

Consent Calendar:

- 2. Approval of the December 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. Request for Trolley Service to serve the Sonora Celtic Faire in March**

A request was received from the coordinators of the Sonora Celtic Faire to serve their long standing event this year. The event is in its 32nd year and has historically attracted a large number of attendees over the three day event. The Celtic Fair is hosted at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds and is scheduled to take place March 9-11, 2018. The Faire features modern and historical Celtic heritage with music, living history guilds, family clans, stage performers, vendors and more.

The request is for service on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from the Junction and Wal-Mart shopping centers to the Fairgrounds. The request was received in December, however the January TCTA meeting was cancelled, leaving the event coordinators without direction as to whether to advertise the service or not. The event was given approval by staff recognizing the request is consistent with TCTA policy for Special Transit service and the traffic and congestion impacts faced in the past as a result of this successful event.

Attachment:

Special Transit Service request

Recommended Action:

There is no action required for this item.

The TAC and CAC recommended approval of all items on the Consent Calendar as presented.

Regular Agenda:

- 4. Approval of the use of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding to expand Tuolumne County Transit service from May to September to serve Jamestown, Sonora and Columbia with weekend service (primarily Saturdays). Allow the Executive Director to sign, submit and execute all necessary documents related to the LCTOP.**

At the December Tuolumne County Transit Agency meeting a letter from the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau (TCVB) was presented with a request to renew the weekend Trolley service that was operated from 2011-2013. Staff received direction to meet with the TCVB and bring back a proposal for revisiting this service.

Staff believes they have a proposal that, in partnership with the TCVB, will result in an effective service that will garner more support from area businesses, tourists and locals as a result of membership and expertise of the Visitors Bureau outreach.

The service will be operated primarily on Saturdays, but will also include Sundays on Memorial Day, Labor Day, and the Fourth of July. The service route will include Jamestown, Sonora and Columbia offering service between major attractions including the downtowns of each community, Railtown 1897, Columbia State Historic Park and the Mother Lode Fairgrounds.

The Tuolumne County Transit Agency is currently receiving formula funds through a California Cap and Trade program called the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. This program is intended to help offset greenhouse gas contributions from the motorized vehicle sector by investing in increased transit operations, route extensions, and free service and along with other transit based enhancements. The TCTA apportionment is unknown at this time but expected to be more than adequate to expand services to Pinecrest and Saturday trolleys during the summer tourist season; combined with \$25,000 in funds from the Visitors Bureau this will completely cover the cost of the extension of service, and allow for the service to be offered free of charge.

The Visitors Bureau will take the lead on marketing of the service along with identifying local events to co-promote along with the weekend Trolley service. They will be able to work through their extensive membership to create opportunities to incentivize ridership and promotion of the service by local businesses.

Additional details about the route, co-promotional details and dates of service are still being worked out between the Visitors Bureau and TCTA. This report is being given as an update on our coordinated effort, and the intention of your staff to use Low Carbon program funding for the project.

Attachments:

There are no attachments for this item.

Recommendation:

Recommend approval of the use of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding to expand Tuolumne County Transit service from May to September to serve Jamestown, Sonora and Columbia with weekend service (primarily Saturdays). Allow the Executive Director to sign, submit and execute all necessary documents related to the LCTOP.

The TAC and CAC recommended approval of the use of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding to expand Tuolumne County Transit service from May to September to serve Jamestown, Sonora and Columbia with weekend service (primarily Saturdays). Allow the Executive Director to sign, submit and execute all necessary documents related to the LCTOP.

All but one member of the CAC opposed recommendation. His reasoning was that he feels that it is not fair to charge local residents full price all week and then give tourists free transit service on the week- ends.

5. Adopt the revised policy language for Special Event Transit Services to allow for: 1) When appropriate, regular fares to be collected for events that meet the identified criteria; and 2) Post event evaluations that affect an organization's consideration for future public transit service.

In July 2011 the Council approved Resolution 452-11 setting aside up to \$10,000 annually in Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to create a Special Transit service fund for the purpose of supporting community based events in Tuolumne County and Sonora.

Since this time, Special Event services have delivered many community members and guests to popular, long standing events. Additionally, several new events looking to enhance and expand the current offerings available have applied for Special Event service and used the Trolley's to enhance event activities while minimizing traffic impacts including congestion and delay.

In the Fall of 2017 the Transit Agency took an action to increase this amount to \$16,000 to keep up with requests being received from the community.

Each event seeking funding comes before the Transit Agency for approval prior to receiving service for the first time.

Existing criteria for being considered for special event services:

- Open to the General Public
- Hosted in Tuolumne County or the City of Sonora
- Sponsored by a charitable, non-profit or service organization, public agency
- One day or week end event
- Will not affect regularly scheduled fixed route or DAR services
- Event is expected to draw in excess of 300 members of the general public

Staff recommends making several minor alterations to the existing program, including:

1. Adding the ability to collect the general public fare charged for typical public transit service. This discretionary action will likely apply primarily to:
 1. *Events that are not free of charge to those attending the event.*
 2. *Major Event Sponsor(s) is not a Non-Profit*
 3. *Event service is more than 1 day*

The ability to charge a standard fare is consistent with guidance offered in 49 CFR Part 604, Charter Service; Final Rule.

2. In addition to the standard post-event evaluation of service, event attendance, ridership and other significant details such as marketing of transit options, we should determine if the event will be eligible for future service with the following options:
 - A. *Approved for future service*
 - B. *Approval possible with submittal of new request with identified items addressed*

C. Event not recommended for future service (with associated reasons made clear)

Both modifications are expected to have minimal impact, but will provide staff with the flexibility to recoup a small amount of the service costs in fares received and to eliminate events that are not attracting a sustainable number of passengers.

Attachment:

Revised Special Transit Service request form

Recommendation:

Adopt the revised policy language for Special Event Transit Service to allow for: 1) When appropriate, regular fares to be collected for events that meet the identified criteria; and 2) Post event evaluations that affect an organizations consideration for future public transit service.

The TAC and CAC recommended adoption of revised policy language for Special Event Transit Service to allow for: 1) When appropriate, regular fares to be collected for events that meet the identified criteria; and 2) Post event evaluations that affect an organizations consideration for future public transit service.

However, they suggested that while for certain events in which the fares are free; to add the language: “Donations are Accepted”.

6. Consideration of joining Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Board, and making a financial contribution to the service.

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has been partnering with the TCTA and Yosemite National Park (YNP) to provide public transit service to the Valley floor since May 2012. In this time, ridership along the 120N route has grown a whopping 350%!

During this time the TCTA has also received annual grants from YNP, along with the other Park Gateways, to assist YNP staff in meeting multiple goals of reducing congestion in Yosemite, improving the visitor experience and facilitating increased tourism.

YARTS currently serves all four gateways to Yosemite National Park via travel through many Foothill communities and the following counties: Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, and Tuolumne. YARTS operates as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between Mariposa, Merced and Mono counties. Yosemite National Park saw 4.4 million visitors in 2017. Most of these visitors come during what is considered peak season, May to September. The unique layout of Yosemite and the stunning nature of Yosemite Valley leads to 95% of the visitors seeing only 5% of the Park. This has led to congestion and a negative feedback from Park visitors regarding the experience they had.

The YARTS board has formally begun the process of exploring adding the counties who currently have YARTS service, but are not part of the JPA, namely Madera, Tuolumne and Fresno Counties. This process started in February 2017 when a member of the TCTA was invited to begin attending YARTS board meetings in a non-voting capacity. YARTS furthered

this discussion at its January 2018 meeting with staff given direction to formally pursue Tuolumne and Madera county participation as voting members.

Today's item is to get direction on these discussions. Is the Transit Agency interested in being part of the YARTS board? A financial commitment to the system will likely be established in the future. YARTS has initiated a study on their services which will include development of a methodology aimed at determining a reasonable fair share contribution by agencies benefitting from YARTS Services. Tuolumne participation in the development of this methodology is recommended.

Currently, YNP covers the entire cost of service in Tuolumne County. These costs are funded through Park gate fees. We are currently the only gateway in this position. As a voting member of the YARTS Board, Tuolumne would be expected to financially contribute to YARTS.

Attachments:

YARTS JPA

Recommendation:

Consideration of joining Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Board, and making a financial contribution to the service.

After much discussion, the TAC and CAC suggested the recommendation be as follows:

Recommend to continue to participate in ongoing discussion with the YARTS Board regarding possible future membership.

7. Approval of Resolution 45-18 – Approving the California State of Good Repair Program Project List.

On April 28, 2017 Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1 known as the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. The Senate Bill 1 will provide over \$50 billion in new transportation funding over the next decade to repair highways, bridges, and local roads, to make strategic investments in congested commute and freight corridors, and to improve transit service. This bill will provide approximately \$105 million annually to transit operators in California for eligible transit maintenance, rehabilitation and capital projects. This investment in Public Transit will be referred to as the State of Good Repair (SGR) Program.

The State of Good Repair Program is funded from a portion of a new Transportation Improvement Fee on vehicles registrations due on or after January 1, 2018. A portion of this fee will be transferred to the State Controller's Office (SCO) for the SGR Program. In collaboration with the SCO, the California Department of Transportation (Department) is tasked with the management and administration of the SGR Program. These funds will be allocated under the State Transit Assistance (STA) Program formula to eligible agencies pursuant to Public Utilities Code (PUC) section 99312.1. Half is allocated according to population and half according to transit operator revenues.

The Tuolumne County Transportation Council is an eligible project sponsor, and has been allocated \$76,983 in fiscal year 2017/18 from the State of Good Repair Account (SGR).

The TCTA staff recommendation is that FY17/18 SGR funding of \$76,983 be used for transit maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing fleet. The total cost currently budgeted for maintenance is \$311,465. The balance of \$234,482 will be covered by State Assistance funding(STA) , Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and Farebox revenue as appropriated in the FY 17/18 Final Budget.

Due to time restraints, approval for the required Project List is being obtained post submission to the States deadline of January 31, 2018.

Attachments:

*TCTA Resolution 45-18 requesting the Project list approval.
Project List.*

Recommended Action:

Approve Resolution 45-18- Approving the recently submitted State of Good Repair Project List for FY17/18.

The TAC and CAC moved to approve adopting Resolution 45-18 approving the recently submitted State of Good Repair Project List for FY17/18.

8. Reports