



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

## **Meeting Summary**

**TAC Members Present:** Jeff Hereford, City of Ventura; Drew Lurie, City of Ojai; Kathy Connell, Ventura County; Martin Erickson, City of Oxnard; Jason Lott, City of Port Hueneme, and Vic Kamhi-VCTC (ex-officio).

**TAC Members Absent:** None.

**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 1:30 p.m., and introductions were made.

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

None.

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

Jeff reported on the recent Ventura City Council meeting where it was announced there is a strong likelihood that budget cuts will result in some staff layoffs, pay cuts and program cancellations. There were also discussions on introducing a sales tax measure either in November or at a later date.

#### **4. Update on Union Contract Negotiations- Deborah Linehan**

After our third presentation of the labor Contract to the Bus Drivers Union we reached an agreement on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The agreement includes a 5% wage and benefit increase this year, and 5% next year. Also, the language in our existing policy for use of audio and video cameras on the bus for review of accident, incident and customer complaints was accepted with only minor changes. The vote was 92% in favor of approval. This was the last of the three contracts with the bargaining units (the Administrative and Maintenance units had previously accepted our offers). The contract will be presented to our Board at its March meeting for ratification. Since these are two year contracts retroactive to November, 2008 the negotiating process will begin again for 2010 in just a few months.

#### **5. Approval of January 21, 2009 Meeting Summary**

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

#### **6. Update on Union Contract with Operators- Steve Brown**

This was covered under Agenda Item 4.

#### **7. Update on Federal and State Funding Sources and Opportunities- Vic Kamhi**

Vic stated that the status of all State funding sources will be unresolved until passage of the long overdue State Budget. We already know that there are significant hits on our STA and TDA funds, but beyond that it's unclear.

With regard to the federal funds, if the Federal reauthorization talks continue there could be an impact on transit. The federal highway trust is depleted and Congress must find some way to fund it, either by reducing the amount of the transportation bill or with a 12¢ per gallon increase in the gas tax.

In response to the question of how GCT prepares a budget in light of all the uncertainties, Deborah stated that we would go ahead with "maintenance of effort" operating budget to fund the same service that now exists. Within the operating budget would be an option for the City of Ventura to remove service for Route 12, if it is determined at the Unmet Needs Hearings that it is a need that is not reasonable to meet. Cuts (beyond schedule adjustments) in service on other routes within the GCT system cannot be made unless they go through the Unmet Needs review process. Jeff questioned whether Ventura could make additional cuts, (perhaps some midday reductions on other routes) if they run out of TDA funds. Deborah replied that once a recipient's TDA funds are exhausted the City would not have any further obligation to fund transit.

With regard to the capital budget, we will have to take more time to determine the specific amounts we will ultimately get when the state budget is resolved and we know how much and when, we will receive from the stimulus package funds.

In response to a question regarding the JARC program to support the Market Street/Valentine Road shuttle (supported by many attendees at the February Unmet Needs Hearing) proposed by GCT, Vic replied that there may be unused CMAQ money that could be used to support that program for three years. The CMAQ money would be funded 100% with no local match required.

#### **8. Tracking of Systemwide Bus Stop's Corrective Action- Helene Buchman**

This item will be deferred until the next TAC meeting.

#### **9. Update on Oxnard Planning Staff Review of Proposed Service Improvements- Steve Brown/Martin Erickson**

Steve reported that the review was well received by Oxnard. In as much as additional buses will be required for any new service, he expects it will be at least a year before there are any new starts. If the JARC program is approved, however, we can use two of our Orion's that are being readied for retirement until the new buses from the stimulus program are delivered next year.

Steve Rosenberg said for budget purposes, the operating budget would be status quo, with the exception that the Route 12 may go away, Route 6 may be reduced slightly and the JARC Project may be funded at 100%. As it is a demonstration program the JARC would not be included in the mileage formula.

#### **10. Status of Bus Stop Signs & Guide-A-Ride Panels- Steve Brown**

The route decals on all the signs will all be installed this week by GCT and ready for pick-up by each jurisdiction. The installation crews will be provided with instructions for the signs and decals for each route segment.

#### **11. Status of Requests for Left Turn Signals- Andy Mikkelson**

Andy indicated that he has discussed this with the City of Oxnard and our request is being reviewed. This item is complete and can be removed from the agenda.

#### **12. Update on Facilities Master Plan- Helene Buchman**

Helene reported that it's to our economic benefit to locate the new facility as close as possible to an existing local high pressure gas line. This will limit our choice of sites. We have now narrowed the potential locations to several in or close to Oxnard.

### **13. Regional Transportation Meeting- Chuck McQuary**

Staff from GCT, VCTC, SBCAG and Santa Barbara MTD will have a meeting at MTD on February 24<sup>th</sup> to review a collective outreach program to improve public awareness of the local transit agencies and the transit opportunities available to residents in South Santa Barbara County and Western Ventura County.

### **14. Future Agenda Items**

- Preliminary review of FY09/10 Budget
- Regional Transportation Meeting
- JARC Program Grant
- Route 18/*Prototype's* Rehab Institute service

### **15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Hereford adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

***Minutes Approved:***



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

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

**Others in attendance:**

Name	Organization	Phone Number
S. Rosenbop	BCT	x119
Andrew Mikkelson	GCT	x111
Debrah Linhan	GCT	x118