



**GCTD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, April 17, 2019  
Gold Coast Transit District - Board Room**

**Meeting Summary**

**TAC Members Present:** Treena Gonzalez, County of Ventura; Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura; Ryan Kim, City of Oxnard; Ellen Debord, City of Ojai; and Claire Grasty, VCTC

**TAC Members Absent:** Don Villafana, City of Port Hueneme

**GCTD Staff Present:** Steve Brown, General Manager; Vanessa Rauschenberger, Director of Planning and Marketing; Cynthia Torres-Duque, Marketing and Communications Manager; Steve Rosenberg, Director of Finance; Matt Miller, Planning Manager; and Beatris Megerdichian and Austin Novstrup, Transit Planners

**Members of the Public:** None.

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Chair Sergio Albarran called the TAC meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**1. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**

None.

**2. Committee Members' Comments**

Claire Grasty announced that the VCTC origin-destination survey is underway and that GCTD routes 15 and 17 are part of the origin-destination survey. She also mentioned that a transfer analysis is being conducted as part of the overall project. The transfer analysis includes Ventura Transit Center, Oxnard Transit Center, C Street Transfer Center, Government Center, and Esplanade Shopping Center. She announced that Metrolink is providing free rides on Earth day.

Sergio Albarran announced that the Amgen Tour is taking place in Ventura on May 16, 2019. He mentioned that the City of Ventura staff has communicated with GCTD operations about street closures and its impact on GCTD's service.

**3. Staff Comments**

Vanessa Rauschenberger announced that an electric bus from New Flyer is at display at the GCTD yard today. She mentioned that GCTD will be assigning it to route 6 as a demonstration ride and doing a test drive. This New Flyer is the third electric bus GCTD has tested and plans to test a Proterra bus later this year. This effort is part of meeting the requirement to transition to electric fleet by 2040 according to the CARB rule.

Steve Brown mentioned that the demonstration ride on Route 6 will be free for passengers.

Vanessa Rauschenberger mentioned that GCTD will be applying for a Low or No Emission grant for electric vehicles. She added that Matt will be reaching out to cities to request letters of support.

## **5. Approval of the February 2019 Meeting Summary**

Sergio made a motion to approve the February meeting summary. Treena Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Service Performance Report - Matt Miller & Margaret Heath-Schoep**

Matt Miller provided an overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter changes of fiscal year 2018-19. He mentioned that January and February ridership decreased over the same period last year. The decrease was due to the heavy storms in January and February. March saw a rebound in ridership. He added that route 11 had the highest ridership decrease overall. The ridership decrease is attributable to the eight bus stops intermittently closed. Matt noted that the four routes with increased ridership were the college routes. He concluded that the on-time performance was 88%.

Margaret Heath-Shoep informed members that ridership for paratransit has decreased due to the rain. Wheelchair boardings increased significantly. The on-time performance was negatively impacted due to the rain and increased wheelchair boardings. She mentioned that total lates were down 33% and no-shows also decreased. Both decreases in lates and no shows were benefits of the Ecolane software. Margaret added that new paratransit vehicles have arrived and are being tinted.

## **7. Discussion of DRAFT FY 19-20 Budget**

Steve Rosenberg announced that there is no full budget report to present. He presented the LTF member allocations that he considers to be final unless there are any changes. He presented the allocation handout and went over each members TDA-LTF allocation.

## **8. Microtransit – Vanessa Rauschenberger**

Vanessa Rauschenberger shared a presentation of Microtransit to TAC members. Her presentation included what Microtransit is and what service it can provide for GCTD. She shared with members that many public agencies have begun testing Microtransit with pilot programs including Bakersfield, Sacramento, Marin, LADOT and Orange County. The Microtransit services for each community are different and there is no 'one size fits all' solution. She mentioned there are many reasons for testing Microtransit including decline in ridership, increasing operating costs, customer satisfaction, public expectation and difficult first mile last mile to transit.

Vanessa informed members that there are multiple ways to reserve a trip and pay for this service including a mobile application and cash for bank less users. She said that agencies can restrict zones or pick up zones, this service is designed to be flexible in planning the service.

Vanessa mentioned that early results of Microtransit are that it is slightly more productive than paratransit, it offers faster trips for passengers, is cost neutral and capital costs lower than traditional buses.

She presented a potential hypothesis for GCTD Microtransit pilot to test in the service area. She posed the question of whether GCTD will be able to address the coverage issue and provide faster trips, in a cost neutral way. She opened it up for discussion.

Sergio posed questions about the business model being in the early stages of their business. He also asked whether there would be shifts in paratransit riders to Microtransit.

Vanessa Rauschenberger mentioned that she spoke with an agency piloting Microtransit and the agency mentioned that they expect to see some shift in riders.

Sergio asked staff whether this service would qualify for certain grants or types of funding. Additionally, he asked whether there would be fixed stops or floating stops.

Vanessa mentioned that stops are different in each community. It may include transit centers; existing fixed route stops or anywhere in a designated zone.

Vanessa informed members that GCTD staff will be visiting Bakersfield to see how the service operates and how the mobile application works. She added that Microtransit is a demand response and it is subject to the 10% farebox recovery ratio and not the 20% farebox ratio for fixed route. She informed members that the service is intended for smaller zones and for shorter trips.

Steve Rosenberg questioned the response time for Microtransit.

Vanessa mentioned that it is up to the agency to set parameters and determine where the picks up are.

Steve Brown informed members that this service can replace fixed route with an hour frequency.

Sergio asked staff how many vehicles will be used and what type of vehicles will be used.

Vanessa informed members that Bakersfield is using 5 vans from their paratransit fleet for 20 square miles area with extra board drivers. GCTD may use 2 vehicles for a small zone.

## **9. Approve 2019 Bus Stop Guidelines – Austin Novstrup**

Austin Novstrup informed TAC members that the draft bus stop guidelines went to the Board in March. A public comment period was open to the public for one month and no feedback was received from the public. Vanessa thanked the committee for their efforts.

Treena Gonzalez made a motion to approve the 2019 Bus Stop Guidelines and Sergio Albarran seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **10. Facility Update – Vanessa Rauschenberger**

Vanessa Rauschenberger mentioned that staff will set the new facility move date prior to the next board meeting.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

Title VI Report

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Sergio Albarran adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

