



GCTD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, May 20, 2020
Gold Coast Transit District - Board Room

Meeting Summary

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

TAC Members Absent: 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; Cynthia Torres Duque, Communications and Marketing Manager; Margaret Heath-Schoep, Paratransit Manager; James Beck, Fleet Manager; John Kelly, Operations Manager; and Alex Zaretsky, Human Resources and Risk Manager

Members of the Public: None

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Sergio Albarran called the TAC meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None.

3. Committee Members' Comments

Sergio Albarran announced the closure of Main Street as a response to COVID-19 with closures expected to last a month. He mentioned that bus stops closures and relocation to Santa Clara has been coordinated with GCTD.

Claire Grasty mentioned that Sage Services, a social service agency that works with Tri-County Regional, provides service to an estimated 400 individuals. Safe Services is moving to Camarillo and those seeking services at the Camarillo location may take trips via GO Access. She mentioned that they are seeking services for the people they serve.

Matt Miller introduced Pete Wessel as the new TAC member representing the City of Oxnard. Matt briefly explained to the purpose and goals of the TAC and his role in the committee.

Pete Wessel, introduced himself, mentioning that he had joined the City of Oxnard as the Associated Traffic Design Engineer a month ago.

Treena Gonzalez announced that the Kannan Shuttle has been reinstated as of Tuesday, May 19 and no issues have been reported thus far. She welcomed Pete Wessel.

4. Staff Comments

None

5. Approval of the April 15, 2020 Meeting Summary

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

6. COVID-19 Actions – Jim Beck

Jim Beck informed members that of the 191 active employees at GCTD, 17 people are out due to COVID-19, mostly related to the childcare and that there are no positive cases. He mentioned that GCTD ridership is down 62%, with only 3500 to 4000 riders per weekday. Of the service provided, only a few trips were missed. The current Sunday level service will be extended to July 26th 2020.

Jim informed members of the precautionary measures GCTD is taking to protect the health of employees and passengers. He mentioned that protective measures include no fare collection, rear door boarding, bus load limits, dedicated positions to sanitizing buses at transit centers and over layovers, and nightly sanitization.

Additional measures are being considered as GCTD anticipates more passengers to return to using public transit. Jim mentioned that operator protection barriers near the farebox, sanitizing sprayers, PPE supplies, and modifications to employee check-in process.

Sergio Albarran inquired about passengers being turned away due to the limit on passengers per bus.

John Kelly mentioned that couple passengers were turned away however, a standby bus was ready to pick-up passengers. He mentioned that the standby bus has not been needed until recently as additional passengers return to using public transit.

Aaron Bonfilio informed members that VCTC has implemented limiting capacity however is looking into increasing the capacity if masks can be adopted. He also mentioned that VCTC is also looking into driver barriers for its motor coach buses. He inquired about fare promotion to encourage ridership.

Vanessa Rauschenberger informed TAC members that GCTD is seeking fare promotion but raised concerns about reduced revenues and homelessness. GCTD's initial efforts will be considering protection measures including driver barriers to protect the health of employees and passengers.

7. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan – Jim Beck

Jim Beck presented the GCTD Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan to TAC members. He mentioned that it will be an ongoing process to achieve GCTD's safety performance targets. Jim

mentioned that the agency has opted to create its own agency plan based on guidelines provided by the FTA

Alex Zaretsky informed members that GCTD has drafted this plan in coordination with Caltrans. This is version one of the plan which will undergo an annual review.

The evaluation will consist of fatalities, injuries, and safety events per fiscal year. Additionally, it will include total revenue miles by mode and does not include mean distance between major mechanical failures or targets. Alex added that the transit safety performance measures include fatalities, system reliability, safety events and injuries. The safety measures will continuously be measured to maintain and achieve the performance targets. He provided an overview of the details of the exhibits of the plan. Alex informed members that the plan will be presented in the June Board of Directors' meeting.

8. FEMA Resolution

Matt Miller informed members that GCTD is seeking FEMA reimbursement for certain costs associated with the agency's response to the Covid-19 outbreak. He mentioned that certain costs are eligible for up to seventy-five percent reimbursement including cleaning items, personal protective equipment and potentially staff overtime costs to conduct the cleaning.

Before reimbursement of costs, GCTD must bring a resolution to the board to consider and adopt authorizing the agency to accept the funds. The resolution will be presented at the June Board of Directions meeting.

9. TDA Budget Update – Michelle Pierret

Vanessa Rauschenberger presented the FY 2020-21 draft budget to TAC members. She explained that GCTD is directed recipient of TDA allocation that is based on population. The process requires GCTD to ask cities to provide their requests for capital and maintenance projects related to transit.

Vanessa mentioned that the draft budget will be presented at the June Board of Directors meeting and the final budget presented in July. The current operating budget is \$28 million with a significant impact to revenue from Covid-19. The reduction include decrease in LTF funding, operating revenue decreases due to the loss of fares, and decrease in advertising revenue, among others revenue streams. Vanessa added that GCTD will use a portion of the \$13.8 million from the CARES Act to fill the shortfalls in the proposed FY 2020-21 budget.

Additionally, she informed members that a 5.5% increase in FY 2020 service levels are planned in the budget. The restoration of service levels on routes 6, 11, 17, 21 and adding route 23 and maintaining Sunday service on other routes.

Michelle Pierret provided an overview of the LTF funding requested by members and the capital improvement costs. She mentioned that members submitted requests for LTF funding totaled a little over \$1.8 million.

10. Draft Building Transit Supportive Communities Study

Beatris Megerdichian presented the draft Building Transit Supportive Communities study. She informed members that the project's goal is to help educate and guide local governments, developers, non-profit organizations, and community stakeholders in strategies for transit-supportive land-use decision-making. The planning efforts included two community workshops and analysis of existing transit-supportive land uses and identifying land use characteristics in the GCTD service area that support high ridership stops. She provided an overview of the various strategies presented in the study for building transit supportive land uses including connected streets, managing curbsides, residential and job density.

11. Future Agenda Items

Budget

10. Adjournment

Chair Sergio Albarran adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.