved to nominate Vikki Magee-Bauer as Chair of the YARTS JPA for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Walsh moved to nominate Brad Aborn as Vice Chair of the YARTS JPA for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. YARTS Meeting Dates

Commissioner Walsh moved to approve the following meeting dates and locations:

July 20, 2009 – Mono County

October 19, 2009 – Mariposa County

January 11, 2010 – Merced County

April 5, 2010 – Merced County

Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Oral Report – Managers’ Report

So noted.

15. Oral Report – National Park Service

Marty Nielson gave a report from the National Park Service. A copy of his report is attached for your information.

16. Board of Commissioners Remarks

So noted.

Commissioner Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Magee-Bauer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:09 P.M.

YARTS Board Meeting -- NPS Report - M Nielson
6, 2009

April

Personnel Changes: All changes in personnel reported in January remain in effect.

Federal Budget: The NPS Budget has been passed by Congress but not yet distributed to parks.

Construction News (Updated 4/03/09)

Valley Loop Road

Northside Drive remains closed between El Capitan Crossover and Yosemite Lodge while crews complete grading and curb installation. We expect to have this roadway back open no later than Memorial Day weekend.

Northside Drive is now 2-way traffic between the Curry Four Way Intersection and Camp Six ("River Straight") and will temporarily carry two (2) way traffic until Southside Drive between the Sentinel Bridge crossover and the Curry Four Way Intersection ("Housekeeping Straight") is repaved. We expect to have the "River Straight" back to one way westbound traffic with a special use lane no later than Memorial Day weekend.

Glacier Point Road Rehabilitation: Currently in contracting. Anticipate construction to commence in May 2009 and continue thru May 2010. (S. Williams - 4/3/09)

Rehabilitate Curry Village Lounge and Registration Buildings: Registration Building - Rough-in electrical and mechanical. Roofing-Exterior siding. Lounge Building - Rough-in electrical and Warm-floor heating system. Continued installation of T&G interior flooring. Construct concrete foundations for exterior steps.

Integrated Utilities Phase 2a: (multiple utilities from Ice Rink to Boys Town to North end of Lower Pines CG)
Disinfection of the 18" water line in Curry Village. Wire splicing in Boystown. Tie in 18" water line with 12" water line at Southside Dr. on Wednesday.

West Village Utility Corridor: (sewer line from Yosemite School to Oak Lane to Ranger Y)
Install collars around manhole covers at Ranger Club in West Village area.

Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvements (CIP 2): Working on punch list items.

April 1 snow survey results:

Park staff has completed the April 1 snow surveys. The Tuolumne Drainage has 92% of average water content and the Merced drainage has 93% of average. There is 58" of snow currently on Tuolumne Meadows.

Snow Plowing Park Roads Begins:

This morning, April 6, 2009, NPS crews started plowing the Glacier Point Road from Badger Pass to Glacier Point.

Plowing of the Tioga Pass corridor will start in a few weeks. The intent is to have the road open for Memorial Day weekend.

Seasonal Openings: Operations throughout the park are opening or preparing for scheduled openings as spring progresses.

Gateway Partners Meeting: The next Yosemite Gateway Partners meeting will be held Thursday, April 9, 2009 at Yosemite Lodge in Yosemite National Park.



ITEM 4b

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Supervisor Walsh is proposing to fill a vacancy on the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) representing Merced County with the following person:

Dhruv Shah, General Manager, Quality Inn, Merced

Following is the current makeup of the 13-member YARTS AAC:

Mono County (3)

Scott Burns, Director, Mono County Community Development
Sandy Hogan, U.S. Forest Service, Retired
Danna Stroud – Director, Tourism and Recreation, Mammoth Lakes

Mariposa County (3)

Candy O’Donel-Browne – Private Citizen
Barbara Carrier – Mariposa County Transportation Planner
Jeffery Hentz, Executive Director, Yosemite/Mariposa Tourism Bureau

Merced County (3)

Frank Quintero – Development Manager, City of Merced Office of Economic Development
Karen Baker – California Welcome Center, Merced
Vacancy – Nomination Pending

NPS – Yosemite (2)

Tom Pimentel – NPS Budget Analyst
Richard Wiebe – The Sierra Club

YARTS Executive Director (2)

Pending – Merced County Transit
Tom Dumas – Chief of Intermodal Planning - Caltrans Dist. 10



YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340 ■ Phone: (209) 723-3153 ■ FAX: (209) 723-0322 ■ www.yosemite.com/yarts

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the nomination of Dhruv Shah to serve on the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee.



ITEM 4c

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: ROBIN LAMAS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**RE: YARTS DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)
PLAN FOR FY 2009/10**

The YARTS JPA is required to annually approve a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The plan is to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT/FTA assisted contracts.

Since there are no new FHWA projects planned for FFY 2009/10, the DBE Program Plan sets forth an Annual Anticipated DBE Participation Level goal at 0%.

A resolution is required to adopt the plan for the FY 2009/10.

REQUESTED ACTION

Adopt Resolution 2009/07-20-01 approving the FY 2009/10 YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan.

Attachments: Resolution 2009/07-20-01

RESOLUTION 2009/07-20-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM (YARTS) JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY APPROVING THE
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PLAN
FY 2009/10**

WHEREAS, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) wishes to adopt a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan and Goal be adopted annually;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the goal of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) is proposed at 0%, that of any United States Department of Transportation funds which it uses for contract services, it will assure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises shall have the opportunity to participate to the maximum extent feasible in all required aspects of procurement and contracting in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations (CF) 49 Part 26 and other applicable statutes, regulations and executive orders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that YARTS shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that Disadvantage Business Enterprises have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform contracts covered under 49 CFR Part 26.

The foregoing resolution was introduced at the regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority on **July 20, 2009**, by _____ who moved its adoption, which motion was duly seconded by _____ and which was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Jesse Brown, Executive Director
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation
System Joint Powers Authority

Vikki Magee-Bauer, Chair
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation
System Joint Powers Authority

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: YARTS RIDERSHIP HISTORY BY FISCAL YEAR

Attached for your review is the ridership history, which includes final figures for the fiscal year just ended. Overall, ridership in 2008-09 was excellent and set another annual ridership record for the service. The year ended with a 13% increase over the previous year, which was also a record year.

The ridership trends since the first of the year are disturbing. Through December, YARTS ridership numbers were up 28%. In January the trend softened significantly and has remained that way since. Ridership in June represented the most pronounced monthly decrease of the year of 13.05%.

The size of the June drop is, in part, due to the sizeable increase (+44 %) in June of 2008. In 2008, YARTS fielded two extra runs each direction on Hwy 140 during the months of mid-May through August and one extra run each way in September and October. That was made possible through funding from the 5320 Program and prompted by the restricted detour around the Ferguson rockslide. Even though the buses were smaller than those in use now, the added convenience may have added to the ridership and probably should be a subject for a future discussion.

On Hwy 120, the first day of the season this year was lost to bad weather on Tioga Pass Road and a subsequent road closure for that day. The second day, Sunday, the road was open and YARTS was able to operate, but the uncertainty of the situation very likely affected ridership on that day as well. That said, it is unlikely that the lost ridership was as significant as the difference between last year and this (23.6%)

It appears that YARTS is finally being affected by the economic downturn, much as the lodging and other tourist-oriented businesses have been.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion.

Attachment: Hwy 140 and Hwy 120 Ridership by Fiscal Year

**Hwy 140 and Hwy 120 Ridership
by Fiscal Year**

	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	Oct-99	Nov-99	Dec-99	Jan-00	Feb-00	Mar-00	Apr-00	May-00	Jun-00
Visitors & Others											1,541	4,779
NPS/YCS											739	3,236
TOTAL											2,280	8,015
year to date											2,280	10,295

	Jul-00	Aug-00	Sep-00	Oct-00	Nov-00	Dec-00	Jan-01	Feb-01	Mar-01	Apr-01	May-01	Jun-01
Visitors & Others	3,370	3,707	2,793	2,096	1,418	1,131	1,514	1,452	1,647	2,088	2,517	3,120
NPS/YCS	3,774	3,552	3,017	2,423	2,516	2,265	2,525	2,211	2,427	2,331	2,274	3,130
TOTAL	7,144	7,259	5,810	4,519	3,934	3,396	4,039	3,663	4,074	4,419	4,791	6,250
year to date	7,144	14,403	20,213	24,732	28,666	32,062	36,101	39,764	43,838	48,257	53,048	59,298

	Jul-01	Aug-01	Sep-01	Oct-01	Nov-01	Dec-01	Jan-02	Feb-02	Mar-02	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02
Visitors & Others	3,641	3,980	2,848	1,842	1,640	2,056	1,671	1,749	2,189	2,423	3,496	3,795
NPS/YCS	3,478	3,331	2,664	1,788	1,400	1,665	1,857	1,665	1,788	1,679	1,748	1,707
TOTAL	7,119	7,311	5,512	3,630	3,040	3,721	3,528	3,414	3,977	4,102	5,244	5,502
year to date	7,119	14,430	19,942	23,572	26,612	30,333	33,861	37,275	41,252	45,354	50,598	56,100

	Jul-02	Aug-02	Sep-02	Oct-02	Nov-02	Dec-02	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03
Visitors & Others	4,670	5,019	3,682	2,896	1,785	2,517	2,088	1,642	2,118	2,584	3,184	3,856
Hwy 120												103
NPS/YCS	1,926	1,929	1,764	1,663	1,448	1,626	1,687	1,554	1,697	1,678	1,777	1,480
TOTAL	6,596	6,948	5,446	4,559	3,233	4,143	3,775	3,196	3,815	4,262	4,961	5,439
year to date	6,596	13,544	18,990	23,549	26,782	30,925	34,700	37,896	41,711	45,973	50,934	56,373

	Jul-03	Aug-03	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	Jan-04	Feb-04	Mar-04	Apr-04	May-04	Jun-04
Visitors & Others	4,511	4,388	3,383	2,738	1,853	2,451	2,252	1,758	1,916	2,705	3,968	4,270
Hwy 120	826	859	161									155
NPS/YCS	1,857	1,920	1,812	1,724	1,358	1,422	1,660	1,595	1,895	1,781	1,765	1,966
TOTAL	7,194	7,167	5,356	4,462	3,211	3,873	3,912	3,353	3,811	4,486	5,733	6,391
year to date	7,194	14,361	19,717	24,179	27,390	31,263	35,175	38,528	42,339	46,825	52,558	58,949

	Jul-04	Aug-04	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05
Visitors & Others	4,632	4,484	3,666	2,542	1,561	2,102	1,946	1,766	2,653	2,519	3,807	4,723
Hwy 120	701	773	156									
NPS/YCS	2,220	2,123	1,871	1,643	1,877	1,628	1,690	1,428	1,909	1,761	1,778	2,287
TOTAL	7,553	7,380	5,693	4,185	3,438	3,730	3,555	3,194	4,562	4,280	5,585	7,010
year to date	7,553	14,933	20,626	24,811	28,249	31,979	35,534	38,728	43,290	47,570	53,155	60,165

	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06
Visitors & Others	4915	5289	4042	3018	1949	1739	1943	1960	2740	3045	2465	2662
Hwy 120	572	968	394									20
NPS/DNC	2480	2839	2206	2174	2020	1808	2174	1875	2417	2331	775	603
TOTAL	7967	9096	6642	5192	3969	3547	4117	3835	5157	5376	3240	3285
% Change previous year	5%	23%	17%	24%	15%	-5%	16%	20%	13%	26%	-42%	-53%
year to date	7967	17063	23705	28897	32866	36413	40530	44365	49522	54898	58138	61423
%	5%	14%	15%	16%	16%	14%	14%	15%	14%	15%	9%	2%

	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Visitors & Others	2921	3452	3371	2610	1754	2012	2091	1729	2246	2508	3472	3882
Hwy 120	774	1054	462									162
NPS/DNC	612	741	1205	1409	1333	1204	1690	1482	1899	1716	1889	1696
TOTAL	4307	5247	5038	4019	3087	3216	3781	3211	4145	4224	5361	5740
% Change previous year	-45.94%	-42.32%	-24.15%	-22.52%	-22.22%	-9.33%	-8.16%	-16.27%	-19.62%	-21.43%	65.46%	74.73%
year to date	4307	9554	14592	18611	21698	24914	28695	31906	36051	40275	45636	51376
%	-45.94%	-44.01%	-38.44%	-35.60%	-33.98%	-31.58%	-29.20%	-28.08%	-27.20%	-26.64%	-21.50%	-16.36%

	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Visitors & Others	4627	4881	3457	2867	2004	2170	2151	2033	2520	2787	4124	5395
Hwy 120	958	1030	223									296
NPS/DNC	1950	1684	1387	1618	1518	1360	1754	1506	1477	1696	1765	2580
TOTAL	7535	7595	5067	4485	3522	3530	3905	3539	3997	4483	5889	8271
% Change previous year	74.95%	44.75%	0.58%	11.59%	14.09%	9.76%	3.28%	10.21%	-3.57%	6.13%	9.85%	44.09%
year to date	7535	15130	20197	24682	28204	31734	35639	39178	43175	47658	53547	61818
%	74.95%	58.36%	38.41%	32.62%	29.98%	27.37%	24.20%	22.79%	19.76%	18.33%	17.33%	20.32%

	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09
Visitors & Others	5930	5683	4408	3288	1987	3123	2175	1756	2502	2562	3835	4504
Hwy 120	1478	1532	304	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	226
NPS/DNC	2781	2293	2197	2215	1672	1704	1772	1624	1995	2022	1897	2420
TOTAL	10189	9508	6909	5503	3659	4827	3947	3380	4497	4584	5732	7150
% Change previous year	35.22%	25.19%	36.35%	22.70%	3.89%	36.74%	1.08%	-4.49%	12.51%	2.25%	-2.67%	-13.55%
year to date	10189	19697	26606	32109	35768	40595	44542	47922	52419	57003	62735	69885
%	35.22%	30.19%	31.73%	30.09%	26.82%	27.92%	24.98%	22.32%	21.41%	19.61%	17.16%	13.05%

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: YARTS REVENUE HISTORY BY FISCAL YEAR

Attached for your review is the revenue history, complete with all transactions recorded through June 30, 2009. There is still a small amount of income to be tallied for the 2008-09 fiscal year, and it will be recorded into the month it applies to as it is received.

As you can see, fare box income is up substantially from last year. It is above the amount budgeted for this item in April of 2008 and more closely aligned with the adjusted budget approved by the Board in January of 2009 (\$460.30). Softness in the ridership numbers during the spring of 2009 drove the income down below the revised budgeted amount.

Revenue from the Amtrak contract is down slightly from last year. This revenue source does vary depending on the number of extra runs they request (and pay for) to accommodate large groups. Basic income from this contract is \$292,000.

The revenue history records all income to the system from operations, but excludes cash flow such as grant funding and member county contributions.

REQUESTED ACTION

For review and discussion.

Attachment: YARTS Revenue by Fiscal Year

**YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
(YARTS) AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2009

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Authority Advisory Committee held Monday, April 6, 2009, at Merced County Association of Governments, Conference Room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA was called to order by Chair Frank Quintero at 10:12 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Baker, California Welcome Center

John Gedney, Caltrans, District 10

Sandy Hogan, Chair, Mobility Commission, Town of Mammoth Lakes (via video conference)

Candy O'Donel-Brown, Private Citizen, Midpines

Tom Pimentel, National Park Service

Gwen Plummer, Mono County Planning, for Scott Burns (via video conference)

Frank Quintero, City of Merced

Larnold Jones, Merced County Transit

Danna Stroud, Director of Tourism and Recreation Department, Town of Mammoth Lakes (via video conference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Barbara Carrier, Mariposa County Public Works

Jeff Hentz, Yosemite/Mariposa Tourism Bureau

Jennifer Krumm, Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce

Richard Wiebe, The Sierra Club

OTHERS PRESENT

Denise Demery, VIA Adventures

Ken Gosting, TIE

Robin Lamas, YARTS staff

Marty Nielson, Yosemite National Park

Dick Whittington, YARTS Staff

1. Introductions

So noted.

2. Public Comment

Ken Gosting, Transportation Involves Everyone, wanted to commend VIA on two new drivers that are doing a great job as YARTS bus drivers. Ken Gosting also

requested a policy be set, or an item put on a future agenda, regarding the use of seat belts on the YARTS buses.

3. Minutes of the January 12, 2009 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Meeting

Sandy Hogan requested staff correct her title to Chair, Mobility Commission, Town of Mammoth Lakes. Candy O'Donel-Brown requested the correction on the spelling of Jeffery Hentz name.

Candy O'Donel-Brown moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 YARTS Authority Advisory Committee meeting as corrected.
Seconded by Sandy Hogan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Information/Discussion Only

- a. VIA Monthly Service Reports for December 2008 – February 2009
 - b. Ridership History by Fiscal Year
 - c. YARTS Revenue History by Fiscal Year
- 4b. Dick Whittington handed out a revised Ridership History showing the latest figures.

5. YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan for FY 2009/10

Tom Pimentel moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-03 approving the FY 2009/10 YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan.
Seconded by Candy O'Donel-Brown.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Federal Transit Administration Grants – 5320 Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – 5311(f) Funding Allocations for the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)

Dick Whittington stated that staff was preparing two grant applications. One grant is from the ARRA funds in the amount of \$717,421 and will be funded under Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program and the second grant will be funded through the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands program 5320 in the amount of \$582,579. These funds will be used to construct a Park and Ride facility in the town of Mariposa.

It was noted to staff that the Resolution for this item needed a correction to the date in Section 3 from June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2010.

Candy O'Donel-Brown moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority:

- a. Adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-02 (with the noted date change) authorizing the filing of an ARRA grant for Section 5311(f) funds for FY 2009-2010 and an Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands program grant funded through Section 5320; and
- b. Direct the Executive Director to sign and execute documents related to the grant application and subsequent contracts.

Seconded by Tom Pimentel.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Allocations for the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)

Candy O'Donel-Brown moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority:

- a. Adopt Resolution 2009/04-06-01 to authorize the filing of an ARRA grant for Section 5311(f) funds for FY 2009-2010; and
- b. Direct the Executive Director to sign and execute documents related to the grant application and subsequent contract.

Seconded by Larnold Jones.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. YARTS Funding Update

Dick Whittington gave a review of the staff report.

9. YARTS Proposed Budget – Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Sandy Hogan moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget.

Seconded by Tom Pimentel.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Agreement for Services - MCAG

Dick Whittington gave a review of the Agreement for Services between the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG).

Candy O'Donel-Brown moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority authorize the Chair to sign a new Agreement for Services between the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) for a period of one year from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Seconded by Sandy Hogan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. 5320 Program – Funding Update

So noted.

12. Election of Officers for FY 2009-2010

Frank Quintero nominated Candy O'Donel-Brown to serve as the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Chair for FY 2009-2010.

Seconded by Tom Pimentel.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Danna Stroud nominated Scott Burns to serve as the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Vice Chair for FY 2009-2010.

Seconded by Sandy Hogan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. YARTS Meeting Dates

Candy O'Donel-Brown moved to recommend the YARTS Joint Powers Authority establish the dates of the regularly scheduled meetings for the YARTS AAC and JPA for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Seconded by Karen Baker.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Oral Report – Manager's Report

So noted.

15. Oral Report – National Park Service

Tom Pimentel gave a report from the National Park Service.

Tom Pimentel made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Candy O'Donel- Brown.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:58 P.M.

ITEM 6

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: YARTS FUNDING UPDATE

5309 – (Earmarks)

YARTS currently has one 5309 grant available and in use. This funding is typically used for capital costs but can be used for the cost of contracting for buses, which is how YARTS has used it and how it was appropriated. The amount of the grant is \$247,500.

The currently available 5309 funding will be expended this fiscal year and, at this point, does not appear to be a likelihood of added funding under the program.

In late February, staff wrote to the office of Congressman Radanovich asking the status of the appropriations request that YARTS had filled out at the invitation of the Congressman. On February 27, 2009 staff received an email from the Press Secretary of Congressman Radanovich that included a news release stating that the Congressman had made the decision to forgo sponsoring earmark requests.

Bus Funding

In 2005, YARTS received a designated amount of funding in the SAFETEA-LU Transportation Bill for the purchase of new buses. The funding was roughly \$2.09 million spread out over four years in specific amounts as follows:

FY06 - \$480,000
FY07 - \$501,600
FY08 - \$543,400
FY09 - \$564,300

The funding requires a 20% local match or \$522,325 total for the entire approved amount.

FTA cautioned YARTS staff that, though the bill approved the funding, it would not actually be available until it was appropriated in each of the designated years. In other words, don't spend it until you are certain it has actually been appropriated. The FY 09 funding is yet to be appropriated.

YARTS delayed using the funding for two reasons: It was perceived that ordering four different buses, one per year, would cause very real problems for maintenance staff and also, YARTS did not have the required 20% local match readily available.

The appropriations are good for three years, which means that the funding from the first year is about to expire. Congressman McKeon's office has offered to submit the appropriate request to the Congress to get the life of the appropriation extended.

5320 – Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks and Public Lands Program (formerly Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands)

(a) YARTS has an existing approved grant from the 5320 program in the amount of \$272,520, which will be used in the 2009-2010 fiscal year for the leasing of buses. The grant is good until expended and will carry over into FY 2010-2011, if not fully expended in the upcoming fiscal year. This funding can only be used for the cost of leasing buses, and excludes fuel, drivers, and other operating expenses. It requires no local match.

(b) YARTS previously received approval of a grant for \$582,579 from this program to construct a park and ride in the town of Mariposa. When the overall cost of the project was found to exceed the available funding, staff applied for funding under another program. This funding is still valid and awaits approval of the second funds so the project can proceed. This grant requires no local match.

(c) In February, staff filed an application under this program for the purchase of three new over-the-road coaches. The total amount of the request is \$1,605,000. Our National Park Service contact in Seattle helped by critiquing the application before submittal and feels that it stands a good chance of funding, but we will not know until the fall of 2009, or later. It is anticipated that the funding, if approved, would come without a local match requirement.

(d) An earlier plan to file for funding under the 5320 program this year to finish the construction of the Park and Ride in Mariposa was dropped when funding for the project was established through the ARRA stimulus program.

(e) An effort continues to get operations funding included in the 5320 Program. Currently, this program only funds capital projects and purchases. Chairman Bauer has been leading the way on this effort with staff playing a support role.

A letter signed by four Congressmen (Cardoza, Radanovich, McKeon and Nunes) was sent to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair, James Oberstar, asked the Committee to include operating funding into the 5320 Program. The request will be a part of the reauthorization of the six-year transportation bill that is slated to come out of the Congress later this year. A congressional aid from Congressman McKeon's office told staff that the Committee had received other requests for this change, but they would not share who had made the requests with him.

YARTS has been joined in this effort by Marin County Transit, Visalia Transit, Monterey Salinas Transit, and the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) and each have indicated that they are working through their own elected officials to foster support for the change.

Chairperson Bauer has recently returned from a trip to Washington D.C. and will likely have additional information to share at the meeting regarding the progress of this effort.

5311(f) – Intercity Bus Program Grant (Operating)

The 5311(f) program is intended to provide connectivity between rural areas and the “National Intercity Bus System”. Applicants are required to prove meaningful connection with national bus service (Greyhound). It is not intended to support commuter ridership. Match under this program is 44.67%.

For FY 2008-2009, YARTS received an award under this program of \$195,000. In 2008 – 2009, YARTS had applied for the maximum amount of \$300,000, but the request was reduced because of the number of runs we have that Caltrans staff said did not meet the stated requirements of connecting to the National Bus Service. Recently, staff met with the Office Chief, Division of Mass Transportation and argued that YARTS had not been evaluated correctly during the application review process. With her encouragement, staff re-filed the application in May and the full \$300,000 was approved for this fiscal year, on this go-round.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Funding for transit under the ARRA economic stimulus program was eventually resolved to be coming out of Washington D.C. in the form of formula funding; 5307 for Urban transit and 5311 for rural. The distribution of the funds was based on the percentages going to the regular recipients of the formula funds.

Unfortunately for YARTS, it does not receive formula funding. Staff spent the month of February, and a good part of March, fighting for a seat at the funding table, but to no avail until new rules were established allowing some of the funding to go through the 5311(f) program, which is discretionary (competitive) rather than formula based.

With significant help from the Caltrans Division of Mass Transportation, YARTS was able to secure funding for two projects.

The first project is to complete the construction of the Park and Ride facility in Mariposa. ARRA funding in the amount of \$717,421 will be coupled with funding previously approved under the 5320 Program. The engineer’s estimate for the project was \$1.1 million. The initial low bid on the project came in at just under \$799,000, however there are some issues to resolve and there will be other costs related to the project that will increase the overall cost.

New rules under the ARRA program allow for the use of up to 10% of the approved grant amount be used for operating costs. YARTS may be able to claim this funding for operating if there is a sufficient amount remaining after the project costs are finalized.

The second project is for the purchase of one new over-the-road coach. The cost of this project is \$535,000.

Both projects met the “shovel ready” requirements of the funding and should start directly after the funding is approved by the FTA and contract with Caltrans are executed. Projects under the ARRA Program do not require a local match.

Applications were prepared and sent to Caltrans. The applications made it through the Caltrans review and a “composite” state application of all of the projects under 5311(f) went out to the FTA around June 1, 2009. The state expects the FTA to take up to six weeks to review and approve the applications.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion only.

ITEM 7

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

**RE: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT – NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YOSEMITE**

Each of the past four years YARTS has entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) in Yosemite. Each year there have been a few, generally housekeeping, changes proposed by NPS.

This year staff did not receive a copy of the proposed agreement in time for inclusion in the agenda for the July 20, 2009 meeting. We have been assured that there is no problem with the agreement being made, only that the timing has not lent itself to completion in time for the meeting.

The Cooperative Agreement needs to be fully executed prior to the beginning of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), which starts on October 1, 2009. The next regularly scheduled YARTS JPA meeting will take place on October 19, 2009, beyond the execution deadline.

There is currently little chance that the proposed agreement will be available for the July 20, 2009 meeting. If it is, the Board can review, discuss and act on it then.

If it is not available at the time of the meeting, staff would like the Board to approve allowing the Executive Director, Jesse Brown, to sign the agreement when it is available, assuming no significant changes are being proposed. If there are significant changes proposed, then the Board could schedule a special meeting to resolve the issues.

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the Cooperative Agreement between YARTS and the National Park Service Yosemite and allow the YARTS Executive Director authorization to sign the agreement, so long as no significant changes are proposed.

ITEM 8

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: DIRECTORS' LIABILITY COVERAGE

Staff initiated a study to see what level of directors' liability coverage the members of this Board have when they are serving as YARTS Board members. Each county seems to have a little different form of coverage, or in one case, none at all.

Mariposa County risk management says that they do have coverage for their Supervisors when they are serving on other boards and non-profits as a part of their Supervisor's obligations, although the coverage is limited to \$1 million, with a \$1 million aggregate, meaning \$2 million total.

Merced County risk management says that their coverage for the County Supervisors specifically excludes the Supervisors service on "JPA's and chartered non-profits".

In Mono County, they say that they believe that there is some limited coverage for Supervisors serving on other boards as an obligation of their elected service, but they recommend that to be fully covered, that the outside boards should have their own coverage as well.

Staff provided each Board member with a copy of the proposal from our liability carrier and asked that you have your legal counsel and/or risk management staff review the actual proposal and respond.

Staff would like for the Board to discuss this coverage, decide if the coverage is deemed necessary, and, if so, the amount of coverage that would be appropriate.

REQUESTED ACTION

Discuss the need for Directors' Liability Coverage and direct staff on what action to take.

ITEM 9

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: PROJECT UPDATES

Park and Ride Facility, town of Mariposa

The bid on this project closed on June 30, 2009. The bids were opened at 3:00 PM in the MCAG offices on that day. Four bidders took part in the process. The apparent low bidder was Teichert Construction from Turlock.

Bidders were informed that this project will not be contracted nor work started until funding for the project is confirmed by the FTA, however, staff is moving forward with the contract between Teichert and YARTS to have it completed and ready for funding approvals.

Mariposa County Public Works prepared the 100-page bid packet and has agreed to manage the construction of the project, when it starts. They have been enormously helpful and easy to work with in taking this project forward.

New Bus Purchase

The bid process is complete and the contract has been let by Yolo County for the purchase of new over-the-road coaches by the five participating agencies, one of which is YARTS. Review of the "piggyback" agreement between Yolo County Transit and YARTS (a requirement of the federal funding) is under way and all documents have been sent to Caltrans.

Caltrans has submitted the ARRA application to the Federal Transit Administration and is waiting on approvals. During the down time, they are preparing contracts for signature so that the project can move forward as soon as the funding approvals are announced.

YARTS Short Range Transit Plan

The project to get the YARTS Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) has been languishing. It was originally held up for a time by some confusion of whether Fresno COG was going to ask YARTS to include a feasibility study for transit on Hwy 41 (at their expense) as a part of the YARTS SRTP, and the specifics of what they wanted included. They eventually chose to do the study on their own, but a lot of time passed in the decision-making.

Since that time, the demand of the effort to attract funding from the ARRA Program for two YARTS projects and the preparation and process of the bidding on the Park and Ride Facility in Mariposa have been time hogs.

Staff anticipates that the SRTP will be the next major effort and hopes to have the RFP on the street within the next 30 days.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion only.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 10, 2009

TO: YARTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FROM: DICK WHITTINGTON, TRANSIT MANAGER

RE: MANAGERS' REPORT

10th Anniversary Celebration

As hard as it is to believe, YARTS is beginning its 10th year of operation. At the staff level, we have been discussing the possibility of having a 10th Anniversary Celebration. The conversations have centered on having an event in Yosemite Park, during the Congressional recess, on Friday, August 21st at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon at noon.

We have been working with Ron Senter from Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to have a new bus, one similar to the one we hope to acquire this fall, available for transporting dignitaries to the event from Mariposa. It currently looks like that will happen.

We are still working out the specific details, but it is moving forward. We should be able to provide you with all the details at your meeting.

Step Configuration on Buses

A question was raised at your last meeting about the possibility of having the new buses fitted with a circular staircase, rather than the more traditional straight one. The suggestion was made that the curving stairs were easier to negotiate because the rise on the steps was less and it was also said that the style was more attractive.

In conversation with MCI, the manufacturer of our proposed new bus, I learned that the circular stairs were available, but could not be used if we intended to have fare boxes installed on our buses in the future, as has been discussed. I was also told that the rise (height) of the stairs was standard on all buses regardless of the configuration.

Seat (Safety) Belts on YARTS Buses

As a result of conversations at your last meeting regarding having seat belts on YARTS buses, staff has been looking at government requirements regarding safety belts on buses and separately, the advisability of having them.

First off, seat belts are not required on the YARTS buses at this time. In March of 2009, a bill was introduced “to improve the safety of motorcoaches and for other purposes”, the *Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act of 2009*. The bill was co-sponsored by Senator Boxer. That bill seeks to, among other things, require safety belts to be installed on motorcoaches. If passed as currently written, the bill would specifically exclude “buses used in public transportation provided by a State or local government.”

Bill S554 is in response to recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) following some tragic accidents that they have recently investigated. From these reviews of accidents involving motorcoaches, the NTSB says that one of the major reasons for injuries and death is riders being thrown from their seats or even ejected from the buses. He suggests that lap/shoulder belts are one of the solutions for this problem, and recommends that new-purchase vehicles be equipped with such belts.

There is little or no chance that we can install seat safety belts on the existing buses. Safety belts are secured to the seats (rather than the floor) and must pass a “pull test” before they can be installed on buses. It is virtually impossible to achieve the “pull test” in a retrofit situation, according to manufacturers.

In its 10-year history, YARTS has only had one accident, and that was a non-injury accident. Our contractor takes safety very seriously and our safety record is testimony to that attitude. It is also true, however, that not all bus accidents are caused by the bus, but the results are just as tragic.

We are about to purchase one new bus for the YARTS fleet and the possibility exists for up to three more this fall, if the 5320 Program application is approved. Staff has been working with the manufacturer, Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to finalize the work order that will allow us to proceed with the purchase.

According to MCI, the addition of seat safety belts to the new coaches would add roughly \$14-\$16,000 to the purchase price. Staff believes that there will be sufficient funding available in the grant for the first bus to include the belts in the order and we are proceeding toward that goal, unless otherwise directed by the YARTS Board.

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

The Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (ESIVC) in Lone Pine is pretty well removed from the areas that YARTS operates in, but they have been a consistent supporter of YARTS by getting information about the system out to the general public. For the past few years, they have included in their monthly “Recreation Information Update” details about YARTS service and encouragement to use it. The information appears when the pass opens and is left out when the end of September comes, essentially with very little contact from us. K. C. Wylie is the Director of the ESIVC and has been terrific to work with each time we have had contact with her.

Amtrak Contract

I periodically check with Amtrak to make sure that they are satisfied with the service we are providing (and they are paying for). According to Rick Peterson, Director of Bus Operations for Amtrak, “both Amtrak and Caltrans are pleased with Amtrak’s contractual arrangement with YARTS.” “The bus service provides excellent connections between Amtrak-served cities and Yosemite and Mariposa County communities. The daily cost to Amtrak and average ridership continues to meet farebox recovery rules, which govern state-funded Throughway services. YARTS schedules have been very reliable. We have received few complaints.”

The current contract authorization expires October 26, 2009, but it is anticipated that an extension will be made. The contract permits monthly renewals through May 31, 2010. For service starting June 1, 2010, Amtrak and YARTS will have to execute a new contract.

REQUESTED ACTION

For information and discussion.

**YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
(YARTS) JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

JULY 20, 2009

The regular meeting of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority held Monday, July 20, 2009, at Sierra Center Mall, 3rd Floor Large Meeting Room, 452 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA was called to order by Chair Vikki Magee-Bauer at 1:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brad Aborn, Mariposa County Supervisor (via video conference)
Vikki Magee-Bauer, Mono County Supervisor
Hub Walsh, Merced County Supervisor (via video conference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Denise Demery, VIA Adventures (via video conference)
Kenneth Gosting, TIE (via video conference)
Robin Lamas, YARTS staff (via video conference)
Marty Nielson, Yosemite National Park
Candy O'Donel-Brown, Authority Advisory Committee (via video conference)
Dick Whittington, YARTS Staff

1. Introductions

So noted.

2. Public Comment

Ken Gosting, Transportation Involves Everyone, stated he would like an informal policy set for administrative purposes regarding seat belt usage on the buses that have seat belts already. There has been another bus accident where passengers were ejected from their seats because of no seat belts. Ken would like the bus drivers to just suggest to passengers to use their seatbelts if they are available on the bus they are riding.

3. Oral Report

Candy O'Donel Brown gave a report from the Authority Advisory Committee.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Magee-Bauer requested action be taken on the Consent Agenda item by item.

4a. Minutes of the April 6, 2009 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting

Ken Gosting, Transportation Involves Everyone, requested a correction to the minutes of the April 6, 2009 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting to take out the words “or an item put on a future agenda” under the public comment portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Aborn moved to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2009 YARTS Joint Powers Authority meeting with the correction as noted.

Seconded by Commissioner Walsh.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4b. YARTS Authority Advisory Committee Nomination

Commissioner Walsh moved to approve the nomination of Dhruv Shah to serve on the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee.

Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4c. YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan for FY 2009/10

The YARTS Authority Advisory Committee requested a change be made on the Resolution 2009/07-20-01 to remove two words “it is” to make the wording read correctly.

Commissioner Walsh moved to adopt Resolution 2009/07-20-01 YARTS Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan with the correction in the Resolution as noted.

Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Information/Discussion Only

- a. VIA Monthly Service Reports for March 2009 – May 2009
- b. Ridership History by Fiscal Year
- c. YARTS Revenue History by Fiscal Year

4b. Staff handed out a National Park Service visitation by month/fiscal year for comparative purposes.

6. YARTS Funding Update

So noted.

7. Cooperative Agreement – National Park Service Yosemite

Dick Whittington gave a brief review of the Cooperative Agreement between YARTS and the National Park Service, Yosemite. Commissioner Magee-Bauer requested the action to include the verbiage “after electronic review by the Chair”.

Commissioner Walsh moved to approve the Cooperative Agreement between YARTS and the National Park Service, Yosemite, and allow the YARTS Executive Director, after electronic review by the Chair, authorization to sign the Agreement so long as no significant changes are proposed.

Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Directors’ Liability Coverage

Dick Whittington reviewed the request for information regarding Directors’ Liability coverage.

Commissioner Walsh moved to approve staff to obtain options of costs and extent of liability coverage for the Directors from insurance providers, have risk management review the information, and return the information to the Directors at the next meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Project Updates

So noted.

10. Oral Report – Managers’ Report

Dick Whittington gave a review of the Managers Report. Among the items in the Managers Report was information regarding seat belts on buses. Staff stated that it would be in our best interest to have seat belts included on the next bus or buses that YARTS purchases.

Commissioner Aborn requested staff to obtain a letter from the current YARTS bus manufacturer that states the buses that do not have seat belts currently, could not easily have them installed unless a complete retrofit took place.

Ken Gosting, Transportation Involves Everyone, stated he appreciated the apparent direction the YARTS Board is taking in purchasing the new buses with seat belts. Also, Ken would like the drivers on the YARTS buses that do have seatbelts to remind passengers to use the belts if they want to for safety purposes.

Ken Gosting also commended Dick Whittington on the notices that were posted in regards to the Butterfly Parade in Mariposa.

11. Oral Report – National Park Service

Marty Nielson gave a report from the National Park Service. A copy of his report is attached for your information.

12. Board of Commissioners Remarks

So noted.

Commissioner Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Aborn.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE YARTS JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:13 P.M.**