

95-152

DEPARTMENT: Community Services BY: Jim Eutsler

PHONE: 966-3696

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes___ No_x_)

Status of Yosemite Connection Transit Services and request by VIA Adventures, Inc. to renegotiate the terms of the agreement for subsidy of transit services.

Since the closure of Highway 140 into the Park, VIA has reacted with transit services geared to minimize the impact on park employees, County residents, students and tourists. Effective April 2, 1995, they operate six runs uphill and five runs downhill. See attached talking paper for details.

Effective April 2, 1995, Amtrak cancelled their Thruway Contract with VIA Adventures, Inc. which reduces VIA's income by \$228,000 annually. As provided in Paragraph 2 of our contract with VIA, they wish to renegotiate the terms of the agreement. See talking paper attached.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has renegotiated agreements in the past and left the subject agreement open to renegotiation.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Decline to renegotiate.

Renegotiate the contract.

Direct staff to provide additional information prior to renegotiation.

COSTS: Not Applicable

A. Budgeted current FY \$ _____

B. Total anticipated costs \$ _____

C. Required additional funding \$ _____

D. Internal transfers \$ _____

SOURCE: 4/5ths Vote Required

A. Unanticipated revenues \$ _____

B. Reserve for contingencies \$ _____

C. Source description: _____

Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ _____

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

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 95-152 Ord. No. _____

Vote - Ayes: _____ Noes: _____

Absent: _____ Abstained: _____

Approved Denied

Minute Order Attached No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: _____
Deputy

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:
This item on agenda as:

Recommended *(to discuss RENEGOTIATION)*

Not Recommended

For Policy Determination

Submitted with Comment

Returned for Further Action

Comment: _____

A.O. Initials: _____

TALKING PAPER
CURRENT STATUS OF YOSEMITE CONNECTION

Jim Eutsler
Community Services Director
April 11, 1995

When the slide occurred and closed Highway 140, VIA Adventures, Inc. worked with the Park, Chamber and my office to provide needed transit services. They provided transportation to all users of the system in a manner to minimize the impact on everyone. Service was provided all along the 140 corridor from Merced to El Portal and to the Park via 120 and 41. There was no impact on the GAIN subsidized transportation to and from Merced College.

Attachment 1 to this paper is the schedule effective April 2, 1995 until Highway 140 opens.

Amtrak is eliminating its Thruway Contract with VIA which reduces VIA's income by \$228,000 annually. As provided for in Paragraph 2 of our agreement with VIA, VIA may request a renegotiation if there is any change in Amtrak participation. The current measure of the agreement is service hours, i.e., 10,800 service hours annually (900 per month). The two Amtrak Thruway runs comprised 3,600 (300 hours monthly) of this total. VIA proposes to reduce the hours by that amount to 7,200 hours annually (600 per month).

Attachment 2 is VIA's proposed new schedule to go into effect with the opening of Highway 140. It includes elimination of the Amtrak Thruway runs and adjustments to other runs to better provide the service needed. Also included in Attachment two is a brief explanation of runs and ridership.

I would conclude that VIA has provided an acceptable level of service since the closure of Highway 140. There has been little, if any, reduction in service hours due to the time consumed in using the 49, 120, and 41 alternate routes.

I would recommend honoring VIA's request to reduce the service hours in the agreement. Although service hours is a concrete and convenient measure, accessibility and ridership is ultimately the measure with which we are all concerned.

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: JIM EUTSLER, Community Services Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*
SUBJECT: Request by VIA, Adventures, Inc. to
Renegotiate Terms of Agreement for
Subsidy of Transit Services;
Resolution Number 95-152

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on April 11, 1995

ACTION AND VOTE:

10:18 a.m. Jim Eutsler, Community Services Director;

A) Status Report of Yosemite Connection Transit Service and Request by VIA Adventures, Inc. to Renegotiate Terms of Agreement for Subsidy of Transit Services

BOARD ACTION: Community Services Director and Curtis Riggs, President for VIA Adventures, were present for item. Community Services Director provided status report showing an increase of ridership on the Yosemite bus by 58%, demonstrating that system is maturing, operated well and improving public awareness. August was reported as the peak month. Discussion of request from VIA to reduce service hours by 300 hours per month (3,600 hours annually), coinciding with the cancelled Amtrak through-way route. Cost of lost subsidy by Amtrak is \$228,000 annually. There is no request for additional subsidy, but a request for a schedule change as explained by Community Services Director, who recommends VIA's request. Community Services Director also informed the Board that a questionnaire is being distributed by VIA, asking El Portal riders for their input on route preferences. Advertising benefits by VIA were noted. Supervisor Reilly commended VIA on its responsiveness and service during the road closure and conveyed that the Park Service was also very appreciative. (M) Reilly to support VIA's request, (S) Balmain, under discussion. Curtis Riggs addressed Board's concerns and explained CALTRANS' funding cuts to Amtrak and route schedules. VIA encourages Board to continually provide VIA with input.

MINUTE ORDER
April 11, 1995
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Motion with second was amended by maker to adopt recommended reduction of hours (3,600 hours annually) and for item to return in July of 1995 for further review and possible action as to the contract itself. Curtis Riggs consented to motion in accordance with County Counsel's request. No further discussion, Res. 95-152 adopted/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart and Parker; Excused: Taber.

cc: Jeffrey G. Green, County Counsel
Ken Hawkins, Auditor
Curtis Riggs, President/VIA
File

Yosemite VIA Gray Line (140 Express)

Schedule update

effective date: April 2
revised 3/31

Eastbound

Merced	Mariposa	El Portal	Yosemite
	(2) 6:00a	→ 7:00a	
8:00a	—————→		1:15p
	(2) 3:15p	→ 4:30p	
3:15p	→ 4:00p	—————→ 6:15p	
5:13p	→ 6:10p	→ 7:15p	
9:45p	resv only 11:00p		

Westbound

Yosemite	El Portal	Mariposa	Merced
		6:40a	→ 7:45a
	8:00a	→ 9:30a	→ 10:15a
8:00a	—————→		10:15a → 11:15a
3:20p	—————→		7:45p
	(2) 5:00p	→ 6:00p	

ATCH 1

Yosemite VIA Gray Line (140 Express)

Schedule update

effective date: 140 OPEN
revised 3/31

Eastbound

	Merced		Mariposa		El Portal		Yosemite
			① 5:15a	- - -	6:00a	- - -	6:45a
			② 6:00a	- - -	6:45a	- - -	7:30a
③	6:15a	- - -	7:00a	- - -	7:45a	- - -	8:30a
④	10:15a	- - -	11:15a	- - -	flag	- - -	12:45p
			⑤ 2:15p	- - -	3:00p	- - -	3:45p
⑥	3:15p	- - -	4:00p	- - -	4:45p	- - -	5:30p
⑦	5:13p	- - -	6:10p	- - -	7:15p		
⑧	9:45p	resv only	11:00p				

Westbound

	Yosemite		El Portal		Mariposa		Merced
					⑨ 6:40a	- - -	7:45a
⑩	9:00a	- - -	9:30a	- - -	10:30a	- - -	11:15a
⑪	3:20p	- - -	4:20p	- - -	5:20p	- - -	6:05p
⑫	4:15p	- - -	4:45p	- - -	5:30p		
⑬	5:15p	- - -	5:45p	- - -	6:30p		
⑭	7:00p	- - -	7:30p	- - -	8:15p	- - -	9:15p

ATCH 2-1

Explanation of Runs and Ridership

- #1 Primarily employees of National Park Service (NPS) and Yosemite Concessionaire Services (YCS).
(This is a 21 Passenger bus.)
- #2 Park employees and some guests.
- #3 Guests that may have arrived in Merced by train the night before and commuters from Mariposa and the 140 corridor.
- #4 This is primarily Amtrak/Gray Line Tour passengers. This bus will wait for late trains. Both train passengers to Mariposa and some employees ride this bus.
- #5 21 Passenger bus going uphill to bring down employees and guests at 4:15 pm.
- #6 Guests for Mariposa or Yosemite and employees.
Amtrak arrives in Merced at 2:59 pm and Greyhound arrives at 3:00 pm. This bus will wait for late trains.
- #7 Departs from Merced. College students (GAIN), Commuters and shoppers to Mariposa and Mid Pines. (El Portal if requested).
- #8 College students going home from evening classes.
- #9 Primarily Merced College students. Also used by commuters.
- #10 Primarily guests meeting trains and some locals for shopping and appointments. This combined what was formerly the 7:45am and 11:05 downhill runs.
- #11 Gray Line and Amtrak passengers. Some students ride this bus down to Merced College for evening classes.
- #12 Brings employees out of Yosemite and some guests to El Portal and 140 corridor motels.
- #13 Employees working later shifts and park visitors with lodging outside of the park.
- #14 Primarily visitors who have gone to Yosemite on a day trip.

2-21-95

ARKH 2-2