



CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

July 8, 2025

Ms. Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Program management
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System's application to FY 2025 Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program for four Clean-Diesel, Over-the-Road Coaches

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer,

On behalf of the City of Merced, I am writing to support the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System's (YARTS) application to the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2025 Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program for the purchase of four new, clean-diesel, over-the-road coach buses.

For the last 25 years, YARTS has been providing a safe, convenient and cost-effective public transit option to visitors, employees, and families to Yosemite National Park and its gateway communities within the Sierra Nevada mountains and central San Joaquin Valley. This project is important in maintaining the existing level of operations in the six counties in which YARTS provides service. Many communities within YARTS' 480 square-mile service area are considered underserved and rely on YARTS not only for the economic benefits it provides local businesses but also for reliable transportation within the region to jobs and services.

As a small, rural public transit agency, funding for capital purchases is challenging. The buses purchased with these grant funds will be used to replace existing vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life. Without replacement, service in some areas will be reduced.

We sincerely hope that the Federal Transit Administration will favorably consider YARTS' project application for funding to maintain an adequate fleet so that local residents, as well as visitors from across the country, can continue to enjoy access to the natural wonders found in Yosemite National Park.

Sincerely,

Matthew Serratto
Mayor
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