

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Newly Approved VCTC Budget Funds Bus Rides for College Students, Emergency Roadside Assistance, 101 Improvement Study and Much More

Commission approves \$82 Million Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

Ventura, Calif. – The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) approved an \$82,452,074 annual budget at its monthly meeting on June 7 that will strengthen and improve Ventura County’s transportation system for years to come. Incorporating funds from a variety of state and federal sources, including revenues from Senate Bill 1, California’s Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget is about 3% higher than last year.

In addition to maintaining VCTC’s high quality transit, rideshare, and regional transportation planning services, the FY 19/20 budget includes the following new programs:

College Ride – The popular College Ride program, which allows any student registered at a Ventura County college or university to ride the County’s public transit system for free, will be extended for another year. Since its inception in Aug. 2018, College Ride has proven to be an invaluable transportation resource for the region’s student population and helped boost ridership on transit systems across the county.

Motorist Aid Services – VCTC will provide emergency services to Ventura County motorists thanks to the state’s Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) program. New services include a grant program to upgrade life-saving equipment for entities responding to highway accidents and a Freeway Service Patrol Program, free roadside assistance to disabled vehicles on congested local freeways. Both programs will debut in FY 19/20.

Regional Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan (TEPP) – Inspired by the transportation challenges that arose during the Thomas Fire and Montecito Mudslide, VCTC and its partner, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, will develop a TEPP to enable local transportation agencies to successfully respond to future emergencies. Funding for the TEPP comes from Caltrans’ Adaptation Planning Grant program.

Our Future 101 – VCTC will continue Our Future 101, its study of alternatives for improving the 101 between Thousand Oaks and Ventura. The project’s goal is to reduce congestion, enhance safety and improve quality of life for those who use the 101 every day. Study and public outreach will continue throughout FY 19/20 with a Draft Environmental Impact Report anticipated in 2021. More info at ourfuture101.org.

Transit Service for Ventura County – New transportation funds approved by the California Legislature will allow VCTC to continue to operate its Intercity bus system at current levels as well as make needed repairs to the railroad tracks and bridges that Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner trains depend upon to serve Ventura County residents every day.

“The newly approved budget enables VCTC to deliver on our promise to keep Ventura County moving,” said Darren Kettle, executive director of VCTC. “Whether it’s offering free bus rides to our region’s college students, providing aid to stranded motorists or planning for the future of the 101 freeway, VCTC is proud to have a positive impact on the lives of Ventura County residents.”

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About the Ventura County Transportation Commission

The Ventura County Transportation Commission is the regional transportation planning agency committed to keeping Ventura County moving. Program information is available at goventura.org.