YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Title VI Program

May 1, 2026-April 30, 2029

Final Report

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Adopted by the YARTS JPA Board
July 2026



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I. Introduction:

Background

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) provides public fixed-route transit service into Yosemite National Park (YNP), serving a 480-mile regional service area connecting gateway communities in Merced, Mono, Tuolumne, Fresno, Mariposa, and Madera Counties (see service area map below). Since beginning service in May 2000, YARTS has grown into a vital regional transit network providing transportation for park visitors, National Park Service (NPS) employees, and residents of surrounding communities.

YARTS operates service from multiple gateway corridors, including Merced via Highway 140, Sonora via Highway 120 West, Fresno via Highway 41, and Mammoth Lakes/Mono County via Highway 395 and Highway 120 East when Tioga Pass is seasonally open. In addition to providing access to Yosemite National Park, YARTS functions as an Amtrak Thruway service and maintains intermodal connections with regional transit providers, Greyhound Lines, Merced Regional Airport, Merced College, University of California, Merced, Fresno Yosemite International Airport, and Fresno Amtrak Station. These connections support travel for employment, education, medical appointments, shopping, recreation, and other regional transportation needs. Through Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding, YARTS also offers additional mobility programs aimed at improving access and reducing transportation barriers. These include the Student Explorer Program, which provides fare-free round-trip transportation for college and university students traveling to Yosemite National Park, and the Mariposa, Mono, and Merced County Resident Program, which provides eligible residents of those counties with free round-trip transportation to Yosemite. These programs help expand equitable access to recreation, education, and regional mobility while encouraging the use of public transit.

Ridership continues to reflect strong seasonal demand and regional mobility needs. During Fiscal Year 2023/24, YARTS carried 67,409 passengers systemwide. Fiscal Year 2024/25 ridership remained consistent at 67,607 passengers. Through May 2026, Fiscal Year 2025/26 recorded 43,483 passenger trips, with final year-end totals pending. The Merced Highway 140 corridor continues to generate the highest ridership, followed by the Sonora Highway 120 West corridor. Ridership levels may fluctuate based on seasonal visitation, weather conditions, and National Park Service operational policies, which can affect travel demand and access into Yosemite National Park.

The following table summarizes YARTS ridership by route for the most recent three fiscal years.

YARTS Ridership

FY 23/24	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Total FY 23/24
Merced - Hwy 140	5,945	4,133	3,426	2,518	1,769	2,171	2,654	4,173	2,570	3,494	6,011	6,444	45,308
Mono - Hwy 395	209	1,420	1,350	207	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,186
Sonora - Hwy 120 W.	2,210	1,547	877	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	134	2,000	6,918
Fresno - Hwy 41	1,861	1,105	284	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	711	1,661	5,622
NPS/Aramark	209	185	144	72	118	103	79	115	102	102	105	130	1,464
Amtrak	597	408	601	437	319	301	288	278	339	292	580	471	4,911
Grand Total	11,031	8,798	6,682	3,384	2,206	2,575	3,021	4,566	3,011	3,888	7,541	10,706	**67,409**

FY 24/25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Total FY 24/25
Merced - Hwy 140	8,535	6,778	5,505	2,578	1,728	2,736	1,801	2,969	1,615	2,203	2,931	3,409	42,788
Mono - Hwy 395	1,740	1,611	902	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,253
Sonora - Hwy 120 W.	3,249	2,388	739	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	341	1,357	8,074
Fresno - Hwy 41	2,377	2,140	701	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	537	1,478	7,233
NPS/Aramark	90	84	111	66	83	47	106	72	53	76	61	58	907
Amtrak	510	575	427	334	266	333	266	256	302	338	491	254	4,352
Grand Total	16,501	13,576	8,385	2,978	2,077	3,116	2,173	3,297	1,970	2,617	4,361	6,556	**67,607**

FY 25/26	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total FY 25/26
Merced - Hwy 140	4,550	3,666	2,493	1,512	1,615	2,010	1,912	1,864	1,874	1,514	3,095		26,105
Mono - Hwy 395	1,936	1,804	846	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		4,586
Sonora - Hwy 120 W.	2,264	1,721	493	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240		4,718
Fresno - Hwy 41	1,741	1,792	692	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	593		4,818
NPS/Aramark	110	113	75	49	27	46	42	31	47	15	64		619
Amtrak	510	370	397	179	121	210	151	105	212	124	258		2,637
Grand Total	11,111	9,466	4,996	1,740	1,763	2,266	2,105	2,000	2,133	1,653	4,250	0	43,483

YARTS is governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of twelve (12) elected officials from its six member counties who serve as Directors on the Board. The YARTS JPA is responsible for making operational and policy decisions for the organization, with input and recommendations provided by the Authority Advisory Committee (AAC), partner agencies, and members of the public.

In May 2025, the City of Fresno became the newest member of the YARTS Joint Powers Authority, further strengthening regional collaboration and connectivity within the YARTS service area.

At the time of preparation of this document, YARTS contracts with First Transit to provide operations and maintenance services for the YARTS fleet. In March 2023, Transdev North America acquired First Transit and assumed the existing YARTS operating contract, maintaining continuity of service. Prior to November 2022, VIA Adventures served as the system's sole previous contracted operator.

YARTS operates the following service corridors:

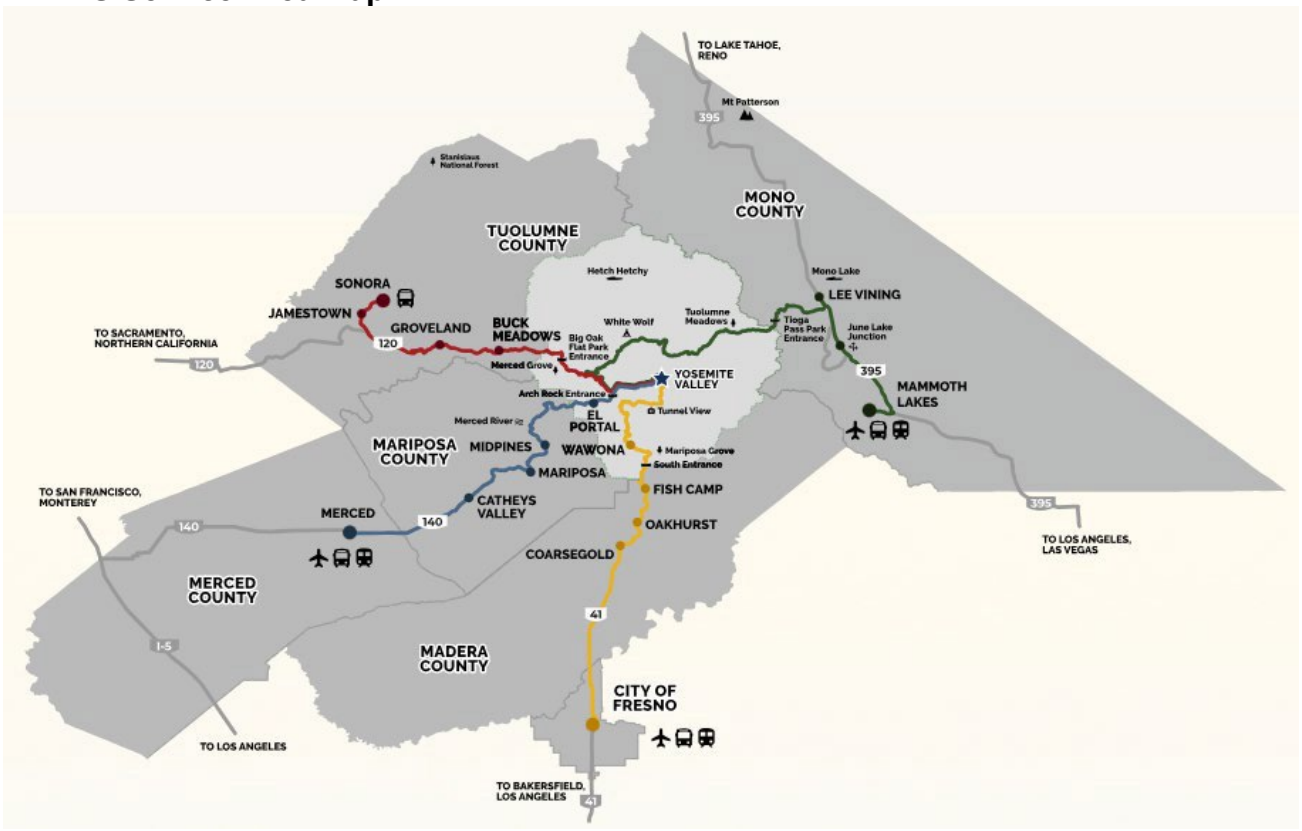
- Year-round along Highway 140 (Merced-Mariposa-YNP): YARTS operates year-round on Highway 140 between Merced and Yosemite National Park, through Mariposa County with multiple trips per day. The number of trips varies by season. In Merced, YARTS connects with Greyhound, Amtrak, and the Merced Airport.

- Summer-only on Highway 120 East and Highway 395 (Mammoth Lakes-June Lake- Lee Vining -YNP): This service typically operates June through mid-October depending on weather conditions. The corridor connects with the local transit provider, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) in Mammoth Lakes. The ESTA has Reno, Nevada, (Amtrak, Greyhound and Reno Airport) and Lancaster, CA, (Metrolink) as final destinations to the north and south.

- Summer-only on Highway 120 (Sonora-Jamestown-Groveland-YNP): This service typically operates May through September and connects the Tuolumne County communities to Yosemite National Park.

- Highway 41 Service to Fresno: This service operates seasonally (May through September). This corridor provides direct connections between Yosemite National Park, Fresno Yosemite International Airport, and Amtrak rail services in Fresno.

YARTS Service Area Map:



FTA Grant Recipient Requirements

The YARTS JPA is required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to conform to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its amendments. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person in the United States, shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Presidential Executive Order 12898 addresses environmental justice in minority and low-income populations. Presidential Executive Order 13166 addresses services to those individuals with Limited English proficiency. The rights of women, the elderly, and the disabled are protected under related statutes. These Presidential Executive Orders and the related statutes fall under the umbrella of Title VI.

YARTS is committed to enforcing the provisions of Title VI and protecting the rights and opportunities of all persons associated with YARTS or affected by its programs. YARTS' commitment includes vigorously enforcing all applicable laws and regulations that affect YARTS and those organizations, both public and private, which participate and benefit through YARTS' programs.

YARTS will take positive and realistic affirmative steps to ensure that all persons and/or firms wishing to participate in YARTS' programs are given an equal and equitable chance to participate.

YARTS' subrecipients and contractors (if any) are required to prevent discrimination and ensure nondiscrimination in all of their programs, activities and services.

YARTS is responsible for providing leadership, direction, and policy to ensure compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Any person or firm who feels that they have been discriminated against, or would like more information, is encouraged to contact YARTS or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA):

Yosemite Area Regional
Transportation System
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3111
(209) 723-0322 (fax)

FTA Office of Civil Rights
Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave,
SE Washington, DC 20590

Pursuant to Title VI, YARTS affirms that:

1. No person on the basis of race, color, or national origin will be subjected to discrimination in the level and quality of transportation services and transit-related benefits.

2. YARTS will compile, maintain, and submit in a timely manner Title VI information required by the Federal Transit Administration.

3. Those persons alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as it relates to the provision of transportation services and transit-related benefits, may file a complaint with YARTS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and/or the U.S. Department of Justice.

In addition, YARTS will take the following actions to ensure its continued compliance with Title VI, as listed below and further discussed within this Title VI Program:

1. YARTS will annually submit Title VI Program Certifications and Assurances to the Federal Transit Administration.

2. YARTS has developed procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints filed against YARTS. These procedures are posted on the YARTS website and are also available to members of the public upon request.

3. YARTS will maintain a list of any active investigations conducted by FTA and non-FTA entities, lawsuits, or complaints naming YARTS that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. This list shall include the date of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint; a summary of the allegation(s); the status of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint; and actions taken by YARTS in response to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint.

4. YARTS will ensure individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) have meaningful access to YARTS programs and activities. Interpreting services are available for individuals who are LEP at The Bus administrative office, which is shared by YARTS, as well as through transit dispatch.

5. YARTS operates programs without regard to race, color, and national origin. The Title VI Statement policy documents the procedures that the public should follow in order to request additional information on YARTS' nondiscrimination obligations, as well as procedures to file a discrimination complaint against YARTS.

6. If requested, YARTS will provide information other than that required under FTA Circular 4702.1B in writing to investigate complaints of discrimination or to resolve concerns about possible non-compliance with Title VI.

7. YARTS will update its Title VI Program every three years and submit the update to the Federal Transit Administration. The next Title VI Program will be submitted and uploaded to the Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) no later than 60 days prior to the due date.

II. General Reporting Requirements

Monitoring Subrecipients

Chapter III, Section 12 of the FTA Circular requires primary recipients to monitor their subrecipients for compliance with U.S. DOT Title VI regulations. YARTS is the primary recipient for FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus funding. YARTS currently does not have any subrecipients. Therefore, the requirements for monitoring subrecipients are not applicable at this time.
Should YARTS enter into agreements with subrecipients in the future, those subrecipients will be required to comply with all pertinent federal requirements, including, but not limited to, Title VI. YARTS will include language in all contracts with subrecipients requiring adherence to all applicable federal contract provisions, including Civil Rights – Section 13 requirements.

List of Posting Locations of the Title VI Notice

The Title VI Notice can be found in Appendix B. This notice is posted at the locations below.

	Location	Address
1	YARTS administration office (reception desk, large conference/meeting room)	357 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340
2	Merced Transportation Center	710 W. 16th Street, Merced, CA 95341
3	YARTS Website	yarts.com
4	On-board YARTS buses	NA

Title VI Complaint Procedures English

This document outlines the Title VI complaint procedures related to providing programs, services, and benefits. It does not deny the complainant the right to file formal complaints with the California Department of Transportation, the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation of any kind that is prohibited by law.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

1. Title VI complaint forms may be downloaded from www.yarts.com. The complainant may also submit a written statement that contains all of the following information:

   a. Name, address, and telephone number of the complainant.
   b. The basis of the complaint (race, color, national origin).
   c. The date or dates on which the alleged discriminatory event or events occurred.
   d. The nature of the incident that led the complainant to feel discrimination was a factor.
   e. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who may have knowledge of the event.
   f. Other agencies or courts where complaint may have been filed and a contact name.

2. Complainant's signature and date. If the complainant is unable to write a complaint, YARTS staff will assist the complainant, if requested by complainant.

3. Complainants have the right to complain directly to the appropriate federal agency. Complaints must be filed within one-hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the last alleged incident.

4. YARTS will begin an investigation within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of a complaint.

5. YARTS will contact the complainant in writing no later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of complaint for additional information, if needed. If the complainant fails to provide the requested information in a timely basis, YARTS may administratively close the complaint.

6. YARTS will complete the investigation within ninety (90) days of receipt of the complaint. If additional time is need for investigation, complainant will be contacted. A written investigation report will be prepared by the investigator. This report shall include a summary description of the incident, findings and recommended corrective action.

7. A closing letter will be provided to the complainant and the respondent or respondent department. Parties will have five (5) working days from receipt of the closing letter to appeal. If neither party appeals, the complaint will be closed.

8. If required, the investigation report will be forwarded to the appropriate federal agency.

Complaints may be submitted in person, by fax, by email at tickets@yarts.com, online at www.yarts.com, or mail this form to the address below:

Yosemite Area Regional
Transportation System
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3111
(209) 723-0322 (fax)

FTA Office of Civil Rights
Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave.
SE Washington, DC 20590

Title VI Complaint Procedures Spanish

Este documento describe los procedimientos de queja del Título VI relacionados con la prestación de programas, servicios y beneficios. NO niega al demandante el derecho a presentar quejas formales ante el Departamento de Transporte de California, el Secretario del Departamento de Transporte de Estados Unidos, la Comisión de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Empleo (EEOC), la administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), la Administración Federal de Transito (FTA), o buscar un abogado privado para denuncias de discriminación, intimidación o represalias de ningún tipo que esté prohibido por la ley.

Titulo VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964 requiere que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos será, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, ser excluida de, ser negado los beneficios de, o ser sujeto a discriminación bajo cualquier programa o actividad que reciba asistencia financiera federa.

Procedimiento de Quejas del Título VI

1. Los formularios de queja del Título VI pueden ser descargados de www.yarts.com o solicitarse a la Administración de Transito. Asimismo, el demandante podrá presentar una declaración por escrito que contenga toda la información siguiente:
   a. Nombre, domicilio, y número de teléfono del demandante.
   b. La base de la queja (raza, color, origen nacional)
   c. La fecha o fechas en que se produjo el evento o eventos discriminatorios alegados.
   d. La naturaleza del incidente que llevó al autor a sentir que la discriminación fue un factor.
   e. Nombres, domicilios y números de teléfono de las personas que pueden tener conocimiento del evento.
   f. Otras agencias o corte donde se pudo haber presentado denuncia y un nombre de contacto.
   g. Firma y fecha del demandante.
2. Si el demandante es incapaz de escribir una queja, el personal de YARTS asistirá al demandante, a petición del demandante.
3. Los denunciantes tienen derecho a quejarse directamente a la agencia federal correspondiente. Las quejas deben ser presentadas dentro de los ciento ochenta (180) días calendarios a partir de la última presunto incidente.
4. YARTS comenzara una investigación dentro de los quince (15) días hábiles siguientes de recibir una queja del Demandante.
5. YARTS se pondrá en contacto con el demandante por escrito no más tarde de treinta (30) días hábiles después de recibir la queja para obtener información adicional, si es necesario. Si el demandante no puede proporcionar la información solicitada en forma oportuna, YARTS puede cerrar administrativamente la denuncia.
6. YARTS completará la investigación dentro de los noventa (90) días siguientes a recibir la queja. Si se necesita más tiempo para la investigación, el denunciante será contactado. Un informe de investigación escrito será preparado por el investigador. Este informe incluirá una descripción resumida de los hechos, las conclusiones y las acciones correctivas

recomendadas.

7. Una carta para cerrar la queja será proporcionada al demandante y el demandado o el departamento respondiente. Todos tendrán cinco (5) días hábiles desde el día que la carta es recibida para apelar. Si ninguna apelación es recibida de ambos partes, la queja será cerrada.
8. Si es necesario, el informe de la investigación será remitida a la agencia federal correspondiente.

Las quejas pueden presentarse en persona, por fax, por correo electrónico a tickets@yarts.com, en línea a través de www.yarts.com, o enviando este formulario por correo postal a la dirección que aparece a continuación:

Yosemite Area Regional
Transportation System
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3111
(209) 723-0322 (fax)

FTA Office of Civil Rights
Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave.
SE Washington, DC 20590

Complaint Form: English

Section I:				
Name:				
Address:				
Telephone (Home):		**Telephone (Work):**		
Electronic Mail Address:				
Accessible Format Requirements?	Large Print		**Audio Tape**	
	TDD		**Other**	
Section II:				
Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?		Yes*		No
*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to Section III.				
If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining:				
Please explain why you have filed for a third party:				
Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a third party.		Yes		No
Section III:				
I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply): [] Race [] Color [] National Origin Date of Alleged Discrimination (Month, Day, Year): _____ Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please use the back of this form. _____ _____ _____				
Section IV				
Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with this agency?		Yes		No
Section V				
Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State court? [] Yes [ ] No				

If yes, check all that apply: [] Federal Agency: _____ [] Federal Court_____ [] State Agency _____ [ ] State Court_____ [ ] Local Agency _____
Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.
Name:
Title:
Agency:
Address:
Telephone:
Section VI
Name of agency complaint is against:
Contact person:
Title:
Telephone number:
You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint. Signature and date required below _____ _____ Signature Date Complaints may be submitted in person, by fax, by email at tickets@yarts.com, online at www.yarts.com, or mail this form to the address below: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Attn: Transit Director 357 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 (209) 723-3111 (209) 723-0322 (fax) FTA Office of Civil Rights Attn: Title VI Coordinator East Building, 5th Floor-TCR 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE Washington, DC 20590

Complaint Form: Spanish

Sección I:				
Nombre:				
Domicilio:				
Teléfono (Hogar):		**Teléfono (Trabajo):**		
Correo electrónico:				
Requisitos de formato Accesibles:	Letra		**Cinta de Audio**	
	TDD		**Otro**	
Sección II:				
¿Está usted presentando esta queja en su propio nombre?			Sí*	No
* Si usted Contesto “Si" a esta pregunta, ve a sección III.				
Si no, por favor indique el nombre y la relación con la persona por quien está presentando la queja:				
Explique por qué está presentando la queja en nombre de un tercero:				
Confirme que ha obtenido el permiso de la persona afectada si está presentando la queja en nombre de un tercero.			Sí	No
Sección III:				
Creo que la discriminación que experimenté se debió a (marque las que correspondan): [] Raza [] Color [] Origen Nacional Fecha presunta de la discriminación (Mes, Día, Año): _____ Explique lo más claramente posible lo que pasó y por qué cree que fue discriminado. Describa todas las personas involucradas. Incluya el nombre e información de contacto de la persona (s) que le discriminó (si lo sabe), así como los nombres e información de contacto de los testigos. Si se necesita más espacio, utilice el reverso de este formulario.				
Sección IV				
¿Ha presentado anteriormente una queja del Título VI con esta agencia?			Sí	No

Sección V
¿Ha presentado esta queja ante cualquier otro del Estado, Federal o Agencia local o cualquier corte Federal o Estatal? [ ] Sí [ ] No Si respondió "Sí", marque todo lo que corresponde: [] Agencia Federal: _____ [] Corte Federal_____ [] Agencia Estatal _____ [ ] Corte Estatal_____ [ ] Agencia Local_____
Por favor, indique el nombre de una persona de contacto en la agencia o corte donde presentó la queja:
Nombre:
Título:
Agencia:
Domicilio:
Teléfono:
Sección VI
¿Nombre de la agencia contra la que presentó la queja?:
Persona de Contacto:
Título:
Número de teléfono: Las quejas pueden presentarse en persona, por fax, por correo electrónico a tickets@yarts.com, en línea a través de www.yarts.com, o enviando este formulario por correo postal a la dirección que aparece a continuación: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Attn: Transit Director 357 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 (209) 723-3111 (209) 723-0322 (fax) FTA Office of Civil Rights Attn: Title VI Coordinator East Building, 5th Floor-TCR 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE Washington, DC 20590

List of Investigations, Lawsuits, and Complaints

All recipients shall prepare and maintain a list of any of the following that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin:

- Active investigations conducted by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and entities other than FTA;
- Lawsuits; and
- Complaints naming the recipient.

During the current reporting period (2023–2026), YARTS has received no transit-related Title VI complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. YARTS has also not been the subject of any Title VI investigations or lawsuits.

Should YARTS receive any Title VI complaints, be named in any Title VI lawsuits, or become subject to any Title VI investigations, this information will be documented and maintained in a matrix such as that shown below.

This matrix shall include the date the complaint, investigation, or lawsuit was filed; a summary of the allegation(s); the status (pending or closed); and actions taken by YARTS in response, including final findings or resolutions where applicable. YARTS maintains these records on an ongoing basis and includes this information in its Title VI Program submitted to FTA every three years.

	Date	Summary (include basis of complaint)	Status	Action(s) Taken
Complaints				
1.				
2.				
Investigations				
1.				
2.				
Lawsuits				
1.				
2.				

III. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

Introduction

This Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan has been prepared to address the responsibilities of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) as a recipient of federal financial assistance as they relate to the needs of individuals with limited English language skills. The plan has been prepared in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1B dated October 1, 2012, which states that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Executive Order 13166, titled Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, indicates that differing treatment based upon a person's inability to speak, read, write, or understand English is a type of national origin discrimination. It directs each federal agency to publish guidance for its respective recipients clarifying their obligation to ensure that such discrimination does not take place. This order applies to all state and local agencies which receive federal funds.

Plan Summary

YARTS, as the owner and operator, has developed this LEP Plan to help identify reasonable steps for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency who wish to access services provided. As defined in Executive Order 13166, LEP persons are those who do not speak English as their primary language and have limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English. This plan outlines how to identify a person who may need language assistance, the ways in which assistance may be provided, staff training that may be required, and how to notify LEP individuals that assistance is available.

In order to prepare this plan, YARTS undertook the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) four-factor LEP analysis which considers the following factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons in the service area who may be served or are likely to encounter a YARTS program, activity or service.

2. The frequency with which LEP persons come in contact with YARTS programs, activities or services.

3. The nature and importance of programs, activities or services provided by YARTS to the LEP population.

4. The resources available to YARTS and overall cost to provide LEP assistance.

Summary of Four-Factor Analysis

Based on the four-factor analysis, YARTS developed its LEP plan as outlined in the following section.

1. **The number or proportion of LEP persons in the service area who may be served or are likely to encounter a YARTS program, activity, or service.**

Staff reviewed U.S. Census Data for the transit service area and determined that 14,597 persons (13.8% of the service area population) have limited English proficiency; that is, they speak English less than “very well.” Of those persons with limited English proficiency, 12,271 (84.1%) speak Spanish, and 1,004 (6.9%) speak Asian and Pacific Island languages.

The largest LEP service area populations exist in Fresno and Merced, where 148,000 and 32,139 persons speak Spanish, respectively, and 27,943 and 3,214 persons speak Asian and Pacific Island languages.

Limited English Proficiency Population Within the YARTS Service Area

			Highway 140					Highway 41			Highway 120/395			Highway 120 North btwn YNP and Sonora			
	Total YARTS Service Area	Yosemite Valley	Merced	Catheys Valley	Mariposa	Midpines	El Portal	Fresno	Oakhurst	Fish Camp	Lee Living	June Lake	Mammoth Lakes	Buck Meadows	Groveland	Jamestown	Sonora
Population 5 years and over	618494	1991	84841	927	1125	160	505	506,706	5,982	0	628	209	7029	0	468	3113	4810
Speak only English or speak English "very well"	523174	1611	71548	921	1106	153	505	426,257	5,708	0	628	154	6309	0	464	3064	4746
Speak English less than "very well"	14597	380	13293	6	19	7	0	80,449	274	0	0	55	720	0	4	49	64
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH																	
Spanish:	183752	612	32139	113	40	0	0	148000	825	0	0	18	1653	0	7	226	119
Speak English less than "very well"	64256	327	11231	0	17	0	0	51733	252	0	0	18	603	0	4	49	22
Other Indo-European languages:	24284	25	2213	7	2	0	0	21924	12	0	0	0	86	0	11	0	4
Speak English less than "very well"	9421	13	282	0	2	0	0	9056	12	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	31250	7	3214	0	17	0	0	27943	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
Speak English less than "very well"	13581	0	1004	0	0	0	0	12577	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other and unspecified languages:	1627	35	39	0	0	0	0	1516	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0
Speak English less than "very well"	592	35	20	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 - 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, S1601 and C16001.

YARTS ridership is largely visitors and employees going into and coming from Yosemite National Park (YNP). Many of the YNP visitors come from outside the region (with significant numbers from outside California and from outside the U.S.). Park employees use Highway 140 Route as well. A small number of other ridership also exists on the Highway 140 Route, with Merced being the destination.

Most employees live near YNP, which lessens park employee ridership from Merced. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 28.8% of the Merced City population has income below the poverty level. With minority populations in Merced City having very low incomes, the number of LEP individuals who have the resources to visit YNP on a recreational trip might be limited.

Regardless, YARTS addresses the LEP population in Merced by preparing visually-easy-to-understand schedules and maps, by employing some bilingual drivers, by providing call-in assistance with bilingual service staff, and by providing translation services at public meetings, if requested. Translation is also provided on the YARTS website through Google Translate.

2. The frequency with which LEP persons come in contact with YARTS programs, activities or services. YARTS assessed the frequency with which staff and drivers have, or could have, contact with LEP persons.

This includes documenting phone inquiries and surveying vehicle operators for requests for interpreters and translated documents.

LEP individuals do have contact with the bus drivers. Since there are frequently foreign riders also with English-language deficiencies, it proves difficult to discern if the passengers are LEP persons from the region. As previously noted, YARTS receives substantial ridership from foreign visitors.

The most recent YARTS driver survey, conducted in July 2023, was used to assess the frequency with which bus drivers interact with individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). The survey yielded the following findings:

- Nine out of fourteen drivers speak only English. Twenty-eight and six tenths (28.6) percent speak Spanish, 14.3 percent speak Hmong and 7.1 percent (one individual each) speak Portuguese, Chinese, or Tagalog.

- When asked what languages they encounter, the most commonly cited response was Spanish (85.7 percent of respondents). Chinese was the next most frequently cited (21.4 percent). Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, and German were each cited by just one respondent (7.1 percent each).

- When asked how many unique LEP individuals they encounter during a typical week, respondents were most likely to say, “Less than 5” or “5 to 10” (35.7 percent each). Fourteen and three tenths’ percent said they never encounter LEP individuals, while the same percentage of respondents said they encounter “More than 10”.

- None of the respondents indicated having frequent issues or problems communicating with LEP individuals. Fifty-seven and one tenths (57.1) percent said they had occasional issues, while the rest indicated they had no issues (42.9 percent).

- When asked how their personal language capabilities impact their ability to interact with YARTS riders, 26.6 percent indicated they improved their ability to communicate, 64.3 percent said they had no impact, and 7.1 percent said they hinder their ability to communicate.

- Fifty (50) percent of the respondents indicated that a translated service brochure or translated materials online would be beneficial in communicating with LEP individuals, while 42.9 percent said they would like on-board notices in other languages. Twenty-one and four tenths’ percent (21.4) said that cards with common phrases with translations into multiple languages would be helpful. Seven and one tenths (7.1) percent said, ‘treating people like humans’, live translation services through dispatch, or utilizing Google Translate would be of most benefit to riders who do not speak English. (It should be noted that the YARTS website includes a Google Translate widget which translates online text into 132 languages, though linked documents and websites are not translated.)

- The most common information requested by LEP riders is basic directions or instructions (71.4

percent). How to use YARTS (28.6 percent) and how to pay for YARTS (14.3 percent) were other common information needs.

Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in need of assistance are directed to the YARTS help line. Phone inquiries are logged by YARTS' contracted service provider, Transdev North America. During the period of October 29, 2025, through November 10, 2025, dispatch staff conducted a language assistance survey by logging calls received on the help line. During this survey period, all callers communicated in English, and no callers were identified as having Limited English Proficiency. Based on this survey and annual customer service records, YARTS has historically received little to no requests for language assistance. Translation and interpretation services are available upon request when needed. YARTS will continue to monitor customer interactions and language assistance needs on an ongoing basis to evaluate whether additional language services or outreach efforts may be necessary.

3. **The nature and importance of programs, activities or services provided by YARTS to the LEP population.**

YARTS provides transit service to the Yosemite region for park visitors and employees. Recreational trips on YARTS make up a significant portion of the YARTS ridership. Most employees (non-LEP) live near YNP in El Portal and Midpines. YARTS also carries a small number of riders making trips to Merced for shopping, academics (at Merced College or at U.C. Merced), recreational activities, medical appointments, and transportation connection purposes.

The largest LEP service area populations exist in Fresno and Merced, where 148,000 and 32,139 persons speak Spanish, respectively, and 27,943 and 3,214 persons speak Asian and Pacific Island languages. YARTS could provide these LEP populations with recreational transit trips to Yosemite National Park.

4. **The resources available to YARTS and overall cost to provide LEP assistance.**

Spanish-translated documents relating to fares, important meetings, and transit rules have been posted on all buses, at the Transpo Center, the YARTS website and social media. Whenever there are important changes or meetings, staff provide translated notices to reach out to LEP individuals. It is expected that YARTS will interact with LEP individuals at community events, workshops, public hearings and at the downtown Merced Transpo Center. YARTS has a helpline that has Spanish-speaking customer service staff. YARTS' service provider, Transdev, receives public inquiries, and assists LEP callers in Spanish, as needed. Some of the YARTS drivers (4 out of 14) are Spanish speaking. On an as-needed basis, YARTS provides Spanish interpretation and translation of notices and meeting materials and have Spanish-speaking staff on-hand at public meetings. YARTS also utilizes Language Line solutions to provide on-demand over-the-phone telephone interpreting which permits the oral transmission of a message from one language to another. Language Line Service Interpreters listen to the customer with limited English proficiency, analyze the message and convey its original meaning to the YARTS staff member.

YARTS receives substantial ridership from foreign visitors, who may or may not have difficulties with English. Given the many different countries of origin, having available Google Translate on the YARTS website helps YARTS to reasonably accommodate translations in various languages.

SAFE HARBOR

Safe Harbor Analysis																	
			Highway 140					Highway 41			Highway 120/395			Highway 120 North btwn YNP and Sonora			
	Total YARTS Service Area	Yosemite Valley	Merced	Catheys Valley	Mariposa	Midpines	El Portal	Fresno	Oakhurst	Fish Camp	Lee Living	June Lake	Mammoth Lakes	Buck Meadows	Groveland	Jamestown	Sonora
Spanish:	183752	612	32,139	113	40	0	0	148000	825	0	0	18	1,653	0	7	226	119
Speak English less than "very well"	64256	327	11,231	0	17	0	0	51733	252	0	0	18	603	0	4	49	22
Other Indo-European languages:	24284	25	2,213	7	2	0	0	21924	12	0	0	0	86	0	11	0	4
Speak English less than "very well"	9421	13	282	0	2	0	0	9056	12	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0
Korean:	1179	11	160	0	19	0	0	989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speak English less than "very well"	578	0	33	0	0	0	0	545	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	3317	0	425	0	0	0	0	2888	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Speak English less than "very well"	1862	0	288	0	0	0	0	1574	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnamese:	2018	0	117	0	0	0	0	1806	0	0	0	0	76	0	0	0	19
Speak English less than "very well"	1127	0	69	0	0	0	0	1039	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	5594	31	626	0	0	7	0	4844	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	25
Speak English less than "very well"	1586	5	188	0	0	7	0	1308	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	17
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	31250	7	3,214	0	17	0	0	27943	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
Speak English less than "very well"	13581	0	1,004	0	0	0	0	12577	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other and unspecified languages:	1627	35	39	0	0	0	0	1516	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0
Speak English less than "very well"	592	35	20	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 - 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, C16001 Language Spoken at Home (Population 5 years and over).

Based off the four-factor analysis, it has been determined that Spanish is the only language that must be translated. The only two language groups besides English and Spanish that exceed the threshold of 1,000 LEP individuals are Indo-European and Asian and Pacific Island. However, specific languages, such as Chinese, Korean, Tagalog or Vietnamese are aggregated into these larger language group categories, and no individual language group within these categories has been identified as exceeding the Safe Harbor threshold for translation services. Additionally, based on call logs, and driver survey data, Chinese, Vietnamese, or Tagalog speaking persons do not appear to come into regular contact with YARTS in a manner that would prompt the need to provide vital documents in those languages. The LEP passengers, who have limited English proficiency, depending on the circumstances, will either be provided an interpreter as requested or can use YARTS' on-demand interpretive services through Language Line.

SAFE HARBOR PROVISION

The Federal Transit Authority Circular 4702.1B states:

"DOT has adopted DOJ's Safe Harbor Provision, which outlines circumstances that can provide a "safe harbor" for recipients regarding translation of written materials for LEP populations. The Safe Harbor Provision stipulates that, if a recipient provides written translation of vital documents for each eligible LEP language group that constitutes five percent (5%) or 1,000 persons, whichever is less, of the total population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected or encountered, then such action will be considered strong evidence of compliance with the recipient's written translation obligations. Translation of non-vital documents, if needed, can be provided orally. If there are fewer than 50 persons in a language group that reaches the five percent (5%) trigger, the recipient is not required to translate vital written materials but should provide written notice in the primary language of the LEP language group of the right to receive competent

oral interpretation of those written materials, free of cost.

These safe harbor provisions apply to the translation of written documents only. They do not affect the requirement to provide meaningful access to LEP individuals through competent oral interpreters where oral language services are needed and are reasonable. A recipient may determine, based on the Four Factor Analysis, that even though a language group meets the threshold specified by the Safe Harbor Provision, written translation may not be an effective means to provide language assistance measures. For example, a recipient may determine that a large number of persons in that language group have low literacy skills in their native language and therefore require oral interpretation. In such cases, background documentation regarding the determination shall be provided to FTA in the Title VI Program."

Language Assistance

Our agency provides interpreters for anyone who requests them, at no cost. Notices are posted on our buses to inform passengers that interpreters may be requested. For special outreach or public meetings, interpreters may also be requested.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan Outline

How YARTS and staff may identify an LEP person who needs language assistance:

1. Examine records to see if requests for language assistance have been received in the past, either at meetings or over the phone, in order to determine whether language assistance might be needed at future events or meetings. No requests for translation services have been received since 2020, as of October 2026.

2. Have a staff person greet participants as they arrive at YARTS sponsored events. By informally engaging participants in conversation, it is possible to gauge each attendee's ability to speak and understand English.

3. Vehicle operators and other front-line staff, like dispatchers and customer service representatives, will be surveyed on their experience concerning any contacts with LEP persons.

4. YARTS staff ride routes and engage with passengers, which helps to identify future needs for LEP persons, and helps to get feedback to improve our efforts.

Language Assistance Measures

There are numerous language assistance measures available to LEP persons, including both oral and written language services. There are also various ways in which YARTS staff responds to LEP persons, whether in person, by telephone, or in writing.

1. YARTS will continue to provide vital information to LEP groups on YARTS programs and services at education and outreach events.

2. Network with local human service organizations that provide services to LEP individuals and seek opportunities to provide information on YARTS programs and services.

3. Placement of statements in notices and publications that interpreter services are available for these meetings, with three-day advance notice.

4. Survey bus drivers and other front-line staff, like dispatchers and customer service representatives on their experience concerning any contacts with LEP persons.

5. Post the YARTS Title VI Program, inclusive of the Policy, LEP Plan, and PPP plan, on the agency website, www.yarts.com.

6. The YARTS website has Google Translate for LEP riders.

7. All postings and/or newspaper ads regarding meetings, changes, or any important information are always translated, as needed.

8. When an interpreter is needed, for a language other than Spanish, in-person or on the telephone, staff will attempt to access language assistance services from a professional translation service, which usually is a private consultant or qualified community volunteers.

9. YARTS will continue to utilize Language Line for on-demand interpretive services for persons with limited English proficiency.

Staff Training

The following training is provided to YARTS staff:

1. Information on the YARTS Title VI Procedures and LEP responsibilities

2. Description of language assistance services offered to the public

3. Documentation of language assistance requests

4. How to handle a potential Title VI / LEP complaint

Outreach Techniques

When staff prepare a document or schedules a meeting, for which the target audience is expected to include LEP individuals, then documents, meeting notices, flyers, and agendas will be printed in an alternative language based on the known LEP population. Interpreters will be available as needed.

Monitoring and Updating the LEP Plan

YARTS will update the LEP every three years as required by U.S. DOT or when it is clear that higher concentrations of LEP individuals are present in the YARTS service area. Updates will include the following:

- The number of documented LEP person contacts encountered
- How the needs of LEP persons have been addressed
- Determination of the current LEP population in the service area
- Determination as to whether the need for translation services haschanged
- Determine whether local language assistance programs have been effectiveand sufficient to meet the need
- Determine whether YARTS's financial resources are sufficient to fund language assistance resources needed
- Determine whether YARTS has fully complied with the goals of this LEP Plan
- Determine whether complaints have been received concerning YARTS's failure to meet the needs of LEP individuals.

Dissemination of the LEP Plan

A link to the YARTS LEP Plan and the Title VI Procedures is included on the YARTS website at www.yarts.com.

Any person or agency with internet access will be able to access and download the plan from the YARTS website. Alternatively, any person or agency may request a copy of the plan via telephone, fax, mail, or in person and shall be provided with a copy of the plan at no cost. LEP individuals may request copies of the translated plan which YARTS will provide.

Questions or comments regarding the LEP Plan may be submitted to:

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3111
(209) 723-0322 (fax)

IV. Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Introduction

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) provides intercity transit service for the Counties of Merced, Mariposa, Mono, Tuolumne, Madera and the City of Fresno.

YARTS transportation service planning functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Acquiring, developing and providing for the provision of transit services in a manner that will meet the standards for maximizing public use in the most equitable, expedient, and convenient manner that is compatible with the public health, safety and well-being;
- Implementing specific transit programs selected for implementation by the YARTS Board.
- Recording and computing transit service use and reporting the same as required by local, state, and federal laws.
- Ensuring thorough cooperation, coordination, and the pooling of common resources, maximum efficiency, and economy in governmental operations with respect to providing transit services.
- Inventorying, classifying, and identifying problems that may be solved with respect to transit services, through a comprehensive plan involving multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

Purpose of the Public Participation Plan

YARTS has developed this Public Participation Plan (PPP) as a guide to meeting the requirements for public participation. This procedural document is intended to give the YARTS Board, member agencies, staff, and stakeholders guidance for public involvement and interagency consultation in the public transportation planning process. It contains procedures and strategies YARTS will use to seek and foster greater public involvement regarding public transit service. YARTS' documented participation plan defines a process for providing reasonable opportunities to be involved in any changes related to public transit service. YARTS also utilizes the PPP of the Merced County Association of Governments.

Public Participation Plan Development

While updating the Public Participation Plan in compliance with Federal legislation, YARTS embarked upon an evaluation of our current public participation practices by requesting input and consultation on how to best engage the public and interested parties in our transportation planning process. YARTS also performs public outreach through quarterly meetings of the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) and the YARTS Board, with the agendas posted on the website.

Any revisions or updates to the Public Participation Plan include a 45-day public review period and public hearing. YARTS staff will conduct a periodic review of the effectiveness of the Public Involvement Process to determine if current strategies are effective.

Outreach Procedures

In its public participation process, YARTS will utilize the following procedures:

1. Provide adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment on key decision points, including but not limited to, a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed implementation or changes to:

    - Annual Unmet Transit Needs process. YARTS receives Local Transportation Fund (LTF) monies from the Counties of Merced, Mariposa and Mono. YARTS staff participate in the Unmet Transit Needs process of these member counties.
    - Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) update; the most recent SRTP was adopted by the YARTS Governing Board in March 2026.
    - Fare Increases.
    - Service Reduction.

2. Provide timely notice and reasonable access to information about YARTS' issues and processes.

3. Employ visualization techniques to describe any changes to service, as appropriate.

4. Make public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the internet.

5. Hold any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.

6. Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input received during the implementation or changes to SRTP, service changes, or fare increase.

7. Consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households.

8. Provide an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final SRTP change differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by YARTS and raises new material issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;

9. Periodically review the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in this PPP to ensure a full and open participation process.

10. Update the PPP document every three years as a requirement component of Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients (FTA Circular (FTA C 4702.1B).

Public Participation Policies

The following requirements will apply as deemed appropriate by the YARTS management staff and the YARTS Board:

1. No person shall be denied participation in the public participation process.

2. As required, public notice will be placed in the legal advertising sections of at least one newspaper of general circulation within the affected community.

3. YARTS shall provide appropriate assistance, auxiliary aids, a translator/interpreter for non-English-speaking individuals and/or services when necessary if requested three working days in advance of the meeting, to afford individuals an equal opportunity to participate. If YARTS is unable to accommodate a request for a public hearing, then the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodation is available.

4. YARTS meeting agendas and minutes are currently made available upon written request via regular mail, and they are added regularly to the YARTS internet website http://www.yarts.com. Agendas are also posted at meeting locations at least 72 hours before regular meetings of advisory or standing committees or 24 hours before special meetings.

   Note: The Brown Act (CA Government Code 54954.1) also states that any person may request a copy of the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet, of any meeting of a legislative body be mailed to that person. That request is valid for the calendar year in which it is filed and must be renewed following January 1 of each year. The legislative body may establish a fee for mailing the agenda or agenda packet, said fee shall not exceed the cost of providing the service.

5. Public hearings will be held prior to a decision point as a formal means to gather citizen comments and positions from all interested parties for public record and input into the decision-making process. YARTS public outreach is required in many facets of state or federal transportation programs or planning documents. Notices for public hearings will be published in a general circulation newspaper. YARTS will accept comments from the public during the period between the notice and hearing date. These comments will be considered part of the public record. Also, during this period, YARTS will accept questions and provide clarification on issues raised by the public.

6. YARTS' media tools include the YARTS website, social media platforms, newspapers, television and radio broadcasts, and appropriate business or government publications and contacts serving the YARTS service area.

7. If major amendments are made to any plans or programs during the review and comment period, the plan(s) will be made available for an additional 30 day (as appropriate) public review and comment period prior to final adoption. Such changes may also be advertised via news release to all media outlets, on community flyers and on the YARTS website as deemed necessary in the specific project area prior to final adoption.

8. For high-profile projects/plans, YARTS calls upon the Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) to review the plan or project prior to Board consideration.

Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

The Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950–54963) governs the meetings and actions of governing boards of local public agencies and their created bodies. Requirements of the Brown Act also apply to any committee or other subsidiary body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decision-making or advisory, that is created by such a governing board. The Brown Act establishes minimum standards for open meetings related to public access, meeting locations, agenda posting, distribution of agenda materials, public access to meeting materials, and opportunities for public participation, including teleconferenced meetings conducted in accordance with applicable Brown Act requirements.
Public agencies may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure the public's right to address the agency, including regulations that limit the total amount of time allocated for public testimony. The YARTS Governing Board and its committees adhere to these requirements through proper noticing, public access, and providing members of the public with the opportunity to address the Board and committees.

Due to time constraints, comments by members of the public may be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker; however, YARTS encourages interested individuals to provide written copies of presentations to the Board and committees, particularly if the statement is too lengthy to be presented in its entirety.
Members of the public are provided with the opportunity to address the Board or committee on agenda items before or during consideration of those items, and on matters within the jurisdiction of YARTS, consistent with the Brown Act. Individuals unable to attend meetings may submit concerns, comments, and ideas in writing to staff in advance of the relevant meeting or prior to the close of public comment. Written comments received in accordance with established procedures will be provided to the respective Board or Committee and made part of the public record, as appropriate.

Federal Title VI

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) requires that transportation planning and programming be conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Title VI was further clarified and strengthened by the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, which broadened the scope of coverage to all programs and activities of federal aid recipients. The fundamental principles of Environmental Justice include:

- Avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.
- Ensuring full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- Preventing the denial, reduction, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.
- Conducting a Title VI equity analysis if a new facility has been constructed. As there has been no new facility construction for YARTS, no equity analysis has been performed

Presidential Executive Orders (EO)

An Executive Order is a directive issued by the President of the United States to federal agencies. As a recipient of federal financial assistance, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

(YARTS) ensures compliance with applicable Executive Orders related to civil rights, environmental justice, and access to services

Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

In February 1994, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which directs federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions. This Order requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations in order to achieve environmental justice.

YARTS incorporates environmental justice principles into its planning, service delivery, and public outreach efforts to help ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income level

Executive Order 13166: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Executive Order 13166 states that persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) should have meaningful access to federally conducted and federally funded programs and activities. It requires federal agencies and recipients of federal funding to identify the need for language assistance services and develop and implement systems to provide those services so all persons can have meaningful access to programs and services.

YARTS conducts periodic assessments of language needs and maintains a Language Assistance Plan to provide translation and interpretation services to LEP populations within its service area.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires accessibility and nondiscrimination for persons with disabilities and encourages involvement of the community, particularly persons with disabilities, in the development and improvement of services. All events held for programs or projects receiving federal aid and open to the public must be made accessible to everyone, including persons with disabilities.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) complies with the ADA by providing accessible public meeting formats and public hearings, and by conducting outreach through maintaining extensive mailing and email lists, developing community contacts, and using other means of notification to encourage participation in the planning process. In addition, all YARTS buses are ADA-accessible.

Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP)

The Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) reviews the existing public transit services within the YARTS service area, lays out a 5-year vision (or a longer term) for an enhanced transit network and proposes a stepwise approach to pursing that vision over the next five years or longer. The adopted SRTP recommends a preferred strategy for implementation of public transit service that includes transit performance standards and financial revenues.

Other Requirements

A number of other federal and state laws call on YARTS to involve and notify the public in its decisions. YARTS complies with all other public notification requirements of the California Public Records Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, as well as other applicable state and federal laws.

Public Participation Outreach Strategies

- Participate in or speak at meetings of existing agencies/community groups.
- Co-host workshops with community groups, business associations, etc.
- Partner with community-based organizations in low-income and minority communities for targeted outreach, as appropriate.

Public Outreach Formats

YARTS utilizes a variety of public participation formats to encourage meaningful engagement from interested parties. These formats include both traditional and emerging methods identified during the development of the Public Participation Plan. YARTS staff will determine the most appropriate outreach strategies for each plan, program, or service on a case-by-case basis and may utilize one or more of the following:

- Open houses
- Facilitated discussions (in-person and virtual)
- Question-and-answer sessions with planners, staff, and policy board members
- Customized presentations (in-person and virtual)
- Information booths at community events and public gathering places
- Provide videoconferencing or virtual meeting options
- Public hearings
- Stakeholder meetings

Public Outreach Techniques – Toolbox

YARTS staff uses several techniques to provide interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the planning process. Staff understands that, prior to involvement in YARTS' planning activities, members of the public must understand what YARTS' mission is, and what issues are under consideration.

<u>Visualization Tools</u>

- Maps
- Charts, illustrations, and photographs
- Table-top displays and models
- Social media content and graphics
- Presentation materials, including PowerPoint slides

- Videos

Polls and Surveys

- Interviews at locations where people congregate, such as transit hubs
- Printed surveys distributed at meetings, transit hubs, on transit vehicles, and other public locations
- Web-based surveys, such as Typeform or similar electronic survey tools

Focus Groups

YARTS may convene focus groups to gather detailed input on specific issues. Participants may be recruited through recommendations from key stakeholders, community organizations, advocacy groups, and other interested parties.

Printed Materials

- User-friendly documents (including use of executive summaries, and simplified language)
- Maps, charts, photographs, graphics, and other visual means of displaying information

Targeted Notices/Mailings/Flyers

- Work with community-based organizations to hand deliver flyers
- Mail/email to targeted database lists
- Distribute flyers to key community organizations
- Place notices on board transit vehicles and transit hubs

Utilize local media

- News releases and press advisories
- Submit human interest stories that center around YARTSprojects
- Invite reporters to news briefings, public hearings
- Opinion pieces/commentaries
- Purchase display ads on monitors, billboards and radio spots
- Public service announcements
- Place speakers on radio/tv talk shows

Electronic Access

- ADA-accessible website with updated content and simplified layouts
- Electronic duplication of open house/workshop materials
- Google interpreting program for website

- Access to maps, charts, plans
- Post event/meeting information on online news sites, calendars, community & discussion websites
- Text messaging
- Web forums such as Reddit
- Purchase ads on music streaming services such as Spotify

Public Notification

- E-mail
- Notice widely disseminated through new partnerships with community-based and interest organizations
- Newsletters
- Printed materials
- Electronic access to information
- Local Media
- Notices placed on board transit vehicles and at transit hub

Reporting Techniques – Impact of Public Comments

YARTS is committed to demonstrating how public input influences planning and decision-making. To promote transparency and accountability, YARTS may use the following reporting techniques to communicate the impact of public comments:

- Summarize key themes and concerns from public comments in staff reports and present them to the YARTS Advisory Committee (AAC) and Board of Directors
- Provide direct mail and/or email summaries of public comments received at meetings, hearings, and through surveys
- Distribute final report outcomes and decisions to stakeholders through direct mail and/or email
- Publish newsletter articles highlighting public participation efforts and outcomes
- Regularly update website content to reflect current planning activities, public input opportunities, and final decisions

Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities – Involvement Techniques

YARTS recognizes the importance of proactively engaging minority, low-income, limited English proficient (LEP), and traditionally underserved populations to ensure equitable participation in transportation planning and decision-making. To improve outreach to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, YARTS may use the following techniques:

- Provide regular updates and reports to the YARTS Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Distribute flyers and notices onboard transit vehicles and at transit hubs
- Conduct public outreach during community events, fairs, and other public gatherings
- Translate outreach materials into languages spoken by LEP populations within the service area
- Provide translators and interpretation services at public meetings upon request

- Include information in meeting notices on how to request language assistance or accommodations
- Utilize visualization techniques, including maps, graphics, and illustrations, to communicate trends, alternatives, and proposed changes
- Use community events and community-based organizations to announce participation opportunities

IV. Program-Specific Requirements for Transit

There are a few key transportation initiatives specifically identified under federal and state requirements as requiring early and continuing opportunities for public participation, including the implementation or modification of the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP), service reductions, fare increases, and unmet transit needs hearings for member counties.

These items are presented to the YARTS Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) and the YARTS Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board for review, discussion, and possible action. Opportunities for public comments are provided during these quarterly meetings, and all public comments received are considered as part of the decision-making process.

YARTS AAC and Board

Authority Advisory Committee (AAC)

The YARTS Authority Advisory Committee (AAC) is comprised of 17 members: 12 members nominated by the YARTS Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board of Directors (with each member county nominating two members), two members nominated by the National Park Service (Yosemite National Park), two members nominated by the YARTS Executive Director, and one member nominated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The YARTS AAC currently has four (4) vacancies.

Per the AAC Bylaws, membership is generally drawn from the fields of transportation, visitor bureaus, economic development, tourism-related businesses, and other organizations that provide perspective and expertise on matters considered by the AAC.

YARTS is committed to encouraging broad and inclusive participation in its advisory and planning processes. As part of its Title VI efforts, YARTS works to engage minority, low-income, and underserved populations through outreach and professional relationships with community-based organizations and advocacy groups, including organizations such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other community partners.

AAC Racial Breakdown

White	Black	Latino	Asian	Native American
84%	0%	16%	0%	0%

Joint Powers Authority Board (JPA)

In 2025, the YARTS Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board expanded to include six member agencies with the addition of the City of Fresno. The member agencies now include Merced County, Mariposa County, Tuolumne County, Madera County, Mono County, and the City of Fresno.
The YARTS JPA Board is comprised of twelve (12) elected officials, with each member agency represented by two appointed members. The YARTS JPA Board serves as the governing body for the transit system and is responsible for policy, operational, financial, and procedural decisions related to YARTS services.

JPA Racial Breakdown

White	Black	Latino	Asian	Native American
100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP)

The Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) evaluates existing YARTS transit services, establishes a five-year vision (or longer-term planning horizon) for an enhanced transit system, and identifies a phased strategy for implementing that vision over time. The adopted SRTP outlines the preferred approach for future transit service implementation and includes transit performance standards, service recommendations, capital improvement needs, and financial revenue projections. The most recent YARTS SRTP was adopted by the Governing Board in March of 2026 and serves as the primary planning document for evaluating service performance, identifying future service opportunities, and guiding system improvements.

YARTS Procedures for Public Comments on Proposed Fare Increase

Public Participation Activities Related to Fare Changes

During the current reporting period, YARTS did not implement any fare increases requiring public outreach under this policy. The most recent fare actions approved by the YARTS JPA Board are summarized below for historical reference:

In October of 2018 the YARTS JPA Board approved a 20% fare increase to be effective in 2019. In 2020, the YARTS JPA Board approved another 15% increase in fares.

In February of 2022 the YARTS JPA Board approved a fare increase of 15% to be effective May 1, 2022.

In April of 2023 THE YARTS JPA Board approved fare adjustments to provide consistent 50% discounts for reduced fares on each route. Simplifying this standard and making it equitable across all routes simplifies the rate structure for riders and stakeholders.

Per FTA Circular Guidance, YARTS must have a policy that addresses public outreach on a transit “Fare Increase.”

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) shall implement the procedures contained herein prior to raising fares.

DEFINITION: A fare increase is defined as an increase in the basic fare structure.

Public Participation Process:
Upon determination of applicability of this procedure, the process for soliciting and considering public comment before raising fares is as follows:

1. YARTS riders will be notified of a proposed fare increase not less than thirty (30) days before the YARTS Board takes action of the proposed fare change. Such notification will take place by display of information, in English and in Spanish, at the Merced Transpo Center and on each bus on a posting of at least 8½” x 11”. The posting will include the proposed change, the proposed date of the change, and will provide passengers with the opportunity to provide written comments and/or to request a public hearing. The address to which written comment can be sent will be included in the notice. The deadline for written comments or requests for public hearing will be included in the posting. Finally, the posting will include the date at which the YARTS Board will consider the proposed fare increase, inviting the public to attend.

2. A public notice will be placed in the local newspapers, including the Spanish newspaper, not less than thirty (30) days before such changes are scheduled to be discussed by the YARTS Board. Such notification will include the proposed change, the proposed date of the change, and will provide the public with the opportunity to comment and/or to request a public hearing. The public notice will include the address at which written comment or request for public hearing will be received, and a deadline for receipt of such written request. In addition, the public will be invited to attend the YARTS Board meeting when the proposed fare increase is considered.

3. A public notice will also be posted on the YARTS website, which has Google translation capabilities.

4. Upon completion of the public comment period, YARTS staff will:

   a. Determine whether a request for a public hearing has been made; and

   b. Compile all correspondence received regarding the proposed fare increase.

   c. If a written request for public hearing is received, staff will schedule and hold a public hearing at the YARTS Board quarterly meeting. Copies of any written comments regarding the fare increase will be prepared for presentation to the YARTS Board at the date and time stated in public notices as described above, along with specific information regarding the proposed fare increase. If no request for public hearing has been received, the YARTS Board will consider the fare increase for action at its scheduled quarterly meeting.

5. The YARTS Board will review and consider written comment regarding the proposed fare increase at the time and place published in the public information notices distributed as outlined in this procedure. The YARTS Board will also offer the opportunity for public comment at the place in the agenda where the proposed transit fare increase is discussed.

6. Upon receipt of all public comment and all written comment, the YARTS Board will be asked to approve or reject the proposed fare increase. All public comment, whether in writing or verbal, shall be considered by the YARTS Board in their decision

Annual Unmet Transit Needs

YARTS receives Local Transportation Fund (LTF) revenues from the Counties of Merced, Mariposa, and Mono to support transit operations and rider access programs. As part of the annual transportation planning process, YARTS staff participates in the Unmet Transit Needs hearings and related public outreach processes conducted by these member counties. Participation in the Unmet Transit Needs process provides an opportunity for residents, stakeholders, and community organizations to identify transit service gaps, recommend improvements, and communicate mobility needs. Input received through this process is considered in YARTS service planning and future transit improvements.

Appendix A

Title VI Program Checklist

APPEL DIXA

TITLI. \"I **PR.OGR.UI CIIBCKLIST**

Every three years, on a date deternrined by Ff A, each recipient is reqcired to submit the following information to the Federal Transit Administration(FTA) as part of tih.e:i:r Tltle **VI** Program. Smbrecipients shall suibmit the m.formation below to their primary recipient (the entity from whom the subrecipient rooewes ftmds directly), on a schedule to be deterrum.ed by the primary recipient.

Gene1·.al Regl!lir1·ements (Chapter IID

All roc.ipier:its must :mbmit.

r;;/" Title VI Notice to the Public, including a lis.t of locations where the notice is posted
r:f Title VI Complaint Procedures (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file a Title VI iliscrirum.ation complaint)
rJ Title VI Complaint form
a" List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints Mid lawsuits
iSt1 P1ilblic Participation Plan, including information about outreach methods to engage minority and limited English proficient populations (LEP) as well as a smnmary **of** outreach efforts made sinoe the last Title VI Program submission
rt Language Assistanoe Plan for providing language assistance to persons with luni:ted English proficiency (LEP), based on the DOT LEP Gnidanoe
(1 A table depicting the membership of non-elected COlll!lllittees and oouncils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by raoe, and a description **of** the process the agency uses to enoourage the participation of minorities on such oonuwttees
IA- ☐ Prima1y recipients shaJl indiUde a description of bow the agency monitors its sUJbreciipiients for compliance with **T**iitle VL and **a** schednle of subrecipient Title VI Program submissions
r/ A Title VI eqnity analysis if the recipient has constrncted a facility, such as **a** vehide storage faciiliity, maintenanoe faciility, operation center, etc.
Q" A copy of board meeting minutes, resollllltion, or other appropriate documentation showing the boaid of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions reviewed and approved the Title VI Progran1. For State DOrs, the appropriate governing entity is the State's Secret,ny of Transportation or equiivalent. The approval must occur prior to submission to FIA.
rt Adilitional information a.s speciified in chapters IV, V, and VI, depending on whether the recipient is a transit provider, a State, or a planning entiity (see below)

&eqa**[illegible]**l·emenfs of Tr.ansit ProYiders (Chapter IV)

AU Fixed Rvute Tran:sitProvider.s must submit:

r;;/" All requirements set out in Chapter III (General Reqnirem.ents)
{i Service standards

- o Vehicle lood for each mode
- o Vehicle headv,my for each mode
- o On time pecformarnce for each mode
- o ervioe availability for each mode

Q-' Service policies

- o Transit Amenities for each mode
- o Vehicle Assignment for each mode

Transit ProvMers that opaate 50 or more fixed route vehtc-les in peak sen,ice and are located ir2 an Urbar2ized Area (UZA) of 200,000 or more people must st1bmit.:

- ☐ Demographic and service profile maps and charts
- ☐ Demographic ri.ders.hlp and travel patterns, coUected by sun,eys
- ☐ Results oftihei:r monitoring program and re.port, including evidence that the board or other governing eohty or official(s) considered, was aware of the results, and approved the analysis

NIA

- ☐ A descriph.on of the public engagement process for setting the«major service change policy/' disparate unpact policy, and disproportionate burden policy
- ☐ Results of service and/or fare equity analyses oondncted since the fast Ti:tle VI Prngnw:i submission, including evidence bhat the board or other governing eohty or official(s) considered, was aware of, and approved the re.suits of the analysis

&eql!lirn□m enf 5 of State-5(Cb apter V)

States must submit:

- ☐ All requirements s.et out in Chapter Ill (General Requirements.)
- ☐ The requirements set out in Chapter IV (Trarosit Provider) if the State is a provider of fixed ronte pnblic transportation
- ☐ Demographic profile oftbe State

NJA

- ☐ Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects
- ☐ Analysis of the State's transportation system investments that ide:utifie.s and addresses any disparat.e unpacts
- ☐ A description of the Statewtde plauwng prooe.ss **that** tdentifies bhe transportatton needs of minortty populations
- ☐ Description of the pmcedures the agency uses to ernm.re nondiscriminatmy pass-through ofFTA financial assistance
- ☐ Description ofthe pmcedw-es the agency uses to provide assistanoe to potential s.ubrecipi.ents, including efforts to assist appltcants that **would** serve predominantly minority populations

&eql!lir1·emetnfl SofJ.JPOs (Chapter VII

MetropoWan Planning Org<miwtions and other planning entities mu.st s11bmit.:

- ☐ All requirements set out in Chapter Ill (General Requirem.ents)

- ❒ The requirements set out in Chapter IV (Transit Provider) if the MPO is a provider of fixed route public transportation

N/A

- ❒ Demographic profile of the metropolitan area
- ❒ A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process
- ❒ Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects
- ❒ Analysis of the MPO's transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts
- ❒ Description of the procedures the agency uses to ensure nondiscriminatory pass-through of FTA financial assistance (if requested)
- ❒ Description of the procedures the agency uses to provide assistance to potential subrecipients in a nondiscriminatory manner (if requested)

Appendix B

Title VI Notice to the Public

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADA Title II and Civil Rights Title VI

It is the policy of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) to ensure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or any other protected class, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any YARTS program, service, or activity.

YARTS is committed to complying with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and all related federal and state nondiscrimination requirements. YARTS also requires its contractors and subrecipients to comply with these laws and policies.

Questions, concerns, complaints, requests for reasonable accommodations, language assistance, or other inquiries regarding the accessibility of YARTS services, facilities, or programs may be directed to:

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Phone: (209) 723-3111
Fax: (209) 723-0322

AVISO PÚBLICO
ADA Título II y Derechos Civiles Título VI

Es la política del Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) garantiza que ninguna persona, por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, discapacidad o cualquier otra clase protegida, sea excluida de participar, se le nieguen los beneficios o sea objeto de discriminación bajo cualquier programa, servicio o actividad de YARTS.

YARTS está comprometido a cumplir con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley para estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA) de 1990, y todos los requisitos federales y estatales relacionados con la no discriminación. YARTS también exige que sus contratistas y subreceptores cumplan con estas leyes y políticas.

Las preguntas, dudas, quejas, solicitudes de ajustes razonables, asistencia de idiomas u otras consultas relacionadas con la accesibilidad de los servicios, instalaciones o programas de YARTS pueden dirigirse a:

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
Attn: Director de Tránsito
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
Teléfono: (209) 723-3111
Fax: (209) 723-0322

Posting Locations of the Title VI Notice to the Public:

	Location	Address
1	YARTS administration office (reception desk, large conference/meeting room)	357 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340
2	Merced Transportation Center	710 W. 16th Street, Merced, CA 95341
3	YARTS Website	yarts.com
4	On-board YARTS buses	NA

Appendix C

Title VI Complaint Procedures

Title VI Complaint Procedures: English

This document outlines the Title VI complaint procedures related to providing programs, services, and benefits. It does not deny the complainant the right to file formal complaints with the California Department of Transportation, the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation of any kind that is prohibited by law.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

1. Title VI complaint forms may be downloaded from www.yarts.com. The complainant may also submit a written statement that contains all of the following information:

    a. Name, address, and telephone number of the complainant.
    b. The basis of the complaint (race, color, national origin).
    c. The date or dates on which the alleged discriminatory event or events occurred.
    d. The nature of the incident that led the complainant to feel discrimination was a factor.
    e. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who may have knowledge of the event.
    f. Other agencies or courts where complaints may have been filed and a contact name.

2. Complainant's signature and date. If the complainant is unable to write a complaint, YARTS staff will assist the complainant, if requested by complainant.

3. Complainants have the right to complain directly to the appropriate federal agency. Complaints must be filed within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the last alleged incident.

4. YARTS will begin an investigation within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of a complaint.

5. YARTS will contact the complainant in writing no later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of complaint for additional information, if needed. If the complainant fails to provide the requested information in a timely basis, YARTS may administratively close the complaint.

6. YARTS will complete the investigation within ninety (90) days of receipt of the complaint. If additional time is need for investigation, complainant will be contacted. A written investigation report will be prepared by the investigator. This report shall include a summary description of the incident, findings and recommended corrective action.

7. A closing letter will be provided to the complainant and the respondent or respondent department. Parties will have five (5) working days from receipt of the closing letter to appeal. If neither party appeals, the complaint will be closed.

8. If required, the investigation report will be forwarded to the appropriate federal agency.

Complaints may be submitted in person, by fax, by email at tickets@yarts.com, online at www.yarts.com, or mail this form to the address below:

Yosemite Area Regional
Transportation System
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3111
(209) 723-0322 (fax)

FTA Office of Civil Rights
Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave.
SE Washington, DC 20590

Title VI Complaint Procedures: Spanish

Procedimiento de Queja

Este documento describe los procedimientos de queja del Título VI relacionados con la prestación de programas, servicios y beneficios. NO niega al demandante el derecho a presentar quejas formales ante el Departamento de Transporte de California, el secretario del Departamento de Transporte de Estados Unidos, la Comisión de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Empleo (EEOC), la administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), la Administración Federal de Transito (FTA), o buscar un abogado privado para denuncias de discriminación, intimidación o represalias de ningún tipo que esté prohibido por la ley.

Titulo VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964 requiere que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos será, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, ser excluida de, ser negado los beneficios de, o ser sujeto a discriminación bajo cualquier programa o actividad que reciba asistencia financiera federa.

Procedimiento de Quejas del Título VI

1. Los formularios de queja del Título VI pueden ser descargados de www.yarts.com o solicitarse a la Administración de Tránsito. Asimismo, el demandante podrá presentar una declaración por escrito que contenga toda la información siguiente:
   a. Nombre, domicilio, y número de teléfono del demandante.
   b. La base de la queja (raza, color, origen nacional)
   c. La fecha o fechas en que se produjo el evento o eventos discriminatorios alegados.
   d. La naturaleza del incidente que llevó al autor a sentir que la discriminación fue un factor.
   e. Nombres, domicilios y números de teléfono de las personas que pueden tener conocimiento del evento.
   f. Otras agencias o corte donde se pudo haber presentado denuncia y un nombre de contacto.
   g. Firma y fecha del demandante.
2. Si el demandante es incapaz de escribir una queja, el personal de YARTS asistirá al demandante, a petición del demandante.
3. Los denunciantes tienen derecho a quejarse directamente a la agencia federal correspondiente. Las quejas deben ser presentadas dentro de los ciento ochenta (180) días calendarios a partir de la última presunto incidente.
4. YARTS comenzara una investigación dentro de los quince (15) días hábiles siguientes de recibir una queja del Demandante.
5. YARTS se pondrá en contacto con el demandante por escrito no más tarde de treinta (30) días hábiles después de recibir la queja para obtener información adicional, si es necesario. Si el demandante no puede proporcionar la información solicitada en forma oportuna, YARTS puede cerrar administrativamente la denuncia.
6. YARTS completará la investigación dentro de los noventa (90) días siguientes a recibir la queja. Si se necesita más tiempo para la investigación, el denunciante será contactado. Un informe de investigación

escrito será preparado por el investigador. Este informe incluirá una descripción resumida de los hechos, las conclusiones y las acciones correctivas recomendadas.

7. Una carta para cerrar la queja será proporcionada al demandante y el demandado o el departamento respondiente. Todos tendrán cinco (5) días hábiles desde el día que la carta es recibida para apelar. Si ninguna apelación es recibida de ambos partes, la queja será cerrada.
8. Si es necesario, el informe de la investigación será remitida a la agencia federal correspondiente.

Las quejas pueden presentarse en persona, por fax, por correo electrónico a tickets@yarts.com, en línea a través de www.yarts.com, o enviando este formulario por correo postal a la dirección que aparece a continuación:

Yosemite Area Regional
Transportation System
Attn: Transit Director
357 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-3111
(209) 723-0322 (fax)

FTA Office of Civil Rights
Attn: Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor-TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave.
SE Washington, DC 20590

Appendix D
Sample Title VI Complaint Forms

Complaint Form: English

Section I:				
Name:				
Address:				
Telephone (Home):			**Telephone (Work):**	
Electronic Mail Address:				
Accessible Format Requirements?	Large Print		**Audio Tape**	
	TDD		**Other**	
Section II:				
Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf?			Yes*	No
*If you answered "yes" to this question, go to Section III.				
If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining:				
Please explain why you have filed for a third party:				
Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved party if you are filing on behalf of a third party.			Yes	No
Section III:				
I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply): [] Race [] Color [] National Origin				
Date of Alleged Discrimination (Month, Day, Year): _____				
Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please use the back of this form.				
Section IV				
Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with this agency?			Yes	No
Section V				
Have you filed this complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency, or with any Federal or State court? [] Yes [ ] No				

If yes, check all that apply: [] Federal Agency: _____ [] Federal Court_____ [] State Agency _____ [ ] State Court_____ [ ] Local Agency _____
Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.
Name:
Title:
Agency:
Address:
Telephone:
Section VI
Name of agency complaint is against:
Contact person:
Title:
Telephone number:
You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint. Signature and date required below _____ _____ Signature Date Complaints may be submitted in person, by fax, by email at tickets@yarts.com, online at www.yarts.com.or mail this form to the address below: **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System** **Attn: Transit Director** **357 West 18th Street** **Merced, CA 95340** **(209) 723-3111** **(209) 723-0322 (fax)** **FTA Office of Civil Rights** **Attn: Title VI Coordinator** **East Building, 5th Floor-TCR** **1200 New Jersey Ave.** **SE Washington, DC 20590**

Complaint Form: Spanish



Sección I:				
Nombre:				
Domicilio:				
Teléfono (Hogar):		**Teléfono (Trabajo):**		
Correo electrónico:				
Requisitos de formato Accesibles:	Letra Grande		**Cinta de Audio**	
	TDD		**Otro**	
Sección II:				
¿Está usted presentando esta queja en su propio nombre?			Sí*	No
* Si usted Contesto "Sí" a esta pregunta, ve a sección III.				
Si no, por favor indique el nombre y la relación con la persona por quien está presentando la queja:				
Explique por qué está presentando la queja en nombre de un tercero:				
Confirme que ha obtenido el permiso de la persona afectada si está presentando la queja en nombre de un tercero.			Sí	No
Sección III:				
Creo que la discriminación que experimenté se debió a (marque lo que corresponda): [] Raza [] Color [] Origen Nacional Fecha presunta de la discriminación (Mes, Día, Año): _____ Favor de explicar lo más claramente posible lo que pasó y por qué cree que fue discriminado. Describa todas las personas involucradas. Incluya el nombre e información de contacto de la persona (s) que le discriminó (si lo sabe), así como los nombres e información de contacto de los testigos. Si se necesita más espacio, utilice el reverso de este formulario.				
Sección IV				
¿Ha presentado anteriormente una queja del Título VI con esta agencia?			Sí	No

Sección V
¿Ha presentado esta queja ante cualquier otro del Estado, Federal o Agencia local o cualquier corte Federal o Estatal?[ ] Sí [ ] No Si respondió "Si", marque todo lo que corresponde: [] Agencia Federal: _____ [] Corte Federal_____ [] Agencia Estatal _____ [ ] Corte Estatal_____ [ ] Agencia Local_____
Por favor, indique el nombre de una persona de contacto en la agencia o corte donde presentó la queja:
Nombre:
Título:
Agencia:
Domicilio:
Teléfono:
Sección VI
¿Nombre de la agencia contra la que presento la queja?:
Persona de Contacto:
Título:
Número de teléfono: Las quejas pueden presentarse en persona, por fax, por correo electrónico a tickets@yarts.com, en línea a través de www.yarts.com, o enviando este formulario por correo postal a la dirección que aparece a continuación: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Attn: Transit Director 357 West 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 (209) 723-3111 (209) 723-0322 (fax) FTA Office of Civil Rights Attn: Title VI Coordinator East Building, 5th Floor-TCR 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE Washington, DC 20590

Appendix E

List of Transit Related Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits

None:

	Date	Summary (include basis of complaint)	Status	Action(s) Taken
Complaints				
1.				
2.				
Investigations				
1.				
2.				
Lawsuits				
1.				
2.				

Appendix F

Service Standards and Policies

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) System-wide Service Standards and Service Policies

YARTS is unique from other traditional municipal transit systems as it includes long distance and multi-county routes, therefore, system-wide service standards will vary from traditional transit systems. YARTS provides alternate transportation into Yosemite National Park (YNP). Many of these standards are included in the YARTS Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) adopted by the YARTS Board in 2026. This SRTP is valid for a period of 5 years, at which time a new plan will be implemented, and the system-wide standards will be revised to the updated SRTP.

System-wide service standards

Vehicle Load for each mode:
Minimum standard load factor:

- Highway 140 (Summer/Fall): 45%
- Highway 140 (Winter/Spring): 35%
- Highway 120 (Summer Seasonal): 40%
- Highway 41 (Summer Seasonal): 40%
- Highway 395 (Summer Seasonal): 35%

The load factor during the peak summer season, particularly on Highway 140, is expected to be significantly higher than average due to increased visitor demand and seasonal travel into Yosemite National Park. Highway 140 remains the highest-ridership corridor and operates at the highest frequency systemwide during peak season.

Vehicle Headway / Service Frequency: The minimum standard is to provide four round trips daily on Highway 140 year-round, and two round trips daily on Highway 120, Highway 41, and Highway 395 during their respective seasonal operating periods. The target objective is to maintain service levels that respond to seasonal travel demand, including up to seven round trips daily on Highway 140 during peak summer months, with systemwide service expansion on all corridors as demand and funding availability warrant.

On-time performance for each mode: The minimum standard is to achieve 90 percent of trips operating no more than five minutes late and zero percent of trips departing early from designated timepoints**.** The target objective is to maintain a high level of schedule reliability by achieving 95 percent of trips operating within the established on-time window, while minimizing delays caused by traffic, weather, or other conditions beyond the control of the service provider.

Service availability for each mode: The minimum standard is to provide connections on two trips inbound to and two trips outbound from Yosemite National Park (YNP) daily to regional and intercity transportation services, including Amtrak, Greyhound, Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA), and local transit providers throughout the communities served by YARTS. This ensures regional mobility and access to connecting transportation networks for residents, employees, and visitors. The target objective is to maintain and expand coordinated connections with Amtrak, Greyhound, ESTA, airports, and local transit providers as demand and funding permit**.** All YARTS buses serving Merced provide connections to Amtrak, Greyhound, and local transit services. Additionally, all buses operating on the Highway 41 corridor provide direct service to both Fresno

Yosemite International Airport (FAT) and the Fresno Amtrak Station, while the Highway 395 corridor provides coordinated connections with ESTA and Mammoth Yosemite Airport, ensuring connectivity to regional, intercity, and air transportation services.

Service Policies

Transit Amenities

Seating: YARTS seating amenities include benches and/or single seats where practical. Areas such as Merced Transportation Center and Amtrak provide bench seating for YARTS customers.

Bus shelters: Bus shelters are available where

practical. Rail platform canopies: By others (Amtrak)

Passenger information: Printed signs - Permanent signs are located at all stops, printed maps and schedules are available at many public locations in each community served by YARTS. YARTS website also has maps and schedules available as well as information from the YARTS help phone line. YARTS is marketed widely in all counties served. Digital equipment - Digital destination signs on all YARTS owned buses.

Escalators: N/A

Elevators: N/A

Waste receptacles: Waste receptacles are available on all buses and at a majority of the stops (where practical).

Vehicle Assignments for Each Mode

All YARTS-owned buses are 45-foot clean-diesel over-the-road coaches. Each vehicle is equipped with onboard lavatories, 3-point seatbelts, infant seat tie-downs, wheelchair lifts, secured wheelchair parking, air conditioning, heating, automatic tire chains, and kneeling capabilities to improve accessibility, safety, and passenger comfort.

YARTS currently maintains a fleet of 23 MCI 45-foot diesel coaches, which are assigned across all service corridors to ensure equitable distribution of vehicle quality, onboard amenities, and service reliability. Bus assignments are rotated and distributed to promote even wear and maintain fleet longevity.

When operationally necessary, YARTS may utilize supplemental contractor vehicles of comparable size, amenities, and accessibility standards to maintain continuity of service**.**

YARTS mission statement approved by the YARTS Board February 2024:

YARTS provides safe, convenient, and cost-effective public transit for visitors, employees, and residents of Yosemite National Park and communities along service corridors in the Yosemite region. YARTS provides a reliable and environmentally friendly transportation alternative that guarantees access to Yosemite National Park and emphasizes comfort and accessibility for riders.

Appendix G
2023-2026 Outreach Summary

Date	Event
9/29/23	Salute to Seniors - Los Banos
10/28/23	Cops for Critters Trunk or Treat
10/28/23	City of Los Banos Halloween Fest
11/2/23	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce-downtown Merced Mercado
11/11/23	Veterans Day parade
3/27/24	Bright Paths event – Golden Valley High School
4/18/24	Merced College Preview Day
5/1/24	Los Banos Spring Fair
5/2/24	Los Banos Spring Fair
5/3/24	Los Banos Spring Fair
5/4/24	Los Banos Spring Fair & Mariposa Butterfly Parade
5/5/24	Los Banos Spring Fair
6/5/24	Merced County Fair
6/6/24	Merced County Fair
6/7/24	Merced County Fair
6/8/24	Merced County Fair
6/9/24	Merced County Fair
8/6/24	National Night Out - Merced
8/9/24	Los Banos Wellness event
9/14/24	Los Banos Wellness event
9/18/24	UC Merced Community Jamboree
10/3/24	Livingston Fall Street Faire
10/8/24	National Night Out - Atwater
10/12/24	UC Merced fall family weekend
10/17/24	Career Industry Day
10/26/24	City of Los Banos Halloween Fest
10/30/24	Dos Palos Head Start presentation
11/7/24	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce-downtown Merced Mercado
12/14/24	Mariposa Merry Mountain Christmas Parade
3/11/25	Diversability resource & hiring event
3/29/25	Parent Institute Dream Big conference
4/19/25	UC Merced Bobcat Day
4/26/25	Earth Day Wellness event – Los Banos
4/30/25	Los Banos Spring Fair
5/1/25	Los Banos Spring Fair
5/1/25	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce-downtown Merced Mercado
5/2/25	Los Banos Spring Fair
5/3/25	Los Banos Spring Fair & Mariposa Butterfly Parade
5/4/25	Los Banos Spring Fair
6/4/25	Merced County Fair
6/5/25	Merced County Fair
6/6/25	Merced County Fair
6/7/25	Merced County Fair
6/8/25	Merced County Fair
7/10/25	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce-downtown Merced Mercado
7/30/25	COVE Vision fair
8/5/25	National Night Out - Merced
9/4/25	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce-downtown Merced Mercado

9/9/25	Merced College Club Rush
9/10/25	Merced College Club Rush
9/17/25	UC Merced Community Jamboree
9/18/25	Valley Onward health fair
9/20/25	Los Banos downtown fall street faire
9/26/25	Salute to Seniors – Los Banos
9/27/25	Merced Soberfest
10/7/25	National Night Out - Atwater
10/16/25	Career Industry Day
10/24/25	Breaking Barriers Trunk or Treat
10/25/25	Cops for Critters Trunk or Treat
10/25/25	City of Los Banos Halloween Fest
12/13/25	Mariposa Merry Mountain Christmas Parade
2/5/26	College Career Day
3/21/26	Easter Egg Hunt Event
4/18/26	UC Merced Bobcat Day
4/18/26	Merced County Week of the Young – Merced
4/24/26	Spring Festival Community Resource Event – Le Grand
4/25/26	Merced County Week of the Young – Los Banos
4/29/26	Merced County Spring Fair – Los Banos
4/30/26	Merced County Spring Fair – Los Banos
5/1/26	Merced County Spring Fair – Los Banos
5/2/26	Merced County Spring Fair – Los Banos
5/2/26	Mariposa Butterfly Parade
5/3/26	Merced County Spring Fair – Los Banos
5/7/26	Mercado Night
5/19/26	Family Fun Day – Winton
6/10/26	Merced County Fair – Merced
6/11/26	Merced County Fair – Merced
6/12/26	Merced County Fair – Merced
6/13/26	Merced County Fair – Merced
6/14/26	Merced County Fair – Merced
7/2/26	Mercado Night
7/10/26	Turlock Transit Event
7/29/26	Community Resource Fair
8/4/26	National Night Out – Merced
8/6/26	Mercado on the Go – Atwater
8/21/26	Senior Social Club
9/1/26	Passport Day – Fresno State
9/3/26	Mercado Night
9/5/26	Mariposa Labor Day Parade
9/25/26	Salute to Seniors
9/25/26	Recognition Day
9/25/26	Livingston Sweet Potato Festival
9/26/26	Livingston Sweet Potato Festival
9/27/26	Livingston Sweet Potato Festival
10/6/26	National Night Out – Atwater
10/15/26	Career Industry Day

Appendix H

YARTS JPA Resolution

YARTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026/07-27-01

RESOLUTION OF THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM APPROVING THE 2026-2029 TITLE VI PROGRAM AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq. ("the Act"), and 49 CFR Part 21, the United States Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, as a recipient of federal funds, YARTS is required to comply with the requirements of the Act and applicable implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to FTA Circular4702.1B, YARTS is required to develop and submit its Title VI Program to its governing body for review and approval every three years; and

WHEREAS, YARTS is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in the conduct of its business and in the delivery of equitable, accessible, and inclusive transportation services, including compliance with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements and public participation obligations; and

WHEREAS, the YARTS Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board of Directors has reviewed and considered the agency's 2026-2029 Title VI Program and Policies, including the Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the YARTS Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors hereby approves the agency's 2026-2029 Title VI Program and Policies as set forth in the **attached Exhibit A entitled "YARTS Title VI Program."**

The above resolution was approved by the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System on July 27, 2026 by Director Silveira who moved its adoption, and duly seconded by Director Richardson and which was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Richardson, Smallcombe, McDaniel, Silveira, McFarland, Salcido, Campbell, Griefer

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Dyer, Macaulay, Wamhoff, Menetrey

APPROVED:

Stacie Guzman, Execu e Director
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Ryan Campbell, Chair
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System
Governing Board

Certification

I, Lucia Phong duly appointed and
(Name)
Clerk of the Board of the YARTS Governing Board
(Title) (Governing Body)

Do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by **the** YARTS Governing Board of the County of Merced on the
(Governing Body) (Name of Applicant)

27th day of July 20 26

Transit Administrative Assistant I
(Offiri;il Pn,itinn\

(Signature)

July 27, 2026
(Date)