



Item #8

DATE November 6, 2019

TO GCTD Board of Directors

FROM Margaret Schoep, Paratransit & Special Projects Manager

SUBJECT Consider Authorization of General Manager to Sign an MOU with the City of Camarillo Describing the Process for Providing Direct Service between GCTD's Service Area and the City of Camarillo (Pilot Program)

SUMMARY

Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) provides GO ACCESS paratransit services to qualified individuals needing mobility assistance in the GCTD service area. In 2018, GCTD successfully applied for grant funding under the FTA 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program to fund a 3-year pilot program to provide direct GO ACCESS service to/from the GCTD service area and the City of Camarillo. The pilot program's goal will be to help eliminate or reduce the need for transfers and improve travel times and potentially reduce anxiety/stress for customers traveling between our services areas. Over the past year, GCTD and City of Camarillo staff have collaborated to develop an MOU that would formalize the mutual desire to jointly provide direct service and improve connectivity to customers.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Camarillo that formalizes the process for providing paratransit passengers with direct service from the GCTD service area to destinations within the City of Camarillo (3-year Pilot Period).

BACKGROUND

Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) provides GO ACCESS paratransit services to individuals certified under the Americans with Disabilities Act as unable to use fixed route services some or all of the time. GO ACCESS also provides service to seniors, 65 years of age and older. The program is vital for passengers to access programs and services essential to their ability to maintain independence within the community. The most common destination for passengers tends to be of a medical nature. Several medical/insurance organizations have re-structured since paratransit services were first offered in 1994. The demand for transportation to destinations in Camarillo has been steadily increasing as hospitals, clinics and pharmacies have consolidated, downsized, shifted service locations, etc. during this same time.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Program provides funding for the purpose of assisting in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the existing transportation is inappropriate to meeting identified needs. The program aims to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. 5310 program funds support transportation

GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT

November 6, 2019

Consider Authorization of General Manager to Sign an MOU with the City of Camarillo Describing the Process for Providing Direct Service between GCTD's Service Area and the City of Camarillo (Pilot)

Page 2 of 2

services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities in all areas.

In 2018, GCTD successfully applied for grant funding under the FTA 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program for \$202,665 to fund a 3-year pilot program to provide direct GO ACCESS service to/from the GCTD service area and the City of Camarillo. The service would eliminate the need to transfer between neighboring services, reducing passenger travel time, potential delays and hardships associated with transferring frail/vulnerable passengers. The most common destination for passengers is of a medical nature. The demand for transportation to destinations in Camarillo has been steadily increasing as hospitals, clinics and pharmacies have consolidated, down-sized, etc. during this same time.

This proposed direct service has been identified as a goal in prior Ventura County Transportation Commission Unmet Needs Hearings and in the 2016 Ventura County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Letters of support for this project were enthusiastically provided by many at the state and local level including CA State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, CA Assemblymembers Jacqui Irwin & Monique Limon, the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging and the County of Ventura Public Works Agency.

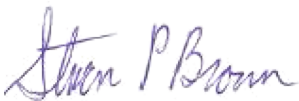
Passengers currently seeking transportation to Camarillo work with GO ACCESS staff who in turn coordinate with the City of Camarillo's Camarillo Area Transit (CAT) staff to schedule vehicles to meet each other at a sheltered bus stop in the Camarillo Town Center shopping center. Passengers transfer vehicles and continue on to destinations within Camarillo. To return to his/her home within the GCTD service area, the passenger must return to the aforementioned transfer point via CAT and then transfer to a GO ACCESS vehicle to complete the journey.

Over the last year, staff has been collaborating with City of Camarillo staff to facilitate the launch of the direct service, including crafting the attached Memorandum of Understanding that clarifies the roles of the transit providers involved in this endeavor. The pilot program is scheduled to deploy in January 2020 and will operate on a pilot basis for up to three-years. The funds GCTD secured would be used to fund GCTD provided trips, which GCTD would be responsible for reporting on. Trips provided by the City of Camarillo for its residents would be the responsibility of the City of Camarillo.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Camarillo that formalizes the process for providing paratransit passengers with direct service from the GCTD service area to destinations within the City of Camarillo (3-year Pilot Period).

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONCURRENCE



Steven P. Brown
General Manager

Attached: MOU between GCTD and City of Camarillo



DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF CAMARILLO FOR A 3-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE DIRECT PARATRANSIT SERVICE BETWEEN SERVICE AREAS

The following is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) and the City of Camarillo (The City) which formalizes the desire of the two jurisdictions to improve services for seniors and persons with disabilities who travel between these jurisdictions using public transportation. This MOU shall be effective as of January 1, 2020 ("Effective Date").

CURRENT SERVICE SUMMARY

GCTD operates GO ACCESS, a shared ride public paratransit service for eligible persons with disabilities. GCTD's GO ACCESS service is also available for seniors age 65+. One-way rides within the GCTD service area (Ojai, Oxnard Port Hueneme, Ventura and County unincorporated areas) are \$3.00.

The City of Camarillo operators Camarillo Area Transit (CAT) General Public Dial-a-Ride. CAT service is available to the general public. Fare for One-Way Rides for senior/disabled individuals within the city limits is \$1.50.

DIRECT SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM SUMMARY

GCTD and The City have mutual goals of improving paratransit services for vulnerable populations to destinations outside of their respective service areas. To accomplish this GCTD and The City propose the following expansion of services for a three (3) year pilot period commencing with the Effective Date ("Pilot Period) to evaluate the feasibility of providing services beyond what is required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

During the Pilot Period Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) agrees to:

1. Provide GO ACCESS eligible passengers who originate from the GCTD service area, going to addresses within the City of Camarillo, with direct paratransit transportation service for a \$6.00 fare each way (\$12.00 round trip).
2. GO ACCESS will provide a direct one-way trip from the GCTD service area to Camarillo at the advanced request of the CAT eligible passenger. The City's CAT staff will coordinate requests directly with GO ACCESS staff the day before the CAT eligible passenger travels. GCTD will provide the direct one-way trip for a fare of \$6.00. GCTD will keep this fare.

3. GCTD will accept reservations for trips one day in advance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily in accordance with existing GO ACCESS reservations policies.
4. GCTD will determine its own fare policies, transfer policies, and reservation policies. GCTD will be responsible for communicating fare and reservation policies to CAT and GCTD eligible customers, as well as making any planned changes to those policies known in advance.
5. GCTD is responsible for tracking all data and state/federal reporting requirements for services provided to GCTD customers as described.

During the Pilot Period the City of Camarillo (The City) agrees to:

1. Provide CAT eligible passengers who originate from the Camarillo service area going to addresses within the GO ACCESS service, with either round-trip or one-way paratransit service. For direct service the fare shall be \$6.00 one-way (\$12.00 round trip). For one way service transferring to GO ACCESS service the fare shall be \$3.00. CAT will keep these fares.
2. If a return trip originating from the GCTD service area is not able to be provided by CAT, GO ACCESS will provide the one-way trip from the GCTD service area to Camarillo. The City's CAT staff will coordinate requests directly with GO ACCESS staff the day before the CAT eligible passenger travels. GCTD will provide the one-way ride for a fare of \$6.00. GCTD will keep this fare.
3. CAT will accept reservations for trips to the GCTD service area at least 24 hours in advance weekdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on weekends between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in accordance with existing CAT reservations policies.
4. CAT will determine its own fare policies, transfer policies, and reservation policies. CAT is responsible for communicating those policies to GCTD and CAT eligible customers, as well as making any planned changes to those policies known in advance.
5. CAT is responsible for tracking all data and state/federal reporting requirements for services provided to CAT customers as described.

TERM OF MOU:

At any time either partner may notify the other with 60 days written advance notice of termination ("Notice"). The MOU will be terminated effective 60 days after such notice has been sent by any party to the other party. In those cases, each agency would be responsible for their own investment of time, talent and funds expended or committed to date of the termination of the MOU.

The effective date of this MOU will be January 1st, 2020 and will remain in place for the duration of the pilot period unless terminated by either party.

David J. Norman
City Manager
City of Camarillo

Steve P Brown
General Manager
Gold Coast Transit District

DRAFT