



## **GCTD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Gold Coast Transit District - Board Room

### **Meeting Summary**

**TAC Members Present:** Pete Wessel, City of Oxnard; Treena Taylor, County of Ventura; Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura; Philip Pulley, City of Ojai; and Jeni Eddington and Claire Grasty, VCTC

**TAC Members Absent:** Don Villafana, City of Port Hueneme

**GCTD Staff Present:** Steve Brown, General Manager; Vanessa Rauschenberger, Director of Planning and Marketing; Matt Miller, Planning Manager; Beatris Megerdichian, Transit Planner; Cynthia Torres-Duque, Communications & Marketing Manager; 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**

Chair Pete Wessel 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 will be entering into an agreement to update the Ventura County Comprehensive Transportation Plan during the March commission meeting.

#### **4. Staff Comments**

Vanessa Rauschenberger reminded TAC members that the TDA Budget responses is due to Dawn Perkins this Friday.

Matt Miller informed members that GCTD staff is out on the field performing bus stop inventory and next steps are to prepare a report on the conditions and maintenance.

#### **5. Approval of January 20, 2021 and December 16, 2020 Meeting Summary**

Sergio Albarran made a motion to approve the January 2021 and December 2020 meeting summary and Treena Taylor seconded the motion as it passed unanimously.

#### **6. Update on Federal Mask Mandate for Passengers and Employees – Vanessa Rauschenberger & Jim Beck**

Vanessa Rauschenberger informed members that the federal mask mandate is effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. As part of the mandate, mask types are now defined, and penalties are possible. For example, face shields are no longer a permitted and do not satisfy the mandate. The mandate applies to all vehicles, stations, and stops. Vanessa mentioned that signage and education is required for employees and passengers. GCTD's approach has been education, encouragement, and enforcement except where ADA exemptions apply. ADA exemptions are to be determined by FTA. She added that GCTD education plan includes print advertisements, radio buys, social media messages and posters in the buses.

Sergio Albarran inquired about GCTD offering masks to passengers.

Vanessa informed members that GCTD is providing masks upon request.

Jim Beck informed members that all operators have 5 extra operators to provide to passengers if necessary. He added that if someone refuses to wear a mask, operators are instructed to call supervisors to resolve any issues. No issues have been reported so far.

#### **7. GCTD COVID-19 Recovery Plan – Vanessa Rauschenberger**

Vanessa Rauschenberger informed that COVID-19 updates are shared with internal staff weekly. The COVID-19 related cases are decreasing and operators who were on leave during the peak of the pandemic are returning to work. She mentioned that GCTD experienced staff shortages due to COVID-19 related leave however, many positive cases were not work-related exposures. She added that this pandemic has been among other historic events and compared the ridership decreases to the 1990's when Santa Paula left the district and the early 2000's fuel crisis.

Vanessa Rauschenberger announced that the GCTD COVID-19 Recovery Plan is at the early stages. She mentioned that she is requesting input from employees through a survey to determine how we can transition from response to recovery and how we can support the community's recovery. Additionally, the employee survey covers topics such as what we can learn from the pandemic, services to restore, employee concerns, resuming fares and vaccine incentive.

GCTD's goals through the recovery plan include supporting community recovery, financial and ridership recovery, and growing trust in public transit. She mentioned some of the recovery strategies including contactless fares, enhanced cleaning, restoring services, Late Night Safe Ride and Microtransit programs. She also mentioned that TAC members are encouraged to share their recovery plans as GCTD can help coordinate recovery efforts.

#### **8. FY20-21 LCTOP Allocation Request – Matt Miller**

Matt Miller presented the FY 20-21 LCTOP Allocation request where he explained the program and how these funds support various projects. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) is funded using Cap and Trade funds and these funds support California Climate Investments program. The programs within California Climate Investments are the Transportation

and Sustainable Communities fund, the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency, and Natural Resources & Waste Diversion. He added that LCTOP, among other programs, is supported by the Transportation and Sustainable Communities fund. The program's focus is to provide operating and capital assistance to agencies with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, the program requires a certain percentage of funds to be spent on projects that benefit priority populations including disadvantages and low-income communities. GCTD service area has seven disadvantages census tracts where the population shares a disproportion share of pollution and falls below statewide poverty levels. Matt informed members that these are formula funds where GCTD receives a percentage of the funds based on the amount of fare collection revenue. GCTD has received between \$55,000 to \$75,000 throughout the years. In past years, these funds were used to pay for the construction of the facility, fund the Token Transit mobile ticketing application until 2023/2024, Free Fare Days program, and for the new route 23 marketing and promotion. These years funds will go towards marketing Route 23 to encourage ridership.

**9. Future Agenda Items – Budget**

**10. Adjournment**

Chair Pete Wessel adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.