

**YOLO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 20, 2021
Yolo County Transportation District (via videoconference)
350 Industrial Way, Woodland, CA 95776**

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Saylor called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and requested roll call to confirm a quorum was in attendance through Zoom remote participation. The following individuals were in attendance:

Davis – Lucas Frerichs (Primary)
Winters - Jesse Loren (Primary)
West Sacramento – Chris Ledesma (Primary)
Woodland – Tom Stallard (Primary)
Yolo County – Don Saylor (Primary)
UC Davis – Matt Dulcich (Primary)
Caltrans – Alex Padilla (Primary)

Staff present were Autumn Bernstein, YCTD Executive Director; Jose Perez, YCTD Deputy Director Operations, Planning & Special Projects; Janice Bryan, YCTD Deputy Director Finance, Grants, and Procurement; Kristen Mazur, YCTD Senior Planner; Daisy Romero, YCTD Assistant Planner; Hope Welton, YCTD Legal Counsel; and Kathy Souza, YCTD Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board.

Also, in attendance via Zoom were Mike Klein, Transdev; Anne Ternus; Edgar Romero; Gautam; Jack; Robyn Dobson; Ryan Altschuh; Yasuko Okamoto; Brian McQuade; Conor Bright; Eloise Saballos; Jeff Flynn, Unitrans; Colin Ruan; Cori; Lillian Chow; Suzanne; Stephanie Manansala; Chen; Lisette Walker; Kenneth Sevall; DFGDGF; San Kennedy; Sara Teal; Yingjuan; Terry McIntire; (530)662-0535; (530)681-5055.

Chair Saylor explained the meeting participation instructions.

Agenda Item 2 – Consider Approval of Agenda for September 20, 2021

Minute Order 2021-33

Director Stallard made the motion, seconded by Director Ledesma, to approve the agenda for the September 20, 2021, meeting. Roll call resulted in:

AYES: Frerichs, Ledesma, Loren, Saylor, Stallard
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 – Comments from public regarding matters NOT on the Agenda, but within the purview of YCTD

Mr. Ruan stated his opposition to suspension of the express routes. He added that pay for Yolobus drivers was much lower than Sacramento Regional Transit and he supported increased wages for Yolobus drivers.

Agenda Item 4 – Board Members Reports, Announcements, Other Nominations, Presentations

None

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearing to Consider Suspension of Yolobus Routes 43, 43R, 45, and 230

Ms. Bernstein introduced the item stating that Transdev General Manager Mike Klein would speak to the driver shortage, Ms. Mazur would review the staff report on the proposed route suspensions and Mr. Perez would present Item 6.

Mr. Klein stated that Transdev had recently lost 9 drivers and 4 driver trainees due to wage issues. Until that occurred there were sufficient drivers to fulfill the Unitrans service proposed to start September 22.

Ms. Bernstein said that the District and Transdev had active conversations on-going regarding the driver shortage issues including wages. Mr. Klein added that Transdev was working on analyzing local wages rates for drivers. He explained that increased wages were implemented as of September 1, 2021 following months of union negotiations.

Ms. Mazur presented a Power Point presentation explaining current, pre-COVID, and projected ridership numbers for the various YoloBus routes. She emphasized that the goal had been to minimize harm to riders by attempting to impact the fewest number of riders while still offering service.

Mr. Perez gave an overview of the Unitrans support plans.

Director Stallard asked that Mr. Flynn speak to the Unitrans need for assistance.

Mr. Flynn provided the background, especially the lack of driver-trainees during COVID, that led to the request for assistance. He added that Saturday September 18 Unitrans had experienced its highest ridership numbers in its history, indicating that the situation could be more urgent than originally expected.

Director Dulcich stated he was looking forward to the public comments.

Director Frerichs asked if staff had worked with riders who could be accommodated on paratransit during the suspension of the express routes. Ms. Bernstein replied that staff had worked with Transdev to fast-track applications for those individuals eligible for paratransit and provided them with direct access phone numbers to Customer Service to book their rides.

Chair Saylor opened the Public Hearing at 7:33.

Lisette Walker expressed disappointment in the current situation. She stated that the proposed Route 42 changes would not work for her daughter due to the changed times and elimination of the north Davis stops.

Guatam expressed appreciation of previous service by YoloBus but stated that using the Route 42 added an hour to his daily commute.

Eloisa Saballos stated her concern that the Route 43 was the only bus that would get her into downtown in time for her work day. She requested alternative suggestions for her commute.

Conor Bright asked for the 43 service to not be suspended. He asked that different approaches be explored.

Stephanie Manansala stated she was a very satisfied Route 43 rider. She stated that the Route 42 would not work for her needs and asked if riders would be reimbursed for the remainder of their monthly pass.

Terri McIntire spoke as a Route 45 rider for over 10 years expressing concerns about those changes in addition to the suspension of the express routes.

Ms. Bernstein responded that the changes to the Route 42 previously approved would not take place until the suspended routes were reinstated.

Mr. Perez read into the record the following email from Suzanne Grimshaw. *If you suspend the 45 Express Bus to Woodland, could you please increase the 42 bus times to one half hour during work commute hours especially after 4:00 p.m. I do not feel safe waiting in the dark in downtown Sacramento for an hour or more when a 42 bus is delayed.*

The following comments were received by email before 4 pm 9/20/21 and emailed to the board members at 4:12 pm.

I am a state worker who used the 43 bus daily before the pandemic. If I return to work in person, I will be riding the bus regularly again. Speaking for myself only, I don't have any concerns with suspending express service currently, as long as it picks up again if and when state workers return to work.

Thank you.

Matthew Wise

Please reconsider keeping the 45 Express to/from downtown Sacramento. Several of us who ride pay the extra charge to bypass the airport both ways. I catch it after 7am at the Matmor/East Gum stop and would have to walk extra multiple blocks from my home to get to Main street to catch 42A to be on time for work at 8am. 45 Express is perfect for my schedule currently both ways. In the evenings I catch it after 5 from L & 9th streets at a quarter after. Otherwise I would have to wait an extra hour to catch 42B and not be home until after 7pm which is very late from the time I get off work.

Thank you,

Brian Anderson

This comment letter isn't going to change the actions you plan to take in canceling the express buses, but you're going to hear it anyway.

I love buses. I bought my home on several bus routes, and have taken the bus to work every day from Davis to Sacramento for the past five years. Now, with a week's notice, you are canceling my express route to work, the 43.

I don't understand how you could have made the decision to increase bus routes on the 42 without checking to see whether there were enough drivers available to cover those routes.

I took the 42 home from work yesterday and it took me over an hour. The bus was 15 minutes late, the driver took a 10 minute break in West Sacramento, then the route is longer and along city streets instead of the freeway. Additionally, during the pandemic I feel safe taking the bus directly from well-vaccinated Davis along with other state workers who are required to be vaccinated. With my unvaccinated kids at home, I'm going to have to reevaluate my risk about taking the bus now that I will need to take the 42 which is more crowded and picks up passengers in West Sacramento, where vaccination is lower and covid cases are much higher.

And the closest stop the 42 now will have is a half mile from work at 13th and I in Sacramento. If the 42 takes me an hour to get me to and from work, and the closest stop is a half mile from my work, I'm not sure how I'll get to work. I may have to buy a car I can't afford and drive instead of taking the bus. Now that the 42 won't even go past the Davis branch of the Yolo County library, I may have to reevaluate whether I can consider myself a bus rider at all.

Anticipating that you will cancel my express route no matter what comments are made, I have canceled the autoload on my connect card for next month.

Do you plan on refunding everyone who purchased express monthly fares ¼ of the price difference for this month?

-Allison Goldsmith

I was given notice regarding the suspension of bus services from route 43, 43R, 230, and 45. I have been taking Yolo bus express for the past 6 plus years. I work for the California Department of Public Health. I have not been teleworking and I do not drive on the freeway. This is my mode of transportation to my work place. I ask that you please reconsider.

As a side note, State workers are being called back to work in the office. So, there has been an increase of people riding the bus since June 15, 2021. I am sure your records show that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mylene Selby

I have been a long term 230 bus route commuter. While I am currently working remotely and understand the staffing shortage, I strongly encourage Yolobus to consider this a short term suspension and re-start the commuter routes, at least by Jan 2022 if not sooner.

Thanks

Becky Stanton

West Davis

I am writing to request you do not suspend these routes, especially route 45. Suspending this public service means that other workers who use these routes to commute into Sacramento will not be able to perform their jobs. I personally know this choice will impact an educator who works in Sacramento public schools, affecting the students that she works with because she cannot get to work. I am sure there are hundreds of other stories like these. Please do what you need to do to hire new bus drivers and keep these bus routes available for our community!

Adrianna L.--

It is very hard to hear and believe the Proposed Suspension of Yolobus Routes, especially Route 45.

Me and my wife are taking bus 45 as we both work in Sacramento. Bus 45 is very convenient to us as we do not have to worry about finding parking in downtown Sacramento..

Our humble request to you, please keep at least one trip of bus 45 to Sacramento in the morning between 06:30am to 07:00am and one trip to Woodland in the evening anytime between 04:00pm to 05:00pm.

Hope you will consider our sincere request.

Thank you,

Clifford S Monteiro

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on the proposed suspension of the Yolobus commuter routes.

Prior to the pandemic, I was a regular bus rider. I am a State employee and have a Connect card. The closure of the 44 bus commuter route means I am unable to take the bus (I have been travelling to and from work part-time for most of the pandemic).

More importantly than my personal situation, your closure of addition services - even temporarily - puts those individuals who are most of need of bus services (elderly, lower income, younger ages) at a disadvantage. While I recognize that the majority of your services are utilized by travelers to and from work, buses are a safe and equitable mode of transportation for all, and are valued highly by those with the greatest need.

Keeping bus routes have positive externalities: including reducing congestion, lessening the environmental impact of fuel consumption, and the positive optical role by remedying a market failure to the community, especially the community who are struggling able to afford living in Davis.

Even if the suspension is indeed temporary, there is a risk that commuters find alternative modes of transport and do not return to the bus when/if you commence service.

I would prefer to see bus services continue. Please bring back route 44.

Regards

Lauren Watt

South Davis resident.

For the meeting on Sept. 20th regarding the suspension of express routes:

I am a Davis resident, and I work in Sacramento. I rely on the 43 express bus to get me to my job. Without the express bus, I must pay almost \$200 a month to park at my workplace, pay more for gas each month, and also pay more for car insurance. This will be a significant financial blow to myself and the others who rely on the express. Switching to a non-express route, such as the 42, is not a viable option. I would urge the board to at least keep one express route in the morning and afternoon if at all possible instead of eliminating *every* express route, particularly with such short notice.

Thank you,

Cori Knudten

I understand the need to suspend the bus routes that the public hearing will discuss this coming Monday September 20th. When the number of drivers needed are not available it is reality that the bus routes have to be temporarily suspended or reduced. However, I ask, as a commuter of the 45 express who depends on it to get to work each day, that Yolo Bus tries to do everything in its power to keep these routes before cutting them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Rose Jr.

Office/Library Technician, State of California

I am opposing the complete suspension of the express routes. I take the 45. I understand that there is a resource issue; however, making those of us who take the express bus to use the 42 is not an acceptable alternative. Instead of the complete suspension of these routes, maybe reduce the routes to one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The 42 is inconvenient in time and location. The distance and time to walk to certain 42 stops is difficult for some of us to walk.

My questions are, "how long will the suspension be?" Is it the desire to run the new 42 routes the reason to suspend the express routes?

Thank you.

Jim Rennie, Woodland

I just heard about the proposed suspension of the yolo express buses from Davis/Woodland to Sacramento. As a resident in Davis, I strongly oppose this proposal. Although I am currently working from home and not taking the Yolobus, I plan to start taking the express buses for my commute between Davis and Sacramento very soon when we are required to go in person 2-3 days per week in the next few weeks.

I drove to Sacramento for work and didn't take the bus in the past few years before COVID, but now I no longer own a car and will have to rely on public transportation for my commute to Sacramento soon. The same also applies to my husband whose office is also based in Sacramento.

Please do not proceed with the suspension, especially during this time many of us are in the transition in going back to the office. It would make more sense if the express buses were suspended temporarily last year but now many people are expecting to go back to work in person and commuters need the express buses!

Thanks for your consideration!

Jane Ling

Davis, CA 95616

Hello. My name is William, and I am a frequent rider with yolo bus. I'm a resident here in Woodland, and I'm currently a student at the Los Rios community colleges. Being a college student isn't necessarily easy, especially when you live in one city, and go to school in another. Yolo Bus has been a godsend for me and many other students like me who go to school in either Davis or Sacramento, or even those who come to school in Woodland. Right now, I commute using the 45 Express, as my classes start at 7:00am. I'm asking that the 45 express not be discontinued as it is the only service currently that can get me to Sacramento in time for me to catch the train to get to class on time. If it is discontinued, please do not discontinue it without an early morning replacement. If this does happen, I feel like it would be beneficial to both us early morning commuters as well as Yolo Bus, if a route 42 bus was added, leaving from County Fair mall at either 6:00am, or even 5:30am if possible. To sum up what I am asking, I'm asking that an early intercity route be left in place or modified so those of us who need to be in another city in the early morning are able to be.

Thank you for your time, and have a good evening.

William.

I understand that a driver shortage has led the board to a very difficult decision. I ask that you please consider how extremely limited Davis to Sacramento commuting options already are before removing the last available alternatives to driving. I have recently begun working in downtown Sacramento and I have been taking the 230AM and 230PM routes to work everyday. I have enjoyed the service thus far and plan to continue to ride the bus to work for years to come, if it's still available.

Please don't take away our only bus route to and from Sacramento and Davis. Removing these routes would be an extreme hardship to those of us who rely on the bus everyday to get to and from work at a reasonable price. Additionally, the traffic to Sacramento along the Yolo Causeway will only get worse as more and more drivers return to the road. As we come out of the pandemic I also expect ridership to increase on many of these routes.

Thank you,

Frank Spinardi

My name is Chris Sanders,

I have been riding the 230 Express in to Sacramento almost every workday since I returned to the office at the start of this year. I love taking the bus! Driving makes me very nervous these days. I'm a good driver, but other motorists seem to be getting scarier. I feel a lot safer as a passenger. The time that I get back into my day thanks to the bus is life changing. I often finish planning out my workday before I reach Sacramento, and that isn't possible when I have to drive. I save a large amount of money by taking the bus. I avoid paying for parking, gas and maintenance on my vehicle. My company gives me an incentive to take public transit. As a result of the

money I am saving and the time I am getting back, and the level of safety I feel riding with your drivers my life has improved. I live with much less stress and anxiety now than when I was driving into Sacramento.

All this to say that the 230 Express has had a big positive impact on my life. I don't have the option to work from home anymore. Understandably, I am very concerned at the prospect of these routes being fully suspended. I don't know how much of this is really about a lack of drivers versus a lack of riders, but I can say with confidence that more people are going back to work. 5 riders are with me in the bus this morning. We had 9 last Thursday. People are realizing that it is time to get life going again. With this in mind, I genuinely believe that Yolobus could not pick a worse time to consider cutting routes. This would have been fine 6 months ago, but people are going back to work now, and we need our public transit.

If there is a need to cut routes, I would request that you keep at least one ride per express route open.

I can only speak for myself, but I think a lot of riders are frustrated by the lack of say that we have in all of this. I appreciate this chance that you have given me to express my concerns about suspending the Express.

Thanks for listening,

Chris Sanders

Mogavero Architects

(707) 624-0395

I urge you not to suspend the 43 and other Express routes. I used to ride the 44 and had to change to the 43 route when the 44 was cancelled. The 42 isn't a good alternative to get me to work downtown by 8 am.

I rely on the bus for my regular commute to work, and I do it for the environment and not needing to drive in and pay for parking. Please don't suspend the routes because it will make travel difficult for so many people and put more cars on the road.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Lillian Chow

I'm emailing to comment on the proposed suspension of Yolobus route 45. Myself and a few neighbors rely on this route for our commutes to work. I kindly ask you to reconsider the suspension, as it would make my commute considerably more difficult. (Very sorry to hear about the driver shortage)

Thanks for your time,

Steve Sanders

I request not to suspend the Bus 45 and 43.

I live in Woodland and take the Bus 45 almost everyday, and sometimes the Bus 43. If these are suspended and I need to take the Airport bus, it is not convenient for me. Taking the Express Bus is more comfortable for me to save time, and I feel safer as I meet the regular commuters everytime. I do not feel comfortable taking the Bus 42A especially.

Please consider my request for not cancelling the Express Buses.

Thank you.

Yasuko Okamoto

Greetings Honorable Chair Saylor and Honorable Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of the staff recommendation before your board in terms of item number five is concerned. With that in mind I want to expand a bit further and defend my position in support of the staff recommendation.

While there has already been public comment submitted into your board packet for this evening, it is important to study carefully why this recommendation is before your board in a big picture angle.

It was not an easy decision to come to, but in looking extremely carefully at this item, most, if not all of the service being suspended before your board, and/or completely eliminated is operated with parallel service and coverage via Intercity Routes 42A and 42B. With that in mind, and the pause of the more frequent service of Route 42A and 42B currently in place, suspending and/or completely eliminating the routes in this action item can be a wise transfer of resources (human and financial) towards the end goal of operating the 42A and the 42B every 30 minutes from 4:30am to 11:30pm. The bus operators that would've normally operated the peak hour only bus routes that would be either suspended or completely eliminated in this action item, would instead become available for the more frequent service on the Routes 42A and 42B.

Your board should also take into consideration in your formal motion to unilaterally (with or without consensus from staff) to utilize, in these unprecedented times that we are all experiencing, the unique opportunity of federal transportation funds through recently signed legislation by two presidents, as well as pending legislation under the current President. While a large amount of focus at the federal level may be emphasized to "Make Amtrak Great Again," the seriousness of federal funding for local and regional public transit operations that has become available and that is pending, may not ever be available the way it currently is from the federal government.

Please take into consideration, either unilaterally on your own, or with staff consensus, in your motion on this item at this special meeting, the following towards healing the bus operator shortage and the more frequent service for operating the 42A and 42B:

- 1) CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security) Act
- 2) CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Response Relief Supplemental Appropriations) Act
- 3) ARP Act (American Rescue Plan) Act
- 4) BII&J Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs) Act
- 5) FBR Act (Federal Budget Reconciliation) Act
- 6) CRISI Act (Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety Improvement) Act, and...
- 7) INVEST In America Act (Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation) Act [This will likely replace SAFETEA-LU and the FAST Act Combined]

These above opportunities are absolutely necessary to resolve the needs of the Yolo County Transportation District, and can also help to advance YoloGo Phase 2 with Phase 1 together on Sunday, November 14, 2021, so that new hires, additional transportation operators, and greater frequency can become a great public benefit one full week prior to Thanksgiving Week 2021 and the full 2021 Holiday Travel Season.

If your board, in closing, would like to get in contact with me about this research, which is only being put forth before you to make a better decision this evening, please feel free to do so either during the meeting, or at your convenience. Thank you all so very much for allowing me to put this research together in writing and for your consideration while my work hours fall in direct conflict with the hours of this important meeting. On my regularly scheduled days off (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) I will go on YouTube and through the "Yolo County Transportation District" Official Channel, catch up, gavel-to-gavel, as to what took place at 7pm on Monday, September 20, 2021. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Mike Barnbaum, Public Transportation Advocacy and Consulting

Mobile/Text: (916) 390-3989

As a Yolobus passenger, I was taking the express bus 43 to work from Davis to Downtown Sacramento regularly before. Now I am using express route 43 again. If the express bus routes are suspended, it will create big problems for me to continue to use Yolobus.

Please keep Yolobus Express/Commuter Route 43 running.

Thanks for your consideration!

Richard Chen

I am sending this email to you for opposing of suspension the Yolobus Express/Commuter Routes. As a Yolobus passenger, I take the express bus to work from Davis to Downtown Sacramento every day. I real appreciate Yolobus do this business for the public. I totally understand how hard to run this business of the driver shortage. Is there the way to reduce the express bus route instead of completed suspension it? Thanks for your consideration!

Guiping Huang

In regards to the proposed suspension of Yolobus Routes 43, 43R, 45, and 230.

I have been a loyal Yolobus Commuter rider for 9 years next month. It is convenient, accessible, and cost effective for me to ride the Commuter buses from Davis into Downtown Sacramento.

I understand that the past year and half has been difficult, but I want to still have options to be able to take a Commuter bus into Sacramento.

Whether that is just 1 commuter bus available in the mornings and afternoon, or combining multiple areas of Davis into a larger and longer Commuter bus commute, either one would be fine, but an indefinite suspension would impact my commute heavily.

I would greatly enjoy still taking the Yolobus commuter routes as they have been safe, cost effective and climate friendly.

Thank you.

- Bradley Seybold

I received a message from Yolo bus for opposing of suspension the Yolo bus Express/Commuter Routes. As a Yolo bus passenger, I take the express bus to work from Davis to Downtown Sacramento every day. I totally understand how hard to run this business of the driver shortage. **Is there the way to reduce normal bus route instead of completed suspension express routes?** Thanks for your consideration!

Thank you,

Yi (Jessica) Zhang | CalPERS

This email is with regards to the proposed suspension of Express and Commuter Routes 43, 43R, 45 and 230.

Please

This concerns me because I rely on the YoloBus Express 43 to get to work. This service has been a great option and alternative to driving and dealing with traffic.

Is there a way to further reduce some trips for the proposed suspended lines before completely suspending them?

I know the line has been reduced to 2 rounds in the morning and 3 in the afternoon.

If possible, maybe the afternoon trips could be reduced to just 2. Or maybe each line for 43, 43R, 45 and 230 would be reduced to one trip in the morning or afternoon.

I looked at the alternative which is to use the 42A/42B however the trip times from Davis to Woodland to Sacramento would be over an hour. This is about double the travel time with the express. If this is the only alternative, I will not be using the YoloBus but instead drive which I would also like to minimize or avoid as this adds to congestion on the road.

I also agree with Julian Watt that if these routes are suspended, there is uncertainty whether the Express routes will be really reinstated. As a last resort, if routes do get suspended, it would be a great comfort if YoloBus can provide explicit criteria and a timeframe that Yolo County Transportation District should define and meet by that timeframe. Right now, the language is vague: "staff recommends that YoloBus Commute and Express routes 43, 43R, 45 and 230 are temporarily suspended until staffing levels are such that those services can be operated reliably."

Lastly, since drivers in Unitrans and YoloBus are lacking, is there any way to improve recruitment and retention of drivers in Yolo County so this uncertainty is avoided in the near future? I am not knowledgeable in this matter but there must be some incentives that should be put in place to restore and maintain reliable staffing levels.

Public transportation is a vital element in cities like Davis and Woodland. I hope some remedy and solution can be found that does not unduly impact riders of the Express and Commuter routes. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Nicole Osorio

Regarding the temporary suspension of express and commute bus Routes 43, 43R, 45 and 230, I live in the area and know people who take the bus in order to go to work. I believe a suspension would greatly inconvenience many who rely on the service, and I hope that you will continue to run the routes at least in the morning and the afternoon. Temporarily reducing the number of buses would be much more preferable to a complete suspension.

Wenlei Sheng

To whom it may concern,

I would just like to voice my opinion about the suspension of the **43 Express Bus** service. Although I understand the possible need for temporary suspension under the current circumstances, please do not permanently eliminate it. Before COVID I was a regular rider for the last 10 years, but like most downtown workers I have mostly been working at home since March of 2020, so I've hardly used it in the last year and a half. But I have been consistently going into Sacramento a few times a week throughout the pandemic and I haven't been able to utilize the 43 express since the schedule was modified, because my work day ends at 5pm and there are no 43 buses that are running after 5pm anymore. I do understand that with such low ridership during these times, that the company needs to consider suspending the service. However, our department is going to start requiring us to come back into the office in downtown Sacramento on a more regular schedule starting the beginning of 2022, so I am requesting that it is only a suspension and that you do not permanently drop the service. If the service becomes available regularly and includes times that service a normal 9am-5pm Sacramento based work schedule, then I will definitely utilize it again.

So I ask, please do not permanently remove the 43 express services between Sacramento and Davis, and consider bringing it back into service when workers are required to come back into the office again. I have

always been extremely appreciative of the service and will continue to utilize it as long as it exists. These services eliminate the need for workers to find downtown Sacramento parking, they reduce traffic congestion on the I80 corridor and air pollution by removing commute cars and they even relieve worker stress because we don't have to drive in traffic to start our daily work.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Meyer

I am a woodland resident who works for state. I am concerning about the cancellation of route 45. It'll be inconvenient for most of the workers who depend on the bus for commuting every day. Please keep at least one route in the morning to Sacramento and one route back to Woodland in the evening (off work time) every day.

Thank you,

Xiaoting

I m sad to know yolo bus is going cancel route 45 .I work for the state and I m handicapped that Can trouble me if that route is suspended.

Baskota Rajnish

I wanted to write this email because although I understand the suspension of the express Yolobus due to the shortage of drivers. I would like to ask if we could keep the 43 express bus. This bus is always reliable & on time. Apart from that it always has commuters going to work from & to the capital, including myself. I use to ride the 42 A before I switched over to the express, however, this bus always comes at least 10 - 25 minutes late, I would understand if the 42 A would improve in taking away the express, however, as commuters we need to get work on time & this effects our professionalism in arriving ontime. Taking away the 43 express bus would be devastating on all the people who commute to & from the capital. Please reconsider this for us, the constituents well being. I'm asking of this for all the women & men who use this bus.

Katherine Rendón

I am a Davis resident working for the state. I take the express bus 43 to work from Davis to Downtown Sacramento. I am concerned about the cancellation of route 43. It'll be inconvenient for most people who depend on the bus to commute every day. I understand how hard it is to run a business with a shortage of drivers. Is there a way to keep at least one route in the morning to Sacramento and one route back to Davis in the afternoon every day?

Thank you very much for your consideration!

Yingjuan Wang

Regarding Item 5, proposed suspension of Yolobus Routes 43, 43R, 45 and 230

My name is Lisette Walker. My daughter Tapua Gwarada has been taking Yolobus to and from work in Sacramento for more than 20 years. Because of her disabilities she cannot drive and bus transportation is her only option.

The suspension of the 43 bus is a transportation crisis for her.

I understand the problems faced by YoloBus in finding drivers and reduced numbers of riders, but suspension of all routes except the airport buses is an extreme measure.

My suggestion, if the 43 service cannot be maintained, is to increase the number of stops for the airport buses to accommodate riders who have lost their bus service.

I would also like to comment on the poor timing of these changes and the lack of notice for riders.

Until I called on Thursday afternoon this information was not posted on the website.

Also, after warnings from bus drivers, I spoke to three people at YoloBus who said no changes were being made. I had to escalate the call up two levels to get the correct information. It is unreasonable for the board to make a decision Monday evening that becomes effective one day later on Wednesday. Riders have no time to find other options and will likely be at a bus stop waiting for buses that never come.

I appreciate all the service YoloBus has provided over the years and hope that a solution to complete suspension of service can be found.

I have been a regular commuter on the YoloBus Davis Express lines for at least 5 years now. It is my only way of getting to work because I do not own a car. I used to take the 232 line in the morning, until it was suspended due to covid, so I switched to taking the 43 in the morning. I have always taken the 43 line in the afternoon.

If all Davis Express lines are suspended, the only option would be the 42 lines, which I worry would be much more crowded due to every Express commuter utilizing it, along with the regular 42 commuters. I live with an immune-compromised individual and I am very concerned about increasing my risk of exposure to covid.

I would very much appreciate it if the 43 line remained in place. I understand that there is a shortage of drivers. My suggestion would be, if possible, to keep the current two morning runs, but to only keep the last afternoon run (the one that leaves H and 11th at 4:43pm). There is only a half hour difference between the current, earliest afternoon run and the last run, which I feel would still accommodate most 43 commuters. I suggest the same for the 230 route as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Doris Yu

There being no further requests to comment, Chair Saylor closed the Public Hearing at 7:54 pm.

Ms. Bernstein emphasized that the proposal was for temporary only suspension of these routes, not eliminating them. The suspension would just be until the driver availability would allow restoration of the services.

Director Frerichs stated that he saw no alternative to temporarily suspending these routes until more drivers were available.

Director Loren asked for clarification on the request for reimbursement for monthly passes.

Mr. Perez responded that current policy did not allow reimbursement but stated staff would explore if this could be done electronically for those with Connect Cards. He went on to say he was interested in working with Transdev to analyze the situation and potential solutions for the long-term health of the organization.

Ms. Bernstein stated that in conversations with Transdev it was apparent that they were looking at the complete picture. She added that an independent analyst could be very beneficial.

Director Ledesma stated that it appeared that everyone was going down the right path. He said that the impact on people's lives should be taken into account. He stated that staff should look at the facts and data, then consider finding more partnerships for a solution.

Director Stallard pointed out that this situation was the contractor's responsibility and asked why the problem had not been brought to the board's attention sooner. He added that if an analyst were hired, it should be by Transdev rather than the District.

Director Dulcich suggested that commuters consider the Solano Transit Route Blue Line as a possible alternative.

Ms. Bernstein repeated that there would be no changes to the Route 42 during this time, that the priority would be to restoring the express services. She added that a restoration timeline was not yet defined as too much was still not known about the situation.

Minute Order 2021-34

Director Frerichs made the motion, seconded by Director Ledesma, to approve the route suspensions for Routes 43, 43R, 45, and 230 effective September 22, 2021. Roll call resulted in:

- AYES: Frerichs, Ledesma, Loren, Saylor, Stallard
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None
- ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Approve Revised Temporary Operating Assistance in Davis and FY 2021/22 Budget Amendment #1

Mr. Perez reviewed the staff report.

Chair Saylor asked if there was any public comment and there was none.

Minute Order 2021-35

Director Frerichs made the motion, seconded by Director Loren, to adopt the temporary expansion of local fixed-route service to operate the Unitrans Routes A, L, and Z Lines effective September 22, 2021 and approve FY 2021/22 Budget Amendment #1 to increase the budget for the additional service. Roll call resulted in:

- AYES: Frerichs, Ledesma, Loren, Saylor, Stallard
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None
- ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed.

Ms. Bernstein asked riders to reach out to staff for assistance in determining options to their commutes. It was suggested that Capitol Corridor be contacted to see what assistance they could offer during this period.

Agenda Item 7 - Adjournment

There being for further business, Chair Saylor adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:


_____, Clerk to the Board