Meeting Summary

TAC Members Present: Treena Taylor, County of Ventura; Derek Towers, City of Ventura; Philip Pulley, City of Ojai; and Claire Grasty and Aaron Bonfilio, VCTC

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

GCTD Staff Present: Steve Brown, General Manager; Vanessa Rauschenberger, Director of Planning and Marketing; Matt Miller, Planning Manager Beatris Megerdichian and Austin Novstrup, Transit Planners; Cynthia Torres-Duque, Communications & Marketing Manager; Margaret Heath-Schoep, Paratransit Manager; Jim Beck, Director of Operations & Maintenance; and Dawn Perkins, Director of Finance; Michelle Pierret, Finance Manager

Members of the Public: None

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Matt Miller called the TAC meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None.

3. Committee Members’ Comments

Claire Grasty announced that work on the VCTC Comprehensive Transportation plan was beginning.

Phil Pulley reported ridership had increased on the Trolley likely due to the resumption of in person learning at both Junior and Senior Highschool students.

4. Staff Comments

None.

5. Approval of March 17, 2021 Meeting Summary

Derek Towers made a motion to approve the March 2021 meeting summary and Phil Pulley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. 3rd Quarter Service Performance Report – Matt Miller & Margaret Heath-Schoep
Matt Miller provided a verbal summary of the fixed route portion of the 3rd Quarter Service Performance Report. Matt noted that ridership for the quarter was 44% lower than the previous year although comparing March of this year to March of last ridership had increased by approximately 30%. Matt also highlighted that there was no fare revenue for the quarter which was a difference of around $655,000 dollars for the quarter. Additionally, Matt stated that on time performance for the quarter continued to be very good. Matt also summarized the planning teams work for the quarter which included restoring service during the January service changes, completion of the GCTD Economic Impact Report, and completion of a bus stop inventory.

Vanessa Rauschenberger commented that relative to weekday ridership decreases in weekend ridership were not as severe. Vanessa stated that this is likely due to the riders utilizing the service on the weekend being more transit dependent.

Margaret Heath-Schoep gave a verbal summary of the Paratransit portion of the 3rd Quarter Service Performance Report. Margaret noted that ridership was the same as the 3rd Quarter of 2020 and attributed this to the high rate of vaccination for seniors. Margaret announced that the Late Night Safe Rides program was weeks away from the soft launch of the service. Margaret stated that after the implementation of the Late Night Safe Rides Program GCTD staff would begin work on the South Oxnard Micro-transit Project. Margaret stated that GCTD had just received approval of grant funding from the California Energy Commission for the purchase of electric vehicles to be used for the micro-transit project.

7. Proposed South Oxnard Micro-Transit – Margaret Heath-Schoep

Margaret Heath-Schoep provided an update on GCTD’s efforts to implement a micro-transit project in South Oxnard. Margaret gave a brief history of the project and explained what a micro-transit service is and some of the different ways it could be operated. Margaret than invited the TAC members to provide input on hours of operation, fares, wait times, stop configurations. Treena Taylor informed members that GCTD was the only applicant pursuing JARC CARES Act funds.

Treena Taylor suggested that the hours should be planned to correspond with existing fixed route services and with the times the fixed route service that was eliminated was most utilized. Treena also inquired about what payment methods would be accepted and how virtual stops work.

Margaret explained that all GCTD fare payment methods would be accepted with the exception of the new UMO system. Margaret also explained that virtual stops are intended to improve service efficiency in dense residential or commercial areas.

Claire Grasty commented that virtual stops common on other services and are reasonable, 20 minutes or less is a reasonable wait time, and that the fare could be set the same fixed route service.

8. FY 20-21 Budget Update – Dawn Perkins

Michelle Pierret presented the draft TDA budget for FY 20-21. Michelle informed the TAC members that VCTC’s estimate for GCTD’s LTF funding was $14,663,505 and presented a table indicating the amounts GCTD would be budgeting for each member agency to receive for
operating and capital projects in the coming fiscal year. Michelle stated that GCTD is continuing to work on a draft budget and that the draft would likely be presented at the May TAC meeting.

Treena Taylor requested that the table be distributed to each of the member agencies for further review. Treena also noted that there were some capital funds set to be return to GCTD from the County of Ventura that were included in the table.

9. **Resuming Fare Collection – Vanessa Rauschenberger**

Vanessa Rauschenberger gave a verbal update on the planned Resumption of fare collection. Vanessa stated that fare sales had already begun at the CSC, passenger outreach was ongoing in the form of rider alerts and a social media campaign, and maintenance and finance staff were checking systems and procedures for the resumption of fare. Vanessa also noted that GCTD would be implementing 3 new features from Token transit; the first being a new visual verification pass and the second is the ability to purchase token passes with cash at the CSC and finally a new fare capping feature.

Claire commented that it was still unclear how the College Ride program would address a staggered resumption of fares and that additional conversations were needed.

10. **Consider Authorizing GCTD to Join TransMAC Agreement – Vanessa Rauschenberger**

Vanessa Rauschenberger stated that one of the recommendations of the countywide Transportation Emergency Preparedness plan was for all transit operators to join the TransMac agreement. Vanessa explained that the agreement was a mutual aid agreement that provides a mechanism for reimbursement in the circumstance that an operator’s resources are utilized as part of an emergency response. Vanessa emphasized that staff had reviewed the agreement and that staff recommended that the district join the agreement.

Treena Taylor stated that Heritage Valley had joined the agreement and clarified that an operator would not be required to provide assistance but that the agreement created a valuable mechanism to allow operators to assist if they were able.

Derek Towers motioned to approve authorizing GCTD to Join the TransMac Agreement. Treena Taylor seconded the motion passed unanimously.

11. **GCTD Economic Impact Report – Beatris Megerdichian**

Beatris Megerdichian gave a presentation summarizing the GCTD Economic Impact Report. Beatris noted that GCTD’s budget supports 433 jobs and 20 million in worker incomes 56 million in output in goods and services. Beatris noted that GCTD’s operation support economic activity and insure workforce access to essential jobs in the agricultural and hospitality industry.

Claire Grasty commented that it was a very interesting report and requested a copy of the presentation to share with other member of the VCTC staff.
Treen Taylor commented that it was a good report and that it a good to highlight not just the
direct impacts but the indirect and induced impacts of GCTD’s operations.

12. High School Trippers Update – Austin Novstrup

Austin Novstrup gave a verbal update on the resumption of tripper service to high schools within
the district. Austin stated that all of the highs schools had modified their schedules resulting in a
need for the trippers to be rescheduled. Austin went on to explain that while overcrowding had
been reported before the tripper schedules were adjusted those reports were no longer
occurring.

Treena Taylor commented that the Kanaan shuttle had been experiencing low ridership and
there was a concern that the students were no longer utilizing the service.

Austin clarified that the overcrowding had been occurring on line service prior to adjusting the
tripper schedules and that is was a lower allowed capacity on the bus due to Covid-19 and a
combination of the general public and students that exceeded the capacity.

Aaron Bonfilio inquired about plan to remove the allowed capacity on the bus.

Vanessa Rauschenberger stated that there was no plan to remove the capacity limits on the
buses at this time.

13. Future Agenda Items – GCTD Budget

14. Adjournment

Treena Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:23 am.