I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 2014 self balancing scooter boards, commonly referred to as hover boards, started showing up in cities across the United States. Due to numerous instances of reported fires and explosions related to hover boards GCTD is recommending that hover boards be banned on all GCTD vehicles.

II. BACKGROUND

Hover boards have all the hazards associated with wheeled devices like skateboards and rollerblades with the addition of motorized propulsion that is capable of high speeds. Since their inception in late 2014 hover boards have been in the news several times for incidents involving explosions or fires. One of the main causes of these fires has to do with the quality of the lithium-ion batteries used in hover boards. Between December 1, 2015 and February 17, 2016 the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission received reports from 24 states of 52 hover boards catching on fire, resulting in two million dollars in property damage as well as the destruction of two homes and an automobile (Minneapolis Star Tribune article by Janet Moore, March 15, 2016)

As these incidents continue several other transit agencies have banned hover boards from their vehicles, and all US airlines have banned hover boards. A few of the many transit agencies that have already banned hover boards are:

- Metrolink (Los Angeles, CA)
- Metra (Chicago, IL)
- MTA (New York, NY)
- Metro Transit (Minneapolis, MN)
- New Jersey Transit (NJ)
- MBTA (Boston, MA)
- RTS (Gainesville, FL)
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Given the safety concerns related to hover boards, especially the heightened fire danger coupled with GCTD’s Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fleet, it is the determination of GCTD staff that allowing hover boards on GCTD vehicles would pose a substantial safety risk.

Attached to this report is the formal policy in the format used by GCTD for inclusion into our policy booklet.

III. RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the policy banning hover boards on GCTD vehicles.

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I. PURPOSE/REASON
Provide safety for all GCTD employees and passengers by banning the use, carrying and charging of hover boards on all GCTD vehicles.

Hover boards, or self balancing scooter boards have all of the hazards associated with wheeled devices like skateboards and rollerblades, with the addition of motorized propulsion that is capable of high speeds. Like skateboards and rollerblades, customers will not be able to use hover boards inside GCTD vehicles.

In addition, customers will not be allowed to carry hover boards onto buses because there have been numerous reports of hover boards exploding and catching fire.

NOTE: All major U.S. airlines, Amtrak, New York City Transit, New Jersey Transit, Metrolink, METRA (Chicago), Metro Transit (Minneapolis) and several other transit agencies throughout the country have banned hover boards from their vehicles.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES
1. All Operations employees are responsible for observing passengers boarding GCTD vehicles and not allowing the boarding of passengers carrying hover boards on any GCTD vehicle.
2. Passengers are not allowed to carry, store, use or charge hover boards on any GCTD vehicle.