



GCTD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Gold Coast Transit District - Board Room

Meeting Summary

TAC Members Present: Treena Gonzalez, County of Ventura; Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura; Ellen Debord, City of Ojai; and Claire Grasty, Jeni Eddington, Aaron Bonfilio, VCTC

TAC Members Absent: Pete Wessel, City of Oxnard and Don Villafana, City of Port Hueneme

GCTD Staff Present: Steve Brown, General Manager; Vanessa Rauschenberger, Director of Planning and Marketing; Beatris Megerdichian and Austin Novstrup, Transit Planners; Matt Miller, Planning Manager; Robert Keys, IT Manager; James Beck, Fleet Manager; and John Kelly, Operations Manager

Members of the Public: Andrew Keshmiri, City of Thousand Oaks

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

2. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None.

3. Committee Members' Comments

Sergio Albarran announced that the Main Street closure began yesterday where eleven bus stops were temporarily relocated from Main Street to Santa Clara Street. He added that a shelter was placed at the Wells Center bus stop.

Claire Grasty announced that VCTC submitted the TDA Performance Audit to the state.

4. Staff Comments

Vanessa Rauschenberger noted that the City of Ventura drafted a mask ordinance. She mentioned that GCTD is discussing the mask policy internally. In the meanwhile, GCTD is strongly encouraging everyone to wear a mask and has masks available for customers.

5. Approval of the May 20, 2020 Meeting Summary

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

6. TDA Budget Update – Michelle Pierret

Vanessa Rauschenberger informed members that Michelle is out, and she will be presenting instead. She presented the FY 20-21 proposed budget which uses the CARES ACT funds to balance the budget. She mentioned that the proposed budget increases 4.3% over last year's budget due to increase in represented employee wages. Vanessa informed TAC members that the proposed service plan is 188, 000 hours. Major service changes include the addition of the new route 23, restoring service on core routes and maintaining Sunday level service on the other routes. She mentioned that GCTD is reviewing options of contactless fare payment options and operator shields. Vanessa added that an outreach passenger survey including phone surveys are currently underway and the preliminary results of the survey will be presented at the July GCTD Board of Directors meeting. She provided an overview of the capital projects. She added that a public hearing will be held for the budget at the July GCTD Board of Directors meeting.

Treena Gonzalez inquired about the guidance from state on limiting the number of passengers on buses.

Vanessa informed members that she has not seen guidelines from the state. However, CDC guidelines state that there should be social distancing on buses which require limiting loads. She mentioned that with increases in passenger loads there will be challenges in limiting loads as there are staffing shortages and limited number of buses. She mentioned that there are discussions internally regarding limiting loads as passenger volumes increase.

7. July 2020 Service Changes Update – Austin Novstrup

Austin Novstrup presented the July service changes going in effect July 26th. He explained that GCTD will be restoring frequency on trunk routes including the 1, 6, 17, and 21. Additionally, the route 23 will be implemented along Ventura Road. Bus stop spacing will be optimized on routes 1A and 1B where seventeen stops will be removed to improve stop spacing and frequency. Routes 3 and 9 will be consolidated and there will be more direct service on routes 4 and 8. Additionally, routes 17 and 23 will be interlined and will have a frequency of 30 minutes on weekdays. He explained how the implementation of route 23 is providing coverage for areas where service is being removed.

Vanessa Rauschenberger informed members that customers are being informed of these changes by customer service staff during outreach calls. She also mentioned that a brochure is being developed and will be shared with customers.

8. COVID-19 Actions – Jim Beck

Jim Beck informed TAC members that rear door boarding and no fare collection remains in effect. He mentioned that GCTD is proposing permanent sanitization position to perform cleaning in route. The new position will be presented to the GCTD Board of Directors. He added that there are no COVID-19 cases. Additionally, Jim explained that operator shields are being investigated to provide protection for operators. He mentioned that twelve operators are on leave due to COVID-19. He also mentioned that some employees are returning to work and a new operator recruitment class is underway.

11. Future Agenda Items

Steve Brown suggested skipping the meeting in July and meet in August instead.

10. Adjournment

Chair Sergio Albarran adjourned the meeting at 10:48 am.