LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

Authorize the Executive Director of the Local Transportation Commission and County Counsel to execute the attached document and all required assurances and certifications: the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) State Planning and Research Technical Assistance Grant application for 1996-97 (Attachment 1). This study will evaluate public and intermodal transportation alternatives for Highway 140, 120/132 and 41 corridors that pass through Mariposa County leading to Yosemite National Park. Funding is provided on a 80% Federal and 20% non-Federal local match basis. A consultant will be retained with the grant funds ($25,000) and local transportation funds ($5,000) for the match which will be utilized by County Staff. The alternatives developed will be based on the study conducted by Yosemite National Park, “Alternative Transportation Modes Feasibility Study Volume IV” and on the process currently being conducted by Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) which will ultimately culminate in a decision for a final transportation plan for Yosemite National Park.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board budgeted funds in 1992-93 to subsidize expanded transit service on Highway 140. Since then, the board has continued to approve a dwindling subsidy ($160,000 for 1995-96) to maintain the Yosemite Connection at its capacity to date.

This application is for Federal funds to develop a transportation strategy on all corridors passing through Mariposa County. A set of alternatives will be chosen that will coordinate with the 3-5 final YARTS strategies that will be considered by the Park. This grant will serve as a mechanism to allow Mariposa County to be prepared to act proactively to manage the eventual transportation recommendations that will be developed for the Park to implement in the near future.

In 1993-94 a similar grant was obtained by Mariposa County which was used to evaluate the 140 Express service. This evaluation determined that the service is very successful, requiring a low subsidy rate, and made recommendations for improving the service quality. County staff is currently working with the contractor towards that goal.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

No Action: Mariposa County will not receive funding to assist in developing a regional plan to respond to the Park’s transportation alternatives that are developed. This lack of preparedness may result in consequences of economic losses to the County due to not being prepared for changes that will be made not soon thereafter when the transportation alternative is chosen for Yosemite National Park.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

1. Application for Federal Transit Administration funds for FY 1996-97

Balance in Reserve Contingencies, If Approved: $