



GCTD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Gold Coast Transit District - Board Room

Meeting Summary

TAC Members Present: Treena Taylor, County of Ventura; Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura; and Aaron Bonfilio and Claire Grasty, VCTC

TAC Members Absent: Pete Wessel, City of Oxnard; Don Villafana, City of Port Hueneme; and Philip Pulley, City of Ojai

GCTD Staff Present: Steve Brown, General Manager; Vanessa Rauschenberger, Director of Planning and Marketing; Beatris Megerdichian and Austin Novstrup, Transit Planners; Margaret Heath-Schoep, Paratransit Manager; Jim Beck, Director of Operations & Maintenance; and Dawn Perkins, Director of Finance

Members of the Public: None

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Vice Chair Treena Taylor called the TAC meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None.

3. Committee Members' Comments

Claire Grasty announced that VCTC is considering a Clean Fleet Planning grant. She mentioned that VCTC staff can discuss and coordinate the specifics with GCTD. Vanessa Rauschenberger informed members that Jim Beck will be the point of contact.

Aaron Bonfilio announced that the County wide ticketing prototype inspections went well and he will reach out to GCTD for the installation. They will schedule a kickoff meeting with Jim, Vanessa and Cubic.

4. Staff Comments

Vanessa Rauschenberger announced that the agency is continuing to see the impacts of COVID-19 on staffing levels. The agency has approximately 10 staff exposed to COVID-19. The operations department is doing their best to continue operating service. She reminded TAC members that service changes are effective January 24th, restoring service frequency on routes

1 and 6 among other minor schedule adjustments. She added that passengers are reminded to plan extra time to travel as there may be missed trips due to staff shortages.

5. Approval of December 16, 2020 Meeting Summary

The approval of December 16, 2020 meeting minutes was moved to the February meeting due to the absence of a quorum.

6. Fixed-Route & Paratransit Service Update – 2nd Quarter FY 2020-21 Matt Miller and Margaret Heath-Schoep

Beatris Megerdichian informed TAC members that ridership for the 2nd quarter of FY 2020-21 has decreased 46% over the same time last year. She added that ridership decreases are expected as the pandemic continues to prevent businesses, schools and colleges from fully re-opening. She mentioned that on-time performance is 89% close to the goal of 90%. Beatris added that weekend ridership has seen a smaller decrease compared to weekday ridership.

Additionally, the new route 23 has seen a 64% increase from quarter one to quarter two. Passengers are using the route to travel to retail and service destinations at the Esplanade shopping center and Ventura Road.

Vanessa Rauschenberger added that Sunday ridership has remained at similar levels as pre-pandemic. This indicates that, and as demonstrated by the recent ridership survey, a core group of riders rely on transit for trips to essential services. They ride the bus and have no other means of transportation and will continue to ride.

Vanessa informed members that demand for Access continues to be low. Sanitization measures continue to be in place including enhanced cleaning of buses. She added that the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds awarded will be used to launch the LATE NIGHT SAFE RIDE pilot program. The service will aim to provide late night return service to passengers using the Access fleet. Additionally, she mentioned that staff is continuing to work on the on-demand micro-transit project.

7. Update on Grant Awards – Matt Miller

Vanessa Rauschenberger provided a status update on recent grant awards. She mentioned that GCTD applied for FEMA funding for various costs related to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. She informed that GCTD was reimbursed for purchasing and installing protective barriers on the GO ACCESS fleet. She mentioned that staff is working with VCTC on the reimbursement for the meal delivery using Access fleet.

Vanessa informed members that several projects awarded through the VCTC calls for projects include JARC funds the LATE NIGHT SAFE RIDE (CARES Act related project, projected launch date is in February) and South Oxnard Micro-Transit demonstration project (projected launch date is in summer). Other projects include Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for replacing nine CNG buses. Additionally, the 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities funds will allow GO ACCESS to offer a web-based portal for self-service demand response scheduling. This allows customers more flexibility with scheduling trips saving staff time.

Lastly, she added that GCTD in partnership with Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance is expected to receive funds for an electric paratransit vehicle and charging infrastructure to be used to implement the on-demand south Oxnard Micro-Transit demonstration project.

8. Discuss GCTD Member TDA Budget Input – Dawn Perkins

Dawn Perkins informed members that the TDA claim forms will be going out to the member agencies in the next few days and will be due back to GCTD by February 15th.

Treana Taylor inquired about the impact on TDA funding from the pandemic.

Vanessa Rauschenberger informed members that staff will know by the second week of February.

9. Future Agenda Items – Budget

10. Adjournment

Vice Chair Treana Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am.