



**GCT Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**  
**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Gold Coast Transit Board Room**

## **Meeting Summary**

**TAC Members Present:** Jeff Hereford, City of Ventura; Michael Culver, City of Ojai; Kathy Connell, Ventura County; Martin Erickson, City of Oxnard, and Jason Lott, City of Port Hueneme.

**TAC Members Absent:** Vic Kamhi-VCTC (ex-officio).

**GCT Staff Present:** Deborah Linehan, General Manager; Steve Brown, Planning & Marketing Director; Steve Rosenberg, Director of Administrative Services; Andy Mikkelson, Director of Transit Operations; Chuck McQuary, Transit Planner, and Helene Buchman, Transit Planner.

**Members of the Public:** None

### **1. Call to Order/Introductions**

Jeff Hereford called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m., and introductions were made.

### **2. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**

None.

### **3. Committee Members' Comments**

Staff reported that 88 requests for transit service to the Lombard Street/Sturgis Road industrial area were received by Gold Coast Transit. The requests were coordinated by Goodwill Industries and Community Action of Ventura County, in response to the Unmet Needs Public Hearing conducted by the VCTC. Subsequently, Staff toured the area and met with representatives from the two agencies to seek additional information regarding working hours, special needs and employer locations to further assess their request. Because the industrial park is not in close proximity to existing GCT service, a

potential solution suggested by staff was for the employers to consider forming a self-help program to implement a voluntary shuttle route. Vehicles for the program would be donated by GCT. These are paratransit vehicles that have met their useful life and are to be scheduled for surplus sale. They would be made available through a pilot program approved by the GCT Board of Directors to donate surplus paratransit vehicles to willing non-profit organizations and others with transportation needs that cannot be readily served by GCT. Organizations receiving the donated vehicles would be required to meet specific requirements removing GCT from liability ("hold harmless"), and agree to vehicle operation, safety and maintenance procedures recommended by GCT.

The Goodwill and Community Action staff will review the logistics pursuant to forming a voluntary program and meet again with GCT if it appears feasible.

Steve Brown indicated that with the high employment in that particular industrial park, service to the area may qualify as a future JARC application, similar to our application recently approved by VCTC (Item 5, below) for the Valentine Road/Market Street Shuttle.

#### **4. Approval of February 18, 2009 Meeting Summary**

Martin Erickson made a motion to approve the January meeting summary. Kathy Connell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **5. Re-allocation of Funding for Valentine Road/Market Street Shuttle from JARC to CMAQ- Steve Brown**

Steve reported that he and Jeff met with VCTC (Darren Kettle, Peter DeHaan and Vic Kamhi) where it was determined that the GCT JARC application can instead be funded by available CMAQ funds. This is fortunate not only because GCT can go ahead with the service but also because it's 100% funded for three years requiring no local match.

It is anticipated that the program can be in place as soon as the school fall semester starts this year. Equipment for the program will use spares in our cut-away fleet until the new 35-ft. low floor buses arrive later this year.

#### **6. Status of "Prototypes for Women" Request for Transit Service- Steve Brown**

In response to service requests received by VCTC at the Unmet Needs hearing, Steve and Helene Buchman met with Prototypes staff to review their program schedules and to determine if GCT could offer some near term solutions. *Prototypes for Women* is a recovery program whose facility is located on Victoria Ave near Gonzales Road. Currently their clients and their children must either walk or ride bicycles for over two miles to the nearest GCT bus stop.

While the facility does have a van, it has limited usage; their program encourages self sufficiency and using public transit becomes part of their recovery. Steve advised their staff that service could possibly be worked out for their use by adding a couple of morning and afternoon trips to the Route 18B Tripper departing from Oxnard High School on school days. However, it was determined by the staff that the extended bus schedule offered by GCT would not support their structured in-house program schedules.

It was noted that Villa Victoria, an affordable housing complex located adjacent to Prototypes also requested bus service at the Unmet Needs hearing. The 60 unit complex houses over 300 residents. Staff is meeting with them next week and may offer the same Tripper extension from Oxnard High School that was discussed with Prototypes.

Steve stated that the Victoria Avenue corridor is underserved and may be part of a future GCT CMAQ application linking Port Hueneme and South Oxnard to the County Government Center and the City of Ventura. If approved, the project would benefit both the Prototypes facility and Villa Victoria.

## **7. Discussion of Preliminary FY09/10 Budget- Steve Rosenberg**

Steve stated that the initial discussion would focus on the baseline operating budget, which is our current service. He added that this will be the most challenging budget year in recent memory due to:

- Reduced Sales Tax Receipts that impact our members General Fund as well as LTF funding level;
- Elimination of State Transit Assistance (STA) as a funding source (\$327 K received in FY08/09);
- Elimination of STA results in 21% of already reduced LTF being diverted away from local jurisdictions transit use;
- Reduced GCT "prior year" Carryover (FY08/09 \$1.15 M; FY09/10 \$553K);
- New GCT Memorandum of Understandings currently in place.

The preliminary Baseline Operating budget is \$17.3 M, up 6.3% from FY08/09. It includes a full year of January service improvements (primarily additional weekend service); CMAQ funds for the new Valentine Rd. /Market St Shuttles, and a full year of Route 12 Ventura-Downtown/Harbor service.

Member contributions in FY09/10 will be significantly higher than FY08/09. Service adjustments under consideration to offset the higher contributions include:

- Cancellation of the Route 12 Ventura-Downtown/Harbor service;
- Reduced service on Routes 6 and 16 and other selected routes;
- A fare increase.

The GCT Board will conduct a workshop to review the FY09/10 budget during their April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The results of the workshop will be reviewed with TAC at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting in preparation for the subsequent GCT Board meetings.

The final budget will be presented to the GCT Board for review in May and the final budget will be adopted on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jeff will meet with the Ventura City Council to seek approval of the proposed reduced service prior to the GCT Board meetings.

#### **8. Presentation on Potential Service Improvements to Port Hueneme City Council- Steve Brown**

GCT and VCTC were requested to participate in a workshop with the Port Hueneme City Council to discuss potential service improvements, funding sources and the relationship between local and regional transportation agencies. Councilmember/GCT Board Member Maricela Morales has indicated she wants to see bus service on Victoria and Channel islands Boulevard. The workshop is scheduled on April 6<sup>th</sup> during their regular City Council meeting.

#### **9. Regional Transit Meeting- Chuck McQuary**

GCT, VCTC, Santa Barbara MTD and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) met to review ways to increase public awareness of the transit opportunities available at both ends of the Vista service. Because so many Ventura County residents are employed in Santa Barbara, there has been an increased interest in public transit opportunities because of the spike in gas prices and traffic delays caused by construction projects on hwy 101.

At transportation meetings held in both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, the public has requested improved signage for VISTA service at connecting MTD and GCT stops. In addition, many riders indicated that they were not aware that the MTD or GCT service connected to VISTA at either end of their VISTA trip.

To initiate a public awareness campaign, GCT offered to begin the process by a developing a logo that links the three transit services. The logo, funding commitments and plans for undertaking an outreach program will be reviewed by the respective agencies at a subsequent meeting.

#### **10. Update on Bus Stop Signs & Guide-A-Ride Panels- Steve Brown**

Steve reported that the new signs have distributed to the member agencies. There is still some question regarding responsibility for installing the signs under the jurisdiction of Caltrans on Vineyard Avenue. Martin Erickson volunteered to call Caltrans to find a contact person.

The eastbound bus stop at C Street and Gonzales Road remains a problem because the bus top bench is hidden from the GCT drivers by a block wall. If Oxnard will install it, GCT offered to buy a concave mirror that would allow drivers to see waiting passengers as the bus approached the stop. Martin said he would pass on the offer to his traffic department.

**11. Update on Most Recent Federal & State Transit Funding Actions- Vic Kamhi**

Vic was unable to attend the meeting. This item will be rescheduled on a future agenda.

**12. Report on Activities from the March 6, 2009 VCTC Meeting- Vic Kamhi**

See Item 11.

**13. Report on APTA Legislative Conference- Vic Kamhi**

See Item 11.

**14. Future Agenda Items**

None

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Hereford adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

***Minutes Approved:***



**GCT Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Sign-in Sheet  
March 18, 2009, 1:30 p.m.**

Agency Represented	Committee Member		Committee Alternate	
	Initials	Name	Initials	Name
Ojai		Drew Lurie	<i>ML</i>	Michael Culver
Oxnard	<i>URE</i>	Martin Erickson		Ken Ortega
Port Hueneme	<i>JL</i>	Jason Lott		Andy Santamaria
San Buenaventura	<i>J.H.</i>	Jeff Hereford		Tom Mericle Rick Gallegos
County of Ventura	<i>KC</i>	Kathy Connell		Nazir Lalani
VCTC (ex-officio)		Vic Kamhi		Mary Travis
GCT (staff)	<i>SB</i>	Steven Brown	<i>CM</i>	Chuck McQuary Helene Buchman

**Others in attendance:**

Name	Organization	Phone Number
<i>Andrew Mikkelson</i>	<i>GCT</i>	<i>x 111</i>
<i>Deborah Linehan</i>	<i>GCT</i>	<i>x 118</i>
<i>Steve Rosenberg</i>	<i>GCT</i>	<i>x 119</i>
<i>Helene Buchman</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>138</i>