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January 6, 2022

Stacie Guzman
Executive Director, Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System
369 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

RE: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program Funding Application

Dear Ms. Guzman,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) is writing to express its support for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program application submitted by the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS). This proposed project would be a transformative investment not only because it would greatly enhance access to Yosemite National Park by public transit, and improve transportation services within Yosemite National Park, but also because of the environmental benefits to be realized with the reduction in personal vehicle travel into the Park.

As reflected in YARTS' application, the agency is partnering with Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park to purchase land to establish a maintenance and operations facility for YARTS in Merced, CA; purchase 10 clean diesel buses to replace an aged fleet; implement site improvements for a transportation center in the gateway community of Mariposa, CA; develop a charging facility in Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove for electric buses within Yosemite National Park and YARTS; and purchase 10 heavy duty battery electric buses for in-park public transportation services. As a small, rural transit agency, funding for capital purchases has proven to be a challenge. This grant award would have significant impact to the Yosemite gateway communities and result in a substantial reduction of emissions and vehicular traffic to one of the worlds greatest wonders.

YARTS operates on all four highways that lead to Yosemite National Park. Offering a world class operation like YARTS fulfills park management goals of reducing visitor and employee traffic congestion, mitigating parking demand, and reducing air pollution in the California and the greater San Joaquin Valley Air basin, and within Yosemite National Park. YARTS allows for services to be provided as a reliable transportation service for local, state, national, and international visitors including the elderly, persons with disabilities, park employees, and visitors who may not have the means or ability to travel by private vehicle. Yosemite National

Park sees an average of 4.6 million visitors a year, many of whom prefer to enjoy the ride on YARTS rather than driving on mountainous terrain. YARTS has proven to be a good partner in supporting Yosemite National Park in 2020 and 2021 during the introduction of day use park entry reservation system (in response to COVID-19) and can help to fulfill future strategic approaches to visitor use management.

MCTC is pleased to support YARTS' application for such a transformative investment that will improve access to Yosemite National Park and realize a number of environmental benefits and enhanced system sustainability. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our support and favorable review of the application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pat Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission