



Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

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YCIPTA TO SELECT NEW OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR TO REPLACE TRANSPORTATION CONCEPTS IN APRIL

YUMA, AZ (March 28, 2014) - Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) has completed its review of the seven proposals received to recommend a new operator to assume the operations and maintenance of the Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) system as soon as possible. The recommendation will be provided to the YCIPTA Board of Directors at a special meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at Aldrich Hall.

Since 2000, Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization and now YCIPTA has been contracting the operations and maintenance of the YCAT system to third party organizations and companies. From February 2000-March 2003, San Luis-Yuma Transit Company operated Valley Transit, from February 2000-June 2008, Saguaro Foundation first started operating Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride and then assumed the YCAT service in 2003 after San Luis-Yuma Transit Company closed its doors. From July 2008-October 2010, Yuma Transit, LLC and Kay Transportation, LLC doing business as Just For You Transportation operated both YCAT and Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride. From October 2010-June 2013, First Transit operated both YCAT and Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride (which was renamed YCAT OnCall in 2012) and from July 2013 to present, under an emergency procurement, Parking Concepts, Inc doing business as Transportation Concepts has been operating the YCAT system today. YCIPTA has found contracting is the most effective way of providing this service due to low cost, less risk and using tools of a larger corporation to support a smaller operation.

YCIPTA released a comprehensive request for proposals with explicit expectations and guidelines to seek a contractor that is able to develop a good relationship with YCIPTA, the employees that they will be overseeing and the community and that will follow the contract as signed. A cooperative management team is also critical to the success of contractor-contractee relationship. YCIPTA staff

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interviewed with the management teams of the top four proposers as well to learn about their qualifications and concepts for managing the system.

The seven companies that are in the running to operate and maintain YCAT and that their proposals have been reviewed and scored by a review panel of nine individuals that representing many governmental agencies and non-profit organizations that have a vested interest in YCAT operations are:

- First Transit, Inc
- McDonald Transit Associates
- MV Transportation, Inc
- National Express Transit Services Corporation
- Paratransit Services
- Ride Right, LLC
- Saguaro Transportation Service (Paratransit and Small Bus Only)

Upon successful negotiations with the proposed recommended contractor, YCIPTA will immediately commence transition activities with the new contractor to assume the operations and maintenance of the YCAT system from Transportation Concepts as smoothly as possible. YCIPTA and Transportation Concepts will be terminating the relationship effective May 1, 2014 due to many issues with Transportation Concepts contractual compliance and lack of qualified management being able to effectively manage the agreement and relationships. The new contract will be for a three year period with seven one year options. YCIPTA will review the relationship again in January of 2017 once the award is made.

There will be no interruption of transit service to the ridership. It is the goal of YCIPTA to ensure that all routes operate as scheduled. The employees that are presently working for Transportation Concepts will be afforded an opportunity to apply for employment with the proposed contractor during the month of April. The proposed contractors have all agreed to negotiate with ATU Local 1433 for the portion of the workforce that is represented. In addition, the proposed contractor will also be working with Goodwill, Yuma Private Industry Council and Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation to find qualified candidates interested in a career in public transportation to fill any potential vacancies. The wages and benefits will be no less than what is being offered today by Transportation Concepts.

"YCIPTA is looking forward to a new relationship with the recommended contractor and hopes to provide the residents of Yuma County a world class transit system and the contractor employees a happier place of work with less stress and controversy" stated John Andoh, Transit Director.

YCIPTA also commissioned an independent third party auditor to prepare a performance audit reviewing compliance of Transportation Concepts with the terms of the YCIPTA-Transportation Concepts Agreement, relevant federal and state requirements, and standard industry practices; verify YCIPTA's contract management procedures and practices are appropriate; and develop recommendations to enhance

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YCIPTA's contract administration in the future. This audit should be completed in May and will be used as a tool to improve relationship between YCIPTA and a contractor.

For YCAT transit information and YCAT OnCall reservations call 928-783-2235. Interested parties can also visit the YCAT online at www.ycat.az.gov.

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. 381,000 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, vanpool and paratransit services and contracts services to Transportation Concepts of Irvine, CA, vRide of Troy, MI and Enterprise Rideshare of Tempe, AZ. See where it takes you at www.ycat.az.gov or call 928.783.2235.

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