



Item #11

**DATE** November 1, 2017

**TO** GCTD Board of Directors

**FROM** Vanessa Rauschenberger, Director of Planning and Marketing

**SUBJECT** **Consider Authorizing the General Manager to sign, subject to legal counsel review, a Cooperative Agreement between Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for participation in the Countywide AVL System Replacement and the Purchase of an Automated Voice Annunciation System (AVAS)**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2017, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) authorized its Executive Director to negotiate the final terms of a contract with Syncromatics for the replacement of the countywide Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system. As part of the RFP, VCTC also solicited pricing for integrated technology components which, if desired for implementation, may be purchased by transit providers.

GCTD in adopting the Ten-Year Capital Plan in its Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget programmed an amount not to exceed \$670,000 to purchase transit fleet technologies, including an Automated Voice Annunciation System (AVAS) for the GCTD fleet. An AVAS system provides electronic audio and visual stop announcements to passengers on-board as well as at bus stops, fulfilling requirements set forth by the ADA & US DOT. After discussions with VCTC, GCTD staff has determined that the most cost-effective way to implement an AVAS system, would be to implement this technology as part of the countywide Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system replacement. Proposed pricing for the AVAS (if purchased through the VCTC agreement) including tax and years 1-2 of annual service; plus 10% contingency totals \$431,500, well under the programmed amount.

To facilitate this purchase, VCTC has drafted a Cooperative Agreement that outlines the funding responsibilities of the participating agencies. Staff is recommending that the GCTD Board of Directors consider authorizing the General Manager to sign, subject to legal counsel review, a Cooperative Agreement (Attachment A) between Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to participate in the replacement of the AVL system and to purchase the AVAS option (Attachment B).

## BACKGROUND

In March 2017, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a replacement system to VCTC's aging county-wide Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and Real-time Passenger Information System (known as NextBus). The

### GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT

November 1, 2017

Item #11 AVL System Replacement and Purchase of an Automatic Voice Annunciation System (AVAS)

Page 2 of 3

AVL system to be replaced is over 15-years old and is currently installed on all buses in Ventura County including Gold Coast Transit District's 56 fixed-route buses. The AVL system is a mission critical technology, used daily to provide real-time bus location information to customer service and operations staff as well as the general public.

On July 11, 2017, VCTC received comprehensive proposals from seven firms, and a seven-member evaluation selection panel reviewed the proposals. The selection panel consisted of staff representatives from Ventura County transit agencies, including two members from Gold Coast Transit District, as well as VCTC's technical consultant. Pursuant with the RFP's specifications, the panel's recommendation was to select the proposal from Syncromatics Corporation.

In September 2017, the Commission reviewed the selection panel's recommendation, and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate the final terms and conditions of an agreement for the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system. The AVL system will be funded for all transit operators countywide by VCTC through Federal grants taken off-the-top, as well as LTF and STA revenues.

## **AUTOMATED VOICE ANNUNCIATION SYSTEM**

As part of the RFP, Syncromatics also submitted proposed pricing for several operator requested technologies that rely on the AVL system data such as: automated voice annunciation systems (AVAS), automatic passenger counters (APCs) and scheduling software. Funding for these options, which are available to all Ventura County transit operators, is the responsibility of the transit providers, if desired for implementation.

GCTD staff is committed to meeting all required ADA and USDOT regulations that facilitate accessibility, and continually seeks cost-effective solutions improve the customer experience. The regulations pertaining to ADA-required on-board stop announcements, as well as external route and vehicle identification, are set forth in (49 CFR Part 37) Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities. This states that bus stops shall be announced on all fixed-route transit as follows:

- Transfer points with other fixed routes.
- Major intersections and destination points.
- Orientation announcements on a route between stops or destination points, which allows passengers with disabilities to be oriented to their location and direction along a route.
- Any requested stop.

For past 20+ years, GCTD's Bus Operators have made required verbal bus stop announcements using a press-to-speak microphone system. However, as the number of routes and bus stops has increased to 20 routes and nearly 700 bus stops, GCTD has received considerable feedback from passengers and bus operators that manual stop announcements are insufficient. This causes frustration, especially for those with difficulty hearing, who have visual impairments or who are new to using transit. To address this, the ADA Access Board recommends (as a best practice) that transit agencies consider implementing automated stop annunciation systems in order to help meet the goal of 100% compliance with ADA requirements and provide clear and consistent stop announcements.

For some time, GCTD staff has been seeking opportunities to implement an AVAS system to improve its stop announcements program. After discussions with VCTC staff, review of available technologies and discussions with transit industry counterparts, GCTD staff believes that

November 1, 2017

Item #11 AVL System Replacement and Purchase of an Automatic Voice Annunciation System (AVAS)

Page 3 of 3

purchasing an AVAS system as part of the countywide AVL replacement is the most cost-effective means to acquire this critical technology.

## **COOPORATIVE AGREEMENT & FUNDING**

Because the new AVL system will be deployed on all Ventura County transit systems, it will be funded by VCTC through Federal grants taken off-the-top, as well as LTF and STA revenues. However, while VCTC will fund the countywide AVL system replacement, GCTD would be responsible for providing funding for the AVAS system option.

GCTD in adopting the Ten-Year Capital Plan in its Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget programmed an amount not to exceed \$670,000 to purchase transit fleet technologies, including an Automated Voice Annunciation System (AVAS) for the GCTD fleet. To comply with Proposition 1B timing guidelines, PTMISEA funds that were previously programmed for this project were reprogrammed to the new facility project; and Capital Reserve funds previously programmed for the new facility will instead be used to fund the purchase of the AVAS system.

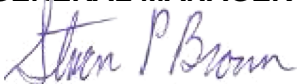
After discussions with VCTC, GCTD staff has determined that the most cost-effective way to implement an AVAS system, would be to implement this technology as part of the VCTC Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system replacement. Proposed pricing for the AVAS system purchased through VCTC—including tax and five years of annual service totals \$437,156. This cost is well under the programmed amount because a standalone AVAS system would require major components common to the AVL system.

In order for GCTD to take part in this purchase, VCTC has drafted a Cooperative Agreement (Attachment A) between Gold Coast Transit District and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) that outlines the funding responsibilities of the participating agencies. Subject to both GCTD and VCTC legal counsel review; this agreement would support the replacement of the Countywide AVL system and the purchase of the AVAS (Attachment B).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Consider Authorizing the General Manager to, Subject to Legal Counsel Review, sign a Cooperative Agreement between Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) (Attachment A), to participate in the replacement of the Countywide AVL System and Purchase the AVAS System in the amount of \$431,500, which includes tax, years 1-2 of annual service; plus 10% contingency totals as shown in (Attachment B).**

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S CONCURRENCE**



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Steven P. Brown  
General Manager

*Attachment A: Draft Cooperative Agreement between GCTD and VCTC*  
*Attachment B: AVL/AVAS System Components and Pricing*

Ventura County Transportation Commission, November 3, 2017  
Item 8K, Attachment A – Cooperative Agreements for Automatic Vehicle Location and Real-time Passenger Information System Option(s)

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AND

**GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT**

**THIS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT** (Agreement) is entered into between Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and the **Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD)** regarding the administration of **GCTD's** share of funds to support the Automatic Vehicle Location and Real-time Passenger Information System Project (Project).

**WHEREAS**, VCTC has historically provided, and is lead agency in the current procurement, for a county-wide Automatic Vehicle Location and Real-time Passenger Information System; and,

**WHEREAS** **GCTD** in adopting the Ten-Year Capital Plan in its Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget, ~~has budgeted and programmed an amount not to exceed \$670,000 to purchase transit fleet technologies, including Automatic Voice Annunciator System (AVAS) for the GCTD fleet; and,~~

**WHEREAS**, VCTC intends to enter into an Agreement with Syncromatics Corporation which will include contract purchase options for integrated technologies, such as **AVAS**; and,

**WHEREAS**, VCTC intends to issue Project Task Orders which shall direct Syncromatics Corporation as to the options that each transit operator fleet will receive; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of VCTC to enter into this Agreement with the **GCTD** regarding the provision of the funds to the Project.

**NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES DO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Funding Summary: **GCTD** will provide up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Project from ~~federal and~~ local sources as summarized in the Attachment to this agreement.
2. Method of ~~Local Fund~~ Payment: Within thirty (30) days of the execution of this Agreement, **GCTD** shall transfer to VCTC the funds programmed for the Project, consisting of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ~~in Local Transportation Funds (LTF).~~
3. Project Scope: The scope of the Project funded under this agreement shall be to deploy the Syncromatics option for Automatic Voice Annunciator System, which shall be integrated into the Automatic Vehicle Location and Real-time Passenger Information System procured by VCTC. This includes system design, installation, and testing, staff training, and annual licensing and warranty support for years one and two.
4. Federal Grant Administration: **GCTD** ~~affirms it has provided from its apportionment and programmed in the current version of the Federal Transportation Improvement Program the Federal funds provided towards its share of the Project. These funds consist of \_\_\_\_\_ Section 5307 funds. It shall be the responsibility of VCTC to submit and administer the grants to receive these funds and shall ensure compliance with that all Federal requirements.~~

Ventura County Transportation Commission, November 3, 2017  
Item 8K, Attachment A – Cooperative Agreements for Automatic Vehicle Location and Real-time Passenger Information System Option(s)

5. Amendments to the Agreement: The provisions of this Agreement may be amended upon written acceptance and ratification of any such amendment by both VCTC and GCTD.
6. Termination: This Fund Exchange Agreement will terminate upon ~~closeout of the applicable FTA grants for the Section 5307 funds covered in this Agreement, and upon final reconciliation of expenses for the Project.~~
7. Indemnification: VCTC shall protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless GCTD, its officers, agents, servants, and employees, from any and all liability arising out of, caused by any act or omission of VCTC or its officers, agents, servants, and employees as a result of any act or omission by VCTC in its performance pursuant to this Agreement.

GCTD shall protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless VCTC, its officers, agents, servants, and employees, from any and all liability arising out of, caused by any act or omission of GCTD or its officers, agents, servants, and employees as a result of any act or omission by GCTD in its performance pursuant to this Agreement.

The obligations of VCTC and GCTD in these indemnity provisions survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

8. Insurance: With respect to performance of work under this Cooperative Agreement and any Project Agreement entered into by VCTC as an element of Project Implementation, VCTC shall maintain and shall ensure that its contractors maintain insurance as described below:

Workers Compensation Insurance – VCTC’s contractors shall maintain, during the life of the Project, Workers’ Compensation Insurance for any contractor or subcontractor employees employed at the sites of the Project. In case any class of employees engaged in work under this Agreement at the site of the Project is not protected under any Workers’ Compensation law, VCTC shall provide or shall cause each contractor and subcontractor to provide, adequate insurance for the protection of employees not otherwise protected. VCTC hereby agrees to indemnify GCTD for any damage resulting to it from failure of any VCTC contractor or subcontractor to take out or maintain such insurance.

Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance – VCTC shall secure and maintain during the life of this Agreement such public liability and property damage insurance and shall name GCTD, their elective and appointive boards, commissions, officers, agents, and employees as additional insureds in regard to any claims for damages for personal injury, including death, as well as for claims for property damage which may arise from VCTC’s or any contractors or subcontractors operations hereunder, whether such operations be by VCTC or any contractor or subcontractor, or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either VCTC or any contractor or subcontractor, and the amounts of such insurance shall be as follows:

(1) Public Liability Insurance: In an amount not less than \$1,000,000 for injuries, including, but not limited to death, to any one person and, subject to the same limit for each person, in an amount not less than \$2,000,000 on account of any one occurrence:

(2) Property Damage Insurance: In an amount of not less than \$500,000 for damage to the property of each person on account of any one occurrence.

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Ventura County Transportation Commission, November 3, 2017  
Item 8K, Attachment A – Cooperative Agreements for Automatic Vehicle Location and Real-time Passenger Information System Option(s)

VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darren M. Kettle  
Executive Director

Approved as to Form

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Steven Brown  
General Manager

Approved as to Form

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Steven T. Mattas  
General Counsel

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[                    ]  
General Counsel

DRAFT

**FUNDING SUMMARY**  
**GCTD SHARE FOR VCTC AUTOMATIC VEHICLE LOCATION AND REAL-TIME PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**OPTIONAL TECHNOLOGY: AUTOMATIC VOICE ANNUNCIATOR SYSTEM**

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
LTF	\$ _____	\$ _____ used as local match for Section 5307 funds.
Section 5307	\$ _____	See above regarding match.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	

## Attachment B

### AVAS COMPONENTS Automated Voice Annunciation System

Item Description	Unit Cost	Qty	Pre-Tax Total	Total Incl Sales Tax
Hardware, Audio (Base System)	\$ 1,950	56	\$ 109,200	\$ 117,663
AVA Base System Installation	\$ 565	56	\$ 31,640	\$ 31,640
Software License, Web Based Controller	\$ 1,010	56	\$ 56,560	\$ 56,560
Interior LED sign (single color, Red or Amber) (2 per bus)	\$ 1,195	112	\$ 133,840	\$ 144,213
Interior LED sign, Labor, Install new or Integrate existing hardware (2 per bus)	\$ 195	112	\$ 21,840	\$ 21,840
			<b>\$ 353,080</b>	<b>\$ 371,916</b>

Annunciator, Annual Service Fee	\$ 90	56	\$ 5,040	\$ 5,040
Extended Warranty - AVAS (first year included at no charge)	\$ 175	56	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,800
<b>Annual Fees, Year 0</b>			<b>\$ 420</b>	<b>\$ 420</b>
<b>Total Annual Fees - Year 1</b>			<b>\$ 5,040</b>	<b>\$ 5,040</b>
<b>Total Annual Fees - Year 2+</b>			<b>\$ 14,840</b>	<b>\$ 14,840</b>

	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>392,216</b>
	\$
10% Contingency	<b>39,284</b>
	\$
<b>GCTD Total</b>	<b>431,500</b>