Gold Coast Transit
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009
Gold Coast Transit
2010 Board of Directors

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Alternate Director, Supervisor Steve Bennett

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Alternate Director, Councilmember Brian Brennan

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Alternate Director, Councilmember Susan Horgan
Gold Coast Transit

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009
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Introductory Section
August 15, 2010
The Board of Directors
Gold Coast Transit
Oxnard, California

Members of the Board:
In fiscal year 2010, Gold Coast Transit (GCT) delivered 3.52 million passenger trips and operated 2.18 million miles of revenue service in western Ventura County, California. While that represents a 3.6% reduction in both passenger trips and revenue service miles from the prior year, the past year has been extraordinarily challenging for all public transit agencies in California and I am proud that GCT was able to continue serving our constituents with only minor service reductions and emerge in relatively strong financial condition.

The transit services provided by GCT are increasingly important to our local residents as they cope with the impacts of the economic recession. These vital services continue to be made possible through the continued and generous funding support of GCT’s five member governments: the Cities of Oxnard, Ventura, Port Hueneme and Ojai, and the County of Ventura.

Key developments at GCT during the 2010 fiscal year included:
- Finalized an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grant of nearly $7.6M, which will fund eight buses, supervisory vehicles, new fareboxes, facility upgrades, bus stop enhancements and support for fixed route and paratransit operations.
- Took delivery of eight new low-floor 35-foot CNG NABI buses funded by ARRA. These new buses increase our fixed route bus fleet to 54, and will enable GCT to provide increased bus service as additional operating funds become available.
- Development by the Board of an updated GCT Strategic Plan, including a new mission statement and updated goals and objectives.
- GCT led and coordinated a countywide “try transit” marketing promotion funded by a grant from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) which resulted in over 5,500 promotional ride tickets redeemed on GCT buses and another 2,500 redeemed by other Ventura County transit providers.
- Installed new Guide-a-Ride signs at 300 key bus stops throughout the service area to assist bus riders with bus stop and route connection information.
- Completed the Transit Service Strategy Plan (TSSP), which will serve as a blueprint for future transit expansion in the GCT service area.
- Initiated the Vineyard Corridor Study, using funding from CalTrans for a study and public outreach effort to gather information and establish transit options to better serve the Vineyard Avenue corridor.
- Upgraded the GCT website, Goldcoasttransit.org, and began using social media sites Facebook, Twitter and MySpace, to provide the public easier access to more up-to-date information.

As I have announced my retirement effective October 5, 2010, I would like to express my appreciation for having been given the privilege of serving the Board, member governments, transit riders and area residents as GCT’s general manager. I thank the Board for its unflagging leadership and support throughout my tenure. I know that under the leadership of the Board and GCT’s management team we can look forward to continued improvements in transit service in western Ventura County.

Deborah C. Lintham
General Manager
August 15, 2010

Board of Directors
Gold Coast Transit
Oxnard, California

Members of the Board:

This is Gold Coast Transit’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 and is submitted in compliance with Section 4(b) of our Joint Powers Agreement.

The CAFR has been prepared by the Office of the Director of Administrative Services in conformance with the principles and standards for financial reporting set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). This Office is responsible for both the accuracy of the presented data and the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures.

We believe that the data, as presented, is accurate in all material respects and presented in a manner designed to fairly set forth the financial position and results of operations of GCT. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain the maximum understanding of GCT financial affairs have been included.

The CAFR represents the culmination of all budgeting and accounting activities engaged in by GCT during the fiscal year. The CAFR is organized into three sections:

1. The **Introductory Section** is intended to familiarize the reader with the organizational structure of GCT and the nature and scope of the provided services.

2. The **Financial Section** includes a Management Discussion and Analysis narrative to introduce the financial statements and analyze the financial activities during the fiscal year. This section also includes the Independent Auditor’s Report, audited financial statements, disclosure notes, supplementary budget information, supporting statements and schedules necessary to fairly present the financial position and the results of the operations of GCT in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

3. The **Statistical Section** contains comparative statistical data on GCT’s financial, physical, economic and social characteristics.

The preparation of this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report required the cooperation of GCT management, staff and independent auditors, Charles Z. Fedak & Co., CPAs I wish to express my appreciation to all those individuals who contributed to the preparation of this report, with special recognition to Lili Marlene T. Tomen, GCT’s Accounting Manager, who, again this year, worked diligently preparing for this year’s financial audit and whose professionalism and dedication continues to be invaluable to this organization.

Steve L. Rosenberg
Director, Administrative Services
Gold Coast Transit
Organizational Information

History

South Coast Area Transit (SCAT) was established in 1973. On July 17, 1973 the Cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and San Buenaventura executed a Joint Powers Agreement that created SCAT to develop and operate local and intercity public transportation in western Ventura County. The County of Ventura became a SCAT member agency in October of 1977.

Prior to SCAT’s creation, two municipal bus lines operated the region’s public transit service. Ventura Transit City Lines operated local service in Ventura and intercity service to Ojai. Oxnard Municipal Bus Lines served Oxnard and Port Hueneme. Following a national trend, the bus systems flourished through the mid 1940’s but both ridership and service levels declined in the years following. By the late 1960’s it became increasingly difficult for cities to maintain municipal bus lines with local general funds.

The outlook for public transit systems in California brightened in 1971 when the State Legislature created a source of dedicated transportation funding through passage of the Transportation Development Act (TDA). The availability of TDA funds to local governments provided an impetus for forming a single regional transit entity to operate coordinated transit services across municipal boundaries and in some unincorporated areas of western Ventura County.

After SCAT’s creation in 1973, the operating systems of Ventura Transit City Lines and Oxnard Municipal Bus Lines were merged to create the SCAT regional transit system. Bus service was implemented on November 4, 1973. SCAT originally operated from two facilities located in Ventura and Oxnard. In February of 1980 all SCAT functions were consolidated in a single administrative, operating and maintenance facility on a three-acre site at 301 E. Third Street in Oxnard. In June 2008, SCAT’s Joint Powers Agreement was amended to, among other changes, rename the agency from South Coast Area Transit to Gold Coast Transit; this change became effective July 1, 2007.

Services

GCT provides fixed-route bus and paratransit services in the cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Ventura, and in the unincorporated County areas between the cities. The service area is approximately 91 square miles with an estimated population of 375,000.

GCT served 3.52 million passenger boardings in fiscal year 2010, an decrease of 3.6% from the previous year, and operated 2.18 million miles of revenue service. GCT operates a fleet of 54 full-size (35-foot and 40-foot) buses on fixed route service and 24 cutaway buses primarily on paratransit service, all using clean burning compressed natural gas (CNG). GCT added eight (8) new 35-foot North American Bus Industries (NABI) buses to its fleet in fiscal year 2010 as a result of funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Only eleven of GCT’s 78 revenue vehicles are more than four years old. GCT has for many years operated its own onsite CNG fueling station, and fiscal year 2010 marked the first full year of operation for GCT’s new state-of-the-art CNG fueling station.

In fiscal year 2010, GCT fixed-route service served 3.44 million passenger boardings, a decrease of 3.5% from the previous year, while the ACCESS paratransit system transported 79,985 passengers, a decrease of 5.7% over the previous year.

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1 Historical information excerpted from “A Historical Summary of Gold Coast Transit,” by Peter G. Drake, retired SCAT general manager.
Gold Coast Transit

Organizational Information

Mission Statement

GCT’s mission is to provide a safe, efficient, quality bus transportation system for the western Ventura County area, which serves the needs of the greatest number of people by:

- Balancing the needs of customers with the need for operational efficiency;
- Providing transit services which appeal to increasing numbers of people;
- Operating responsibly and cost effectively within budgets;
- Coordinating services with other public transportation operators in Ventura County; and
- Providing services that contribute to a safer, cleaner and less congested environment.

Board of Directors

Gold Coast Transit is a joint powers agency governed by a Board of Directors. Each of GCT’s five member agencies appoints one elected official from its governing body to serve on the Board of Directors and a second to serve as an alternate member. The Board of Directors regular monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.

Management

The General Manager is appointed by the Board of Directors and is charged with carrying out the Board’s policies and directives. The General Manager leads a management team made up of four internal directors who head departments and one manager. The current General Manager has served in the position since February 2001. Members of the fiscal year 2010 management team are:

- Deborah C. Linehan, General Manager
- Steven P. Brown, Director of Planning and Marketing
- Steve L. Rosenberg, Director of Administrative Services
- Robert Lurie, Director of Fleet and Facilities
- Andrew Mikkelson, Director of Transit Operations
- Ken Mills, Buyer and DBE Officer

As of the end of fiscal year 2010, GCT has 137 employees, the majority of whom provide or supervise bus service. The operations department has 162 employees including 94 bus operators, six transit supervisors, an operations support specialist and a director. The maintenance department has 20 employees and the administration department has 15 employees. Service Employees International Union Local 721 represents all bus operators, most maintenance employees and five administrative employees.

In addition to GCT’s directly operated fixed route bus service, GCT contracts with MV Transportation, Inc for the management and operation of GCT ACCESS, a regional paratransit service providing curb-to-curb transportation for people with disabilities and senior citizens.

In June 2010, General Manager Linehan announced her retirement effective October 5, 2010. The GCT Board of Directors on September 1, 2010 announced the appointment of Steven P. Brown, currently GCT’s Director of Planning and Marketing, as GCT’s next General Manager.
Map of Ventura County, California
Gold Coast Transit
Organizational Information

Gold Coast Transit Bus System Map