



Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO OBTAIN INPUT REGARDING TRANSIT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES AS PART OF THE SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN (SRTP)

Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) and Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) will host two meetings, one in Yuma and the second in San Luis, to obtain rider and general input regarding transit needs and what public priorities are for future transit service to inform the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP)

YUMA, AZ (August 20, 2013) – The Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA), which operates YCAT, and the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO), Yuma County’s regional transportation planning agency, will host two public workshops in order to obtain public input regarding existing transit needs and future priorities for improving transit service.

The first workshop will be held at the San Luis Public Library, 1075 N. 6th Avenue, San Luis, on Wednesday, September 4 between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. YCAT Route 95 serves the San Luis Library 1/3 mile east at Juan Sanchez Blvd. and 4th Avenue.

The second workshop will be held at the Yuma Public Library Main Branch, 2951 S. 21st Drive, Yuma, on Thursday, September 5 between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. YCAT Route 95 serves the Main Branch Library in both directions.

This interactive public workshop will give riders and community members the opportunity to share their ideas about YCAT’s bus schedules, routes and services, and to indicate their priorities for future service improvements. Attendees will have an opportunity to talk with YCAT staff and our consultants to learn about the SRTP planning process. Community members are encouraged to attend the workshop to present their ideas and provide comments.

The SRTP provides a roadmap for YCAT’s future development. The two workshops are the first round of the public outreach process, which will include two additional public workshops, an online survey that will go “live” during the month of September, a survey of passengers on the buses and at busy YCAT bus stops at

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selected times during September, and other public comment opportunities available through the YCAT website at <http://www.ycipta.org>.

Public outreach is an integral part of the SRTP process. Anyone who is unable to attend the Open House can visit <http://www.ycipta.org> to learn more about the project and provide comments. The website will be updated continually to communicate the SRTP's progress and announce future public workshops.

More details about the public workshops and how to get to the event are available by calling 928.783.2235 or visiting <http://www.ycipta.org>.

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About Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

YCIPTA is the public transportation provider for Yuma County, formed as an intergovernmental public transportation authority as defined in the Arizona Revised Statutes by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, YCIPTA is governed by a nine member Board of Directors consisting of all of the municipalities, the County government, Indian tribes and higher educational institution in Yuma County. 350,000 passengers' trips were made on YCAT buses in FY 2013. YCIPTA operates, maintains and administers Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) fixed route, deviated fixed route and paratransit services and contracts services to Transportation Concepts of Irvine, CA. See where it takes you at www.ycat.az.gov or call 928.783.2235.

About the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO). YMPO is Yuma County's regional transportation planning agency. YMPO is responsible for coordinating transportation planning with federal and state government, and providing a forum for facilitating collaboration of governments, interested parties, and residents. YMPO's specific mission is to strive to attain and balance multimodal transportation-related needs in the Yuma regional transportation planning boundary area as designated by the Arizona Governor, with finite resources, while promoting a safe environment and enhancing the quality of life in the community. YMPO planning includes coordinating and integrating sustainable solutions, and maintaining a continuing 23-year multi-agency comprehensive transportation plan, and a communicative atmosphere to incorporate our public involvement.

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Yuma County Area Transit Timeline of Events

1980 – Yuma starts receiving Federal funds from United States Department of Transportation for public transit

1983 – YMPO was created to perform transportation planning in Yuma County due to Yuma receiving the urban designation.

1984-1996 – Various planning activities and studies conducted to determine the feasibility of public transit in Yuma County.

1997 – Transportation tax placed on the ballot in City of Yuma to start public transit service, tax failed.

1998 – YMPO receives from local funding from Yuma City and Yuma County to subsidize a private public transit service, called Valley Transit and started Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride service.

2002 – YMPO decides to assume the transit service, enters into contract with Saguaro Foundation to operate Yuma County Area Transit after transit development plan by Moore and Associates was completed. Two routes were created. Local Yuma route and AWC to San Luis route operated.

2004 – YMPO reduces YCAT bus service due to decline in state funding called Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF). AWC to Yuma and Yuma to San Luis route remain.

2005 – YMPO increases bus service due to an increase more LTAF and local agency funding. Five routes created. New service on Cocopah Reservation begins.

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2006 – YMPO receives grant to begin service to Wellton and purchases large 33 foot transit buses.

2008 – Yuma Transit, LLC and Kay Transportation assume YCAT and Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride service from Saguaro Foundation.

2009 – YMPO operates seven bus routes, a dial-a-ride service Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ARRA funds received to purchase 15 new buses, smart card system and 30 bus shelters with no local match.

2010 – State of Arizona eliminates LTAF. City of Yuma stops funding YCAT; YCAT potentially comes close to shutting down on June 30, 2010. YMPO works with its member agencies to recreate a modified YCAT service that is limited in nature. New contract with First Transit begins as a result.

2011 – City of Yuma and Yuma County work together with San Luis, Somerton, Wellton and NAU-Yuma to form Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority. New Transit Director is hired. YMPO contracts with YCIPTA to manage YCAT on their behalf. Yuma Regional Transit Study is completed. YCIPTA becomes the local Greyhound agent.

2012 – YMPO restructures YCAT and Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride services. YCAT OnCall begins to replace Dial-A-Ride. Saguaro Foundation assumes the dial-a-ride program. YMPO transfers transit service to YCIPTA. YCIPTA hires four other staff members and receives FTA grantee status. New funding partnerships and new member agencies from AWC, Quechan Indian Tribe and Cocopah Indian Tribe begin funding YCAT. YCAT exceeds 1,600 passenger trips per month. Highest in YCAT's history.

2013 – New transit services in the Fortuna Foothills, Wellton and El Centro begin. Transportation Concepts begins operating YCAT services.

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