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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Gold Coast Transit Adopts Fare Increase

Oxnard, CA – On December 2, 2009 Gold Coast Transit adopted its first fare increase since 2003. The increase will occur in two phases. Starting January 24, 2010, GCT's adult bus fare will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.35. Fares for a trip on GCT's ACCESS paratransit service, for people with disabilities and seniors aged 65 or older will increase by \$0.20 to \$2.70.

In July of 2011, the second phase of the fare increase will take effect, with GCT's adult bus fare increasing \$0.15 to \$1.50 and GCT's ACCESS paratransit service increasing by \$0.30 to \$3.00 per ride.

The fare increase is intended to help GCT offset diminishing revenues from state and local sources which account for 80 percent of GCT's overall budget. In the past year, State Transit Assistance (STA) funding was eliminated completely and the Transportation Development Act Funds (TDA) that local government use to pay for GCT transit service declined sharply.

Transit agencies across California have been forced to implement fare increases, service reductions, or both as a consequence of the elimination of state funding for transit and declining sales tax revenue.

"Our primary goal is to keep buses operating for those who depend upon public transportation the most and we have done that for the near term" said Deborah Linehan, GCT's General Manager. "We are able to avoid major bus service reductions for now by reducing some expenses, taking advantage of federal stimulus funds and asking the Board of Directors to approve a moderate fare increase after seven years of fare stability," Linehan said.

In its action yesterday the GCT Board asked staff to report back in 2010 on the status of ridership, fare revenues and the overall budget before the second phase of the fare increase goes into effect in July 2011. Additional information regarding the new fares will be available in the coming weeks.

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