

AGENDA ITEM: 5-B

PREPARED BY: Dylan Stone, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

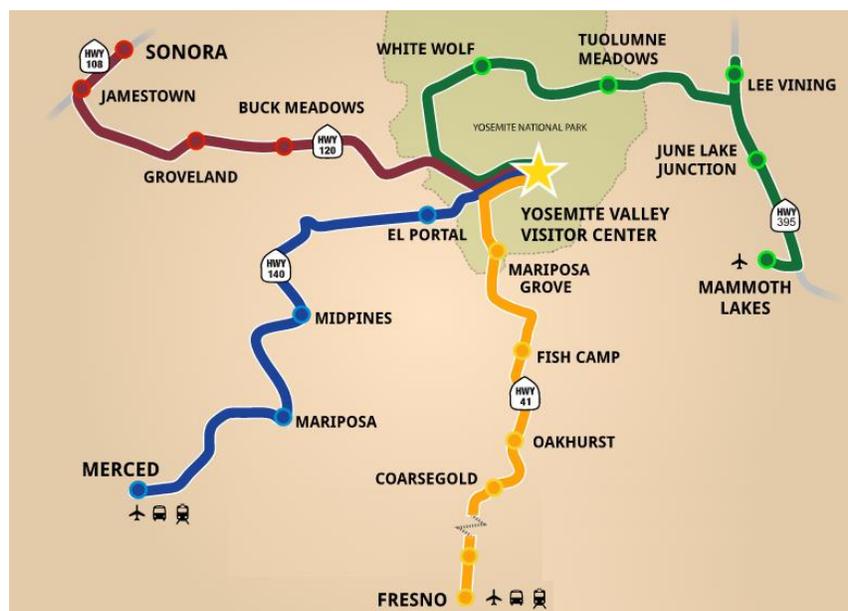
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Update

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) is a fixed route public transit system that connects Yosemite National Park to communities in the San Joaquin Valley and central and eastern Sierra regions. The system provides service to passengers from all over the world to destinations in Yosemite National Park as well as destinations in gateway communities such as Oakhurst and Mariposa. The system serves a convenient interregional transportation alternative for residents and employees from local communities.



YARTS Service Area

YARTS began operations along the State Route 41 corridor between Fresno Airport and Yosemite Valley in 2015. The State Route 41 service operated during the peak tourism season from May 9, 2022, to September 9, 2022, and included stops at Chukchansi Gold Resort, Coarsegold Market, and Best Western Plus Yosemite Gateway Inn in Oakhurst.

The State Route 41 YARTS service was funded through Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG). The contract with the FCOG came to an end at the conclusion of the summer of 2022 and will not continue. YARTS plans to operate out of Oakhurst starting the summer 2023.

YARTS staff held a workshop in Yosemite National Park on October 17, 2022, regarding the status of the systems budget, fleet, ridership and operations, the five-year service and budget outlook, and potential future funding sources. YARTS staff will be present for this agenda item for questions and discussions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.