



**Gold Coast Transit District
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
10:00am
GCTD Board Room
1901 Auto Center Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036**

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Meeting Agenda

Item 1	Call to Order/Introductions	Action
Item 2	Public Comment	Info
Item 3	TAC Member Comments	Info
Item 4	GCTD Staff Comments	Info
Item 5	Updates to Current Agenda & Approval of September 2026 Meeting Summary	Action
Item 6	FY 26-27 Quarter 1 Fixed Route and Demand Response Report Martin Rodriguez, Transit Planner Robbie Lucio, Mobility Management Coordinator	Info
Item 7	Strategic Board Workshop Update Austin Novstrup, Planning Manager	Info
Item 8	Update to FY27 Annual Service Plan Austin Novstrup, Planning Manager	Info
Item 9	Future Agenda Items	
Item 10	Adjournment	



Item 5

Gold Coast Transit District
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
1901 Auto Center Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
10:00am

Meeting Summary

TAC Members Present: Susanna Arroyo, County of Ventura (Chair)
Matthew Litvinas, County of Ventura (Chair)
Eliceo Mendoza, County of Ventura (Chair)
Steven Almcrantz, City of Port Hueneme (Vice Chair)
Sergio Albarrán, City of Ventura
Steve Howlett, City of Oxnard
Aubrey Smith, VCTC (ex-office)

TAC Members Absent: City of Ojai

GCTD Staff Present: Martin Rodriguez, Transit Planner
Vanessa Rauschenberger, General Manager
Cynthia Torres Duque, Director of Planning & Marketing
Austin Novstrup, Planning Manager
Andrea Meza, Marketing Manager
Robbie Lucio, Mobility Management Coordinator
Christine Feng, CFO/ Assistant General Manager
Wesley Cooksey, Transit Planner
Robbie Lucio, Mobility Management Coordinator
Veronica Navarro, Finance and Grants Analyst

Members of the Public: None

Item 1 Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Susanna Arroyo called the meeting to order at 10:03am

Item 2 Public Comment

None.

Item 3 TAC Member Comments

Chair Susanna Arroyo introduced Matthew Litvinas and Eliceo Mendoza from the County. She announced they will be taking over transit-related duties moving forward, including attending upcoming TAC meetings. Matt Litvinas will serve as primary TAC member and Eliceo Mendoza will serve as alternate.

Item 4 GCTD Staff Comments

Vanessa Raushcenburger announced that the October Board Meeting will host a strategic workshop to assess the service planning. Austin Novstrup shared that GCTD is still collecting response to the Bus Stop Maintenance Survey. Andrea Meza announced that GCTD is partnering with ArtWalk Ventura to provide free bus passes to community members who attend the event. She also shared that starting October, GCTD will begin their Spooky Bus Campaign. She added that riders would be able to upload a picture of themselves and enter for a chance to win a gift card.

Item 5 Updates to Current Agenda & Approval of June 2026 Meeting Summary

Austin Novstrup amended Item 8, "Update to FY27 Annual Service Plan," on the current agenda to an actionable item to approve the proposed changes to the FY27 Annual Service Plan.

Susanna Arroyo made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the June 2026 Meeting Summary. Sergio Albarrán seconded the motion.

The motion passed with one vote in favor, no votes opposed, and three abstentions.

Item 6 Receive Presentation on FY25-26 Annual Fixed-Route and Demand Response Report

Austin Novstrup presented the FY26 4th Quarter Fixed Route and Demand Response Report. He shared trends of the 4th quarter, which included a decrease of 3.9% year-over-year and an annualized decrease of 3.6%. Routes with high productivity included routes 4, 8, 17, and 23, while Route 15 continued to perform the poorest. He noted that 7 of the 16 routes met or exceeded the minimum service standard for passengers per hour.

Robbie Lucio shared the 4th quarter Flexible Services data. There was a 2.7% decrease compared to the same quarter in the previous fiscal year, which primarily comprises trips for seniors and Late Night Safe Rides. He also shared that while ridership for most services decreased, Sunrise Safe Rides increased by nearly 40%, indicating growing demand and popularity for the program.

Item 7 Receive and File Presentation: Review of Transit Funding Trends

Vanessa Rauschenberger shared a summary of future transit funding trends and its effects on the agency. She gave background on the TDA funding process and the federal funding process. She shared that staff is reviewing the District's operating budget, revenue assumptions, and funding allocation processes in response to the current financial situation the agency is facing.

She explained that GCTD receives federal and TDA funding through regional allocation and programming processes administered by the VCTC. She noted that the amount of funding available to GCTD may vary annually based on regional funding availability and explained that member agencies may claim a portion of GCTD's TDA allocation for local transit services and capital needs, with the base allocation adjusted annually according to the applicable Consumer Price Index (CPI).

She also shared how the review of the federal funding process works, including how formula funds are allocated regionally and programmed among eligible recipients through processes involving VCTC and its TRANSCOM committee.

She concluded by emphasizing that the presentation will help initiate dialogue with member agencies, and that no changes to the existing member agency allocation methodology were being proposed at this time.

Item 8

Approve Changes to FY27 Annual Service Plan

Austin Novstrup presented an update to the FY27 Annual Service Plan, outlining proposed service changes for January 2027 noting a proposed 5% reduction in systemwide revenue hours as an initial step to align service levels with available funding while minimizing impacts to riders.

He noted that the January service change would also incorporate Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) recommendations that were deferred from July 2026 due to infrastructure challenges. The changes include Routes 1, 6, 10, 11 and 16. The improvements are aimed to improve transfers and connections at the VTC and OTC despite the proposed service reductions.

Regarding the reduction in service, he explained that the proposal focuses on lower-performing trips and periods through adjustments to service frequency and span, including selected weekend, early-morning, and late-evening trips, while considering ridership patterns and ADA paratransit requirements.

He concluded that staff would present the plan at the October 7 Board Workshop for input, conduct public outreach regarding the proposed changes, and bring the final service plan to the Board in November

Sergio Albarrán made a motion to approve the changes to the FY27 Annual Service Plan. Chair Susanna Arroyo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9

Future Agenda Items

Vanessa Rauschenburger mentioned staff would bring funding items back to TAC in the future.

Item 10

Adjournment

Chair Susanna Arroyo adjourned the meeting at 11:16am.



Item 7

DATE October 21, 2026

TO GCTD Technical Advisory Committee

FROM Cynthia Duque, Director of Planning and Marketing

SUBJECT Receive and File: GCTD Strategic Choices Workshop

Summary

On October 7, 2026, the GCTD Board of Directors participated in a Strategic Choices Workshop to discuss the District's financial outlook and provide direction on service preservation priorities, long-term revenue opportunities, and potential operational efficiencies.

The workshop included staff presentations and a facilitated discussion led by Gary Hewitt of Transportation Management Design (TMD), the consultant responsible for developing GCTD's Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP). Interactive polling was used to gather Board feedback on service preservation priorities, long-term revenue opportunities, and potential operational efficiencies as GCTD prepares for anticipated budget shortfalls and the potential need to reduce its overall budget by 20% to align expenses with available funding. The extent of service reductions needed to achieve this target is still being evaluated.

For additional background and context, the Board staff report and presentation from the October 7, 2026, Strategic Choices Workshop are attached for reference.

1. Service Preservation Priorities

The Board generally expressed support for pursuing a financially constrained version of the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP), rather than simply reducing existing service across the board. Several key themes were identified during the discussion:

- **Frequency vs. Span of Service:** Board members generally favored protecting service frequency over maintaining longer hours of operation, recognizing the importance of reliable and convenient service.
- **High-Productivity vs. Lower-Performing Routes:** There was support for prioritizing routes with higher ridership and productivity. However, Board members also expressed concern about the impacts of eliminating lower-performing routes and encouraged staff to explore alternatives to preserve essential connections.
- **Weekday vs. Weekend Service:** Feedback was somewhat mixed, with an overall preference for a balanced approach. Board members acknowledged that traditional

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Monday–Friday commuting patterns have changed and that many residents rely on transit for weekend employment and other activities.

- **Travel Speed and Bus Stop Spacing:** The Board recognized the potential operating efficiencies associated with improving bus speeds and adjusting stop spacing. However, there were concerns about increasing walking distances, particularly for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **Timing of Service Reductions:** Although opinions varied, there was general support for implementing service reductions in phases rather than making significant changes all at once. However, it was also acknowledged that budget and service level reductions may need to be implemented together, while specific route realignments and bus stop changes could be phased in to allow time for coordination with member jurisdictions.

2. Demand-Response Service Priorities

As part of the District's efforts to address its financial challenges, GCTD will also need to evaluate demand-response services, including programs provided beyond federally mandated ADA paratransit requirements.

Potential strategies discussed for further consideration include:

- Prioritizing the preservation of federally mandated ADA paratransit service.
- Evaluating discretionary senior transportation programs and other services provided beyond ADA requirements.
- Considering adjustments to eligibility, service areas, operating hours, or service levels for non-mandated programs.
- Exploring fare increases for premium or specialized services to better offset operating costs.
- Considering reductions or discontinuation of discretionary programs where operating costs are no longer sustainable.

These options would require further evaluation of potential cost savings and community impacts before any recommendations are developed.

3. Long-Term Revenue Opportunities

The Board recognized that service reductions alone will not resolve the District's long-term structural funding challenges.

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The discussion emphasized the importance of exploring additional local revenue sources that would give GCTD greater control over its funding. Potential opportunities included fare adjustments, partnerships with member cities, and evaluation of the feasibility of a GCTD-led local property or sales tax measure. At the same time, there was support for continuing to work with regional partners, including the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), to review regional funding policies and the allocation and distribution of local, state, and federal transportation funds.

There was a slightly greater preference for identifying opportunities for GCTD to become more financially self-sufficient, while also expressing general support for efforts to shape regional funding policies to improve long-term financial stability.

4. Innovation and Operational Efficiencies

The workshop also explored opportunities to reduce costs and improve productivity through technology, operational changes, and partnerships.

Potential strategies discussed included scheduling improvements, transit priority measures, demand-response efficiencies, technology and automation, and better utilization of existing facilities and resources.

These concepts will require additional analysis to determine potential savings, feasibility, and impacts on service delivery.

5. Next Steps

The workshop provided valuable direction for the next phase of GCTD's service and financial planning. While no specific service reduction plan was adopted, the Board's feedback will help guide the evaluation of alternatives.

Given the District's financial outlook, service reductions will be unavoidable, and difficult decisions will need to be made about how best to preserve service within available resources.

Staff will continue working with the planning consultant to develop service scenarios that reflect the Board's priorities, including protecting frequency, maintaining essential connections, balancing weekday and weekend service, and considering phased implementation.

In addition to fixed-route service, staff will evaluate demand-response programs to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, adjust discretionary service levels, and prioritize federally mandated ADA paratransit service.

The anticipated timeline for the next phase of planning includes:

- December 2026: Staff will develop initial draft service reduction and financial plans and return to the Board for consideration.

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- January–April 2027: Public outreach and hearings will be conducted, along with continued budget development in advance of the FY 2027–28 budget adoption.
- Long-Term: GCTD will continue pursuing sustainable funding opportunities to help stabilize service levels and support future transit needs.

Throughout this process, GCTD will continue coordinating with the Technical Advisory Committee and member jurisdictions to review potential service changes, evaluate community impacts, and gather feedback before bringing recommendations back to the Board.

While additional revenue opportunities will continue to be explored, there is no immediate solution to the District's structural funding challenges. Planning decisions must therefore be based on currently available and reasonably anticipated resources.

Recommendation

Receive and File.

Attachments (Links):

- A. [October 7, 2026 – Strategic Choices Workshop, Board Staff Report](#)
- B. [October 7, 2026 – Strategic Choices Workshop, Complete Board Presentation](#)

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CITY OF OJAI | CITY OF OXNARD | CITY OF PORT HUENEME | CITY OF VENTURA | COUNTY OF VENTURA
1901 AUTO CENTER DRIVE, OXNARD, CA 93036-7966 | P 805.483.3959 | F 805.487.0925 | GCTD.ORG