

## Chapter 1. Introduction

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is an association of local governments for the Sacramento Region, including Yolo County. SACOG is responsible for overseeing the preparation of all Short Range Transit Plans in this region.

The three public transit providers in Yolo County are:

- **YOLOBUS.** Operated by the Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD), YOLOBUS provides both local and intercity service throughout Yolo County. Yolobus Special provides the complimentary ADA paratransit service in the County.
- **Unitrans.** Operated by the Associated Students of the University of California Davis (ASUCD), Unitrans provides local fixed route service throughout the city and to the UCD campus.
- **Davis Community Transit (DCT).** Operated by the City of Davis, DCT provides complimentary ADA and senior paratransit service throughout Davis. DCT also provides general public demand response service when space permits.

SACOG and each of the transit operators in Yolo County have agreed that even though transit services in Yolo County are closely related, two separate SRTP documents would be prepared for this update: one for Yolo County Transportation District and one for the City of Davis.

### Study Objectives

The primary objective of this study is to update the previous Short Range Transit Plan completed in 1997. Short Range Transit Plans are the primary means of optimizing short-term service improvements, while beginning to implement a long term transit vision. This process begins with an evaluation of existing transit services, a review of the current operating environment and an assessment of how resources are currently allocated. The next step is to

identify where improvements or adjustments can be made and the facilities needed to support them and a plan to pay for them.

## Yolo County Transportation District Organizational Structure

In August 1989, the Yolo County Transit Authority (YCTA) was formed through a Joint Powers Agreement between the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland, Winters and the County of Yolo. In 1997, the Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD) replaced the YCTA. Current duties of the District include:

- Oversee public transit services in Yolo County (YOLOBUS fixed route and YOLOBUS Special);
- Act as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency for Yolo County;
- Act as the Congestion Management Agency for Yolo County;
- Serve as the agency responsible for countywide coordination of transportation system planning, programming and prioritization of significant projects;
- Develop and announce plans for funding transportation projects within the District; and
- Serve as the coordinating agency for all state and federal funding applications where appropriate.

Nearly all (99%) of YCTD's budget relates to planning, operation and capital expenses relating to public transportation, with the remaining one percent being dedicated to the District's role as the Congestion Management Agency.

The seven-member YCTD Board consists of members from the cities of Winters, Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento, as well as a member from the County of Yolo. In addition, the University of California at Davis and Caltrans each have ex-officio Board membership. Each city, the County and ex-officio members have designated alternates.

YCTD currently has nine direct employees, including the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Financial Officer, Assistant Transportation Planner, Project Coordinator/Buyer, Administrative Assistant, Account Clerk and two Customer Service Representatives. YCTD contracts with First Transit, Incorporated to operate YOLOBUS fixed route and paratransit services. First Transit currently employs about 86 people to operate these services.

## Agreements with Other Transit Operators

### **Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority**

On October 8, 2002, YCTD entered into an agreement with the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) to provide riders on the Capitol Corridor one round trip fare on YOLOBUS. The CCJPA reimburses YCTD on a quarterly or monthly basis based on the average annual fare revenue per rider for the number of transfers collected by YCTD.

### **Unitrans/The Regents of the University of California at Davis**

Each year, YCTD and UC Davis enter into an agreement that allows undergraduate students to ride any YOLOBUS route simply by showing their valid undergraduate registration card at the time of boarding. Each year, the University pays YCTD \$85,000 in four equal installments at the beginning of each fiscal quarter (July, October, January and April). YCTD is required to track usage of all undergraduate students and provide this information quarterly to Unitrans staff.

## Review of Other Studies

Several concurrent studies that may affect transit services in Yolo County were reviewed as part of this SRTP update. Where appropriate, these studies are referenced in more detail, either in this document or in the SRTP Update for the City of Davis. Three of the major studies and plans that will impact Yolo County in the next decade are summarized below.

## **Sacramento RT Transit Equity Study**

Since the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) formation in 1973, the level and type of transit services that are provided in the region have changed dramatically. During this period, RT has entered into a number of agreements with neighboring communities (including Yolo County) to help fund and operate service in the region. As stated in the Transit Equity Study (TES), there are three primary objectives:

1. Establish an understanding of regional transit revenue sources, funding needs and requirements across RT's participating jurisdictions.
2. Standardize the basis of cost responsibility in service agreements with jurisdictions served by the District which will contribute to fair and predictable cost sharing for the jurisdictions and local support revenues for RT; and
3. Provide a framework for RT and its partners to evaluate the level of transit service relative to transit funding provided by member and contract jurisdictions alike. This will support appropriate decision making regarding future service planning and transit resource allocation.

Although YCTD has not been directly involved in this study, it is expected that as the Regional Transit system expands, this study will help foster future discussions between RT and other jurisdictions (including YCTD).

## **Sacramento RT Fare Study**

RT has only increased base fares once in the past 18 years. In the last five years, fare revenues have been relatively flat and the farebox recovery ratio has been declining. Further compounding the situation, federal operating assistance for large and mid-size transit agencies has eroded. To help address revenue shortfalls, RT commissioned a major study of RT's overall fare structure. Study recommendations include:

- Raise base fare from \$1.50 to \$2.00 over two years
- Increase the monthly pass to \$80.00 and senior/disabled pass to \$40

- Increase student monthly pass from the current \$15/month to \$24
- Introduce a new semi-monthly pass at half price
- Increase the daily pass to \$4.50
- Retain current discounts for students, seniors and disabled

The final fare structure has been approved. The initial \$0.25 fare increase went into effect in September 2005. The full changes will be implemented no later than January 2007. Since YCTD and RT used to accept free transfers, the change in RT fares will impact YCTD.

### **UC Davis Long Range Development Plan**

The UC Davis 2003 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) is a comprehensive land use and policy plan that will guide growth of the campus through the 2015/16 academic year. The 2003 LRDP was developed primarily as a land use planning tool and its ultimate goal is to respond to the anticipated growth in student enrollment of 5,130 students (by 2015/16). The LRDP was also developed to respond to an increase in academic and research activities that are anticipated on the campus over the next 10 years. More detail on the LRDP can be found at <http://www.ormp.ucdavis.edu/environreview/lrdp.html>.

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