

Background Information:

Consent Calendar:

- 2. Approval of the September 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. Adopt Resolution 44-17 Reauthorizing the Executive Director to Sign, Submit and Execute Applications, Agreements and Related Documents to Receive Federal and State Funding.**

As you may recall, through Resolution 19-14, the TCTA previously authorized the Executive Director to Sign, Submit and Execute Applications, Agreements and Related Documents to Receive Federal and State Funding. The California Department of Transportation recommends this authorization be updated every three to four years to address staff or funding program changes that may occur.

Attachment:

Resolution 19-14 and Resolution 44-17

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution 19-14 reauthorizing the Executive Director to sign, submit and execute applications, agreements and related documents to receive Federal and State Funding.

Regular Agenda:

- 4. Update on the completion and grand opening of the Tuolumne Transit Center**

Almost exactly one year after work on the Tuolumne Transit Center was started, it is substantially complete. Staff is in receipt of all keys to the facility, manuals for mechanical systems, warranties for various products and special instruments for items such as a the security cameras.

The contract to complete polishing of the floors within the building has been completed. The furniture for the exterior of the site has been built and is in the process of being placed, in coordination with County Facilities Management assistance. The indoor furniture is nearly complete. Delivery of furniture for the air conditioned space is expected no later than October 12. County IT is assisting with the security apparatus including installation of a network video recorder that will allow staff to save and retrieve video footage and access cameras remotely. Additionally, IT is assisting with the Nextbus predictions that will be available on site. This will include the ability for passengers to see where their bus is on route and anticipate its arrival.

The County Administrators office has placed a gate on Justice Center drive until the Jail contractor come on board (they will provide site security by contract). Until this time, Tuolumne County Transit Agency and Storer staff will open and close the site on a daily basis to control access to the property.

Two events are currently being planned at the site, the first is the ribbon cutting which is scheduled for October 30 at 12 pm. The second is planned for Tuolumne County Transit passengers who will be served by the new facility beginning November 1, 2017.

Notice of the new facility opening, the new schedules to serve it and the revised fares are being disseminated currently. New schedules are available at tuolumnecountytransit.com, notices are posted on all transit vehicles, hard copies of the new schedule are being distributed and TCTA staff is working with their many partners in the community to get the word out in advance of the November 1st start date.

Work still remaining to be completed prior to October 30 includes: place and secure furniture, security system, activating mount TV in waiting room, install rotating transit kiosks with route and system map information, and place trash can.

Attachments:

There are no attachments for this item.

Recommendation:

Agenda item for information purposes only.

5. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Tuolumne County Transit Performance Report

Staff brings a summary overview of Tuolumne County Transit services several times throughout the year. The realities of the farebox recovery ratios come as no surprise as some measures to improve overall system efficiency were delayed to minimize disruption to the passengers, agencies which serve them, employment and school schedules, and other life altering modifications that must be made when public transit is a primary means of transportation. These serve as illustrations of the larger impact to our ridership when changes are made. Additionally, there was a cost savings in materials, staff time and contracted services not implementing multiple schedule updates.

The delays in completing the Tuolumne Transit Center, contracted to be complete in March of this year, serve as added effect on the struggling minimum recovery thresholds.

The trade off is a final quarter of sub-par numbers. Staff is expectant that the implementation of the new schedules complete with cost savings measures and increased fares for some users will restore the farebox ratio to acceptable levels.

Also included in this report, for the first time, is service data on the Yosemite bus, or YARTS, and Special Event services.

Attachment:

FY16-17 Performance Report

Recommendation:

This presentation is for information purposes only, and does not require an action from the TCTA

6. Presentation of Transit Schedules to take effect November 1, 2017

Staff is pleased to present the new transit schedules which will begin on November 1, 2017. There are a few principle changes which will be highlighted herein.

1. Service to the Tuolumne Transit Center

The new schedules redirect Routes 1-5 to the Tuolumne Transit Center, which serves as the central transfer location for the entire transit system. This location will displace the existing transfer locations of Walmart and Courthouse Park.

2. Elimination of Route 6/Implementation of General Public Dial-a-Ride to this area

The new schedule follows through on previous TCTA direction to eliminate the underperforming Route 6. In its place, a general public dial-a-ride service area was created to serve this region more effectively.

3. Increase in Fares for general public

In an effort to address a waning farebox recovery ratio, it was decided that a small increase in fares, from \$1.50 to \$2.00 in combination with the elimination of Route 6 and additional efforts to reduce fare fraud would be an effective measure to improve overall farebox recovery for the fixed route system.

Although the changes may be considered substantial by Tuolumne County Transit passengers, staff did their best to ensure the new schedules reflect the previous schedule to the greatest extent possible. We also used this opportunity to address other minor changes that have been requested of TCTA planners in helping to maximize ridership. For example, Columbia College students living along Greenley road revealed that they could not make it to the College for morning classes because of the way the previous loop was laid out. We made a minor tweak in the revised schedule that allows for individuals living along Greenley to now catch Route 2 on its way to Columbia for morning classes.

New schedule notices have been posted on all the buses, on the website and our Facebook account. Hardcopies of the new schedules are being made available on all the transit vehicles. To supplement this, we are hand delivering schedules to our many partners to ensure that everyone is aware of the change before it happens, to minimize disruption in our passengers' lives and those that serve them.

Attachment:

New transit schedule

Recommendation:

Presentation of new schedules for information and marketing purposes and does not require an action from the TCTA.

7. Authorize staff to attend the May 2018 IPW event to represent public transportation interests to Yosemite National Park

For the last five years TCTA have been instrumental in the planning, implementation and marketing of the Yosemite Bus service offered in partnership with YARTS and Yosemite National Park.

This project provides an alternative to taking a personal vehicle into the Park and has shown substantial and consistent growth since it was started. The TCTA has played a lead role in contracting with Yosemite officials to accept marketing grants on behalf of Tuolumne County and the other three gateways into the Park.

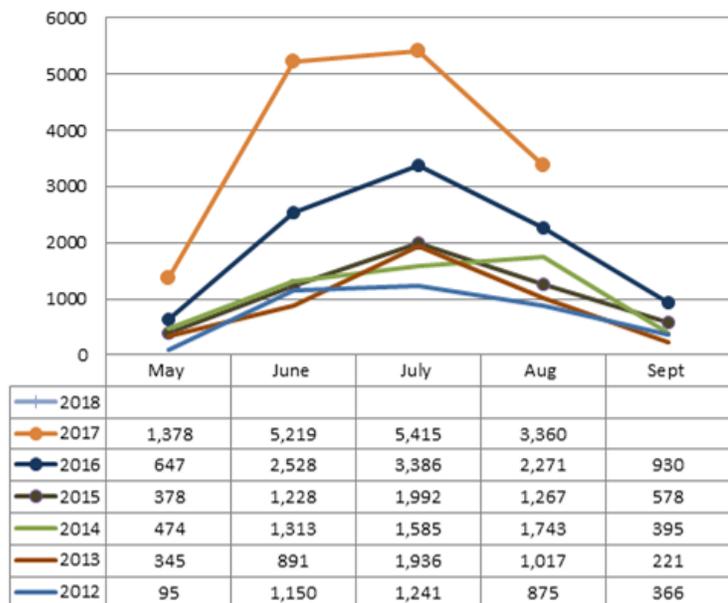
Marketing of the Yosemite Bus has become a major effort over the last few years as Yosemite has seen increasing and record visitor numbers. Tuolumne County has a vested interest in protecting the visitor experience and minimizing congestion to the degree possible.

In light of this desire to help Yosemite’s visitors understand their travel options, our marketing efforts are being taken to larger and larger markets.

YARTS saw a dramatic increase in its ridership this year as a result of TCVB marketing efforts and the addition of online ticket purchases.

One of the activities being funded by the Yosemite marketing grant for this upcoming season is attendance at the IPW, being held in Denver Colorado, May 2018.

Total Rides Provided



According to the IPW website, the event is: **IPW is the travel industry's premier international marketplace and the largest generator of travel to the U.S.** In just three days of pre-scheduled business appointments, **more than 6,000 delegates** representing U.S. travel organizations from every region of the USA and international and domestic buyers and media from **70+ countries** meet face-to-face to conduct future travel business to the USA.

U.S. Travel Association's IPW 2018 will be held **Saturday, May 19, through Wednesday, May 23**, at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado.

TCTA would be part of the Gold Country/Yosemite region booth being staffed by members of each gateway. Additionally, the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau will be at the event promoting the county as a whole.

The Yosemite Marketing grant will cover the event booth space(~\$5000), but travel expenses are not eligible. Staff cost to the Agency including the cost of travel, hotel and daily per diem is roughly \$1600. Staff is working with YARTS and the Yosemite Gateway marketing group on a cost share for this portion, as all interests will benefit from TCTA staff attendance.

Recommendation:

Authorize staff to attend the 2018 IPW event in Denver Colorado with a cost sharing arrangement.

The TAC and CAC recommended authorizing Sr. Transportation Planner, Tyler Summersett attending the IPW on behalf of the TCTA to represent public transportation interests to Yosemite National Park.

8. Reports