



DATE: September 13, 2018

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

FROM: CLAIRE GRASTY, PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the Ventura County Group TAM Plan.

BACKGROUND:

With the devastating fires and mudslide in Ventura and Santa Barbara County in December 2017 and January 2018, the need for a Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan was highlighted. While transit operators did a great job of reacting to the emergencies to provide what service they could, the emergencies demonstrated a strong need for a plan that will prepare us in the event of another disaster, allowing operators to be more proactive.

In February 2018, VCTC applied for a Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (TEPP) from Caltrans through the Adaptation Planning Grant. VCTC was notified of award in May and will begin the project in October. The grant is in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) with support from Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) and the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD). VCTC and SBCAG will also coordinate with the smaller operators to ensure input is incorporated and concerns are addressed.

DISCUSSION:

The goals of the TEPP are to:

- Demonstrate on-going collaboration and partnerships between sectors and jurisdictions, across levels of government at a regional scale. As the lead agency, VCTC will partner with SBCAG, local transit operators, first responders, and other public safety agencies will provide a comprehensive work plan to benefit the community and improve the management of disaster response efforts.
- Identify system-wide climate change impact risks to multimodal transportation infrastructure in the project area. Recent disasters provide a unique opportunity to identify “real time” impacts on transportation infrastructure and their respective consequences.

These otherwise “uncertainties” are actually “knowns” that can be measured and evaluated. The Plan will explore these areas.

- Identify adaptation strategies and specific actions to remedy identified climate related vulnerabilities. Reviewing and rating disaster response actions related to the recent Thomas Fire and Montecito mudslide will provide the knowledge to develop strategies moving forward.
- Identify disadvantaged and/or vulnerable communities, including transit-dependent populations and incorporating an effective plan to accommodate these populations in evacuation efforts or ensuring transportation to jobs, medical appointments and other needs is a part of the Plan.

The TEPP will include:

- A public participation plan
- Evaluating what emergency preparedness plans currently exist
- Determining what worked well during the emergencies and what did not
- Learning from best practices around the country
- Determining what agreements should be in place
- Reviewing communication needs
- Creating an inventory of assets to be preserved during an emergency
- Determining who might need evacuation assistance
- Preparations for emergency transportation services
- Identifying resources
- Recommended training exercises

The scope of work for the grant is attached. VCTC is interested in getting feedback on the scope and any concerns, ideas or other items operators would like to see in the plan, as well as any emergency preparedness plans agencies have as it relates to transit.