



Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

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YCIPTA PARTNERS WITH SAGUARO FOUNDATION AND YMPO TO IMPLEMENT SARA RIDES

YUMA, AZ (March 28, 2014) - Since 2012, the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) has been working with Saguaro Foundation and Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) to implement SARA Rides - a mobility management "one call, one click" transportation center where Yuma County residents can get information and services from one source regarding transportation options.

SARA Rides was developed through a Community Transportation Association of America Mobility Management Visioning Workshop which YCIPTA, YMPO, Western Arizona Council of Governments, Saguaro Foundation, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Achieve Human Services and Horizon Human Services participated in to find away to develop an alternative the discontinuance of the former Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride service that was available to seniors and persons with disabilities that did not meet the ADA requirements for transportation on an ADA paratransit service, commonly known today in Yuma County as YCAT OnCall.

YMPO and ADOT has provided funding to help start SARA Rides and as a result a new demand response scheduling, reservations and dispatching system provided by Route Match was purchased to facilitate the coordination of vehicles from all public and non-profit transportation providers to reduce the cost of providing transportation to this sensitive populations.

Starting April 7, 2014, to launch SARA Rides, YCIPTA will have Saguaro Foundation as the lead agency for SARA Rides to operate YCAT OnCall ADA Paratransit service as part of a one year pilot. There is no changes in the level of

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John Andoh, Transit Director

service, the fares or service policies. The quality of service is expected to increase as a result of participation in SARA Rides. Saguaro Foundation will operate YCAT OnCall and start pooling passengers to improve the overall productivity of this service through the use of the Route Match system. YCIPTA will pay the Saguaro Foundation \$25.59 per revenue hour for this service which will achieve a savings of yield a savings of approximately \$24,000, which can provide an additional 930 revenue hours of service to YCAT OnCall clients.

It is anticipated that Achieve Human Services, Horizon Human Services and WACOG will start transitioning their clients to SARA Rides starting in fiscal year 2015 and is monitoring YCIPTA's participation of this new program. All are parties to a memorandum of understanding that establishes the participants and Saguaro Foundation.

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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