

# FROM THE MESSAGE GENERAL MANAGER

DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the General Manager of the Gold Coast Transit District and I am proud to present our 2022 Community Report. First, I want to reflect on the incredible work and outstanding accomplishments here at GCTD, made possible by our dedicated employees and the support of our Board of Directors and community partners. Since taking this role in March of 2022, I have witnessed firsthand the outstanding work from all levels of the organization, including our frontline employees working behind the wheel, our maintenance staff ensuring all vehicles are operating safely, our friendly customer service team helping customers navigate the system, and our talented team in administration working daily on the successful operation of the organization.

Despite the many challenges brought on by the ongoing labor shortage, supply chain delays, and lingering waves of COVID-19, we have adapted to the ever-changing post-pandemic environment, worked collaboratively, and found creative and innovative solutions to these challenges. As a result, we have much to celebrate and look forward to. I want to especially highlight the launch and success of the Youth Ride Free Program. With funding support from the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), this countywide program has boosted ridership at historic rates, moving it closer to pre-pandemic levels. Providing free rides eliminates transportation barriers facing our youth and provides much needed financial relief for families.

Additionally, GCTD hosted its inaugural Clean Air Summit with over 100 guests in attendance to present and discuss clean air initiatives, exchange ideas, and build partnerships. At the summit, we announced the award of the Low or No Emissions grant by the Federal Transit Administration in the amount of \$12.1 million. GCTD also presented our Zero Emissions Transition Plan to our Board, providing a framework for achieving zero-emissions by 2040.

While this year has been exciting, additional projects are on the horizon that promise to bring more change in 2023. We look forward to new opportunities that will continue to make GCTD an even better place to work and, more importantly, guarantee the safe and efficient delivery of our mission to serve and connect our community.

*Vanessa Rauschenberger*  
GCTD GENERAL MANAGER



## BY THE NUMBERS



### FLEET

**61** | Fixed-Route Buses  
**27** | ACCESS Vehicles



### ROUTES & STOPS

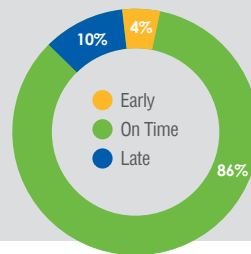
**19** | Fixed Routes  
**665** | Bus Stops



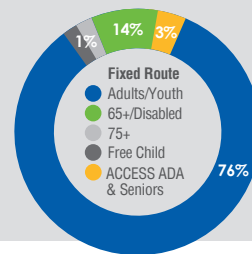
### RIDERSHIP

**6,977** | Average Weekday Boardings: Fixed Route  
**247** | Average Weekday Boardings: ACCESS  
**2.2 million** | Annual Boardings Systemwide

### SYSTEM RELIABILITY



### WHO RIDES



## FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 STATISTICS

### SERVICE PROVIDED

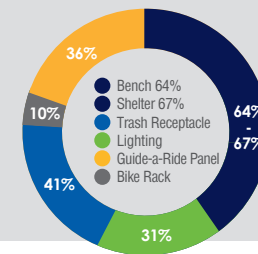
**184,733** | Annual Hours of Service  
**2,071,300** | Annual Miles Traveled



### EMPLOYEES

**144** | Operations  
**34** | Maintenance  
**28** | Administration  
**30** | Contract Employees ACCESS (MV Transportation)

### % OF BUS STOPS WITH AMENITIES



## GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

OJAI | OXNARD | PORT HUENEME | VENTURA | COUNTY OF VENTURA





# HIGHLIGHTS



GCTD, along with several public transit operators, offered free bus rides on Dump the Pump Day on June 17, 2022. The summer months experienced historically high gas prices, and this promotion allowed current riders to enjoy a complimentary ride and incentivized new riders to try the system for free.



**Gold Coast Transit District is participating in Ventura County's new promotional program, Youth Ride Free!**

The program provides free rides to youth 18 years old and under, or older youth currently enrolled in high school. Attracting and retaining more youth riders will affect how they perceive and use public transit as they grow; hence, creating more lifelong transit riders and supporters, especially if they view public transit as a reliable and convenient transportation option. This has the potential to create adults that are less dependent on single use vehicles, further reducing emissions and traffic congestion for decades to come.

## GCTD FTA Grant Recipient

GCTD announced it is a recipient of the Buses and Bus Facilities and Low No-Emission Vehicle grant award from the U.S. of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the amount of \$12,117,144.

To meet President Biden's net-zero emissions goal by 2050, the FTA invested \$1.66 billion into 150 transit agencies nationwide. GCTD is one of 17 agencies selected to receive this grant in California. GCTD will partner with New Flyer and the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) to deploy five 40' New Flyer Hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and construct a hydrogen fueling station. The hydrogen fueling station will support at least 50 buses, allowing for future expansion and complete maintenance facility upgrades to add hydrogen detection and alarming capabilities.

# GRANT AWARDS

To support our mission and goals, our staff proactively pursues competitive grant funding opportunities for innovative projects that enable us to stretch every dollar. In 2022, GCTD was successful in acquiring the following grant awards:

## Low or No Emissions Vehicle Program \$12.1 Million

- Construction of a hydrogen fueling station, purchase five hydrogen fuel cell buses and support the development of a zero-emissions workforce training program

## Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) 12.3 Million

- Purchase 21 CNG Replacement Buses
- Operate Youth Ride Free Booster Bus Service

## FTA's Route Planning Restoration Program \$113 Thousand

- Additional funding for development of GCTD's next Short Range Transit Plan

## Jobs Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) \$636 Thousand

- Flexible Services - Expand Late Night Safe Rides Demonstration Project to operate early morning service
- Flexible Services - Unhoused Employment Transportation Pilot Program

## 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Senior & Individuals with Disabilities \$640 Thousand

- Flexible Services - Purchase replacement accessible vehicles

## GCTD Opens Wellness Room

In September, GCTD also opened its long-awaited Wellness Room, which includes gym equipment purchased through Ventura-based Gym Provisions. The purpose of the employee wellness room is to support overall workplace health and wellness, including providing options for employees to have a space for physical activity, helping them feel better on the job, both mentally and physically.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

## GCTD Selected as "BEST PLACE TO WORK"

The West Ventura County Business Alliance hosted the 72nd Annual Community & Business Awards in August and presented the Best Place to Work award to Gold Coast Transit District. GCTD was identified as an Oxnard business that strives to provide an enjoyable atmosphere for employees and a place that nurtures and rewards its workers.

## GCTD Selected as LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

GCTD was recognized as the "Large Business of the Year" at the 2022 Poinsettia Awards. Each year, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce recognizes outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who make a difference in the community. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of this local tradition honoring excellence in business, public service and education.



## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

## ZERO emissions Bus Rollout Plan

In December, the Board approved GCTD's Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan. This plan details Gold Coast Transit District's efforts to comply with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) Rule to transition to zero-emission by 2040. Working with Stantec, GCTD developed the plan to help guide the transition of its fleet of over 90 vehicles, and propose strategies for additional funding for this effort.

## Strategic Planning

As we strive for improvement and growth, it is imperative that we develop an agency-wide Strategic Plan to guide us into the future and to help ensure our work is defined by a shared understanding of GCTD's priorities and goals.

The GCTD strategic plan will include the following major tasks:

- I. Organizational Needs Assessment
- II. Facilitated workshop with GCTD's Board of Directors and Executive Team
- III. Development of Strategic Priorities and Goals for GCTD (Strategic Plan)

