



VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transit Operators Advisory Committee (TRANSCOM)

www.goventura.org

AGENDA

In Person

VCTC Large Conference Room

751 East Daily Drive Suite 420

Camarillo, CA

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

1:30 p.m.

*Action may be taken on any item listed on the agenda

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a committee meeting, please contact the Administrative Assistant at (805) 642-1591 ext. 111. Notification of at least 48 hours (about 2 days) prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENT

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Under the Brown Act, the committee should not act on or discuss matters raised during the Public Comment portion of the agenda which are not listed on the agenda. Committee members may refer such matters to staff for facts or to be placed on the subsequent agenda for consideration.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Action:

- *Waive the reading and approve the meeting minutes from January 2023.*

Responsible Staff: Jeni Eddington

ITEM 6 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

Recommended Action:

- *Receive and file.*

Responsible Staff: Dolores Lopez

ITEM 7 ZERO EMISSION BUS (ZEB) SUBCOMMITTEE

Recommended Action:

- *That the committee form a new Ad Hoc Committee focused on zero emission bus (ZEB) planning and implementation.*

Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty

ITEM 8 TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Recommended Action:

- *Verbal Update*

Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty

ITEM 9 REDISTRIBUTION OF CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) FUNDS

Recommended Action:

- *Approve redistribution of previously programmed CMAQ and CRP funds as shown in the Attachment, with the caveat that staff remains authorized to administratively make further adjustments as the situation warrants.*

Responsible Staff: Peter De Haan

ITEM 10 2023 ACCESS FOR ALL PROGRAM - SELECTION OF ACCESS PROVIDERS

Recommended Action:

- *Approve Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) as a FY 2022/23 Access Provider and award of Access Funds totaling \$129,000 toward the purchase of a one wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) for the Go Now South Oxnard Microtransit pilot project.*
- *Approve Ventura Transit System, Incorporated as a FY 2022/23 Access Provider and award of funds totaling \$120,713 for a countywide on-demand WAV service fare subsidy pilot program.*

Responsible Staff: Heather Miller

ITEM 11 FY 2022/23 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) ALLOCATION

Recommended Action:

- *For discussion*

Responsible Staff: Heather Miller

ITEM 12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recommended Action:

- *For discussion.*

Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty

ITEM 13 ADJOURNMENT



VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transit Operators Advisory Committee (TRANSCOM)

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
1:30 PM via ZOOM.

Item 5

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Houser, City of Thousand Oaks (Chair)
Lydia Salas, City of Camarillo
Phil Pulley, City of Ojai
Miguel Guillen, City of Oxnard
Jasmin Elepano, City of Simi Valley
Tan Koehler, City of Simi Valley
Ben Gonzales, City of Simi Valley
Tyler Nestved, City of Thousand Oaks
Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura
Susanna Arroyo, County of Ventura
Dani Anderson, County of Ventura
Austin Novstrup, Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD)
Cynthia Duque, Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD)

MEMBERS ABSENT

City of Fillmore
City of Port Hueneme
City of Santa Paula

EX OFFICIO PRESENT

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD

EX OFFICIO ABSENT

CSU Channel Islands

VCTC STAFF PRESENT

Caitlin Brooks, Transportation Program Manager
Peter De Haan, Programming Director
Claire Grasty, Public Transit Director
Dolores Lopez, Regional Transit Planner
Heather Miller, Program Manager
Matt Miller, Program Manager - Public Transit
Aubrey Smith, Program Manager – Regional Transit Planning

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. via Zoom.

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

Cynthia Duque, GCTD, announced that Austin Novstrup has been promoted to the Planning Manager position and will be the voting committee member.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ITEM 4 **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – None.**

ITEM 5 **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

ACTION

Albarran moved, seconded by Novstrup, that the committee approve the November 9, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 **ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE**

The committee received the ADA certification services program monthly update for filing.

ITEM 7 **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON**

ACTION:

Gonzales moved, seconded by Albarran, that Houser act as the Chairperson of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION:

Houser moved, seconded by Gonzales, that Woomer act as the Vice chairperson of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 8 **TRANSCOM MEETING SCHEDULE 2023**

The committee accepted the 2023 TRANSCOM meeting schedule.

ITEM 9 **REPROGRAMMING OF PROPOSITION 1B PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION, IMPROVEMENT AND SERVICE ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT (PTMISEA) FUNDS**

Heather Miller updated the Committee on the reappropriation of funds from one City of Moorpark project to another project, in assurance that the funds do not lapse.

ACTION

Pulley moved, seconded by Gonzales and passed unanimously, that the committee approve the Program of Projects (POP) for federal transit operating, planning and capital assistance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 (Attachment A.)

ITEM 10 **STATUS OF COUNTYWIDE ZERO EMISSION BUS (ZEB) EFFORTS**

Committee members shared their ZEB plans with VCTC and GCTD moving towards hydrogen fuel for their services while the Ojai Trolley, Simi Valley Transit, Thousand Oaks Transit and Valley Express are working towards battery electric fleets.

ITEM 11 **TECHNOLOGY NEEDS SURVEY**

Matt Miller requested that committee members complete the technology needs survey.

ITEM 12 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- ZEB subcommittee
- TEPP Implementation
- Grant Project Status Report Tracking
- Triennial Review

ITEM 11 **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Houser adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.



Item 6

DATE: MARCH 8, 2023
MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)
FROM: DOLORES LOPEZ, REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNER
SUBJECT: ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

- Receive and file the monthly ADA Certification services report(s) and program update.

DISCUSSION:

Mobility Management Partners (MMP) is VCTC's service provider for ADA Paratransit Eligibility Certification services.

Attached are the ADA Paratransit Certification Services Reports from MMP for review at the TRANSCOM meeting.


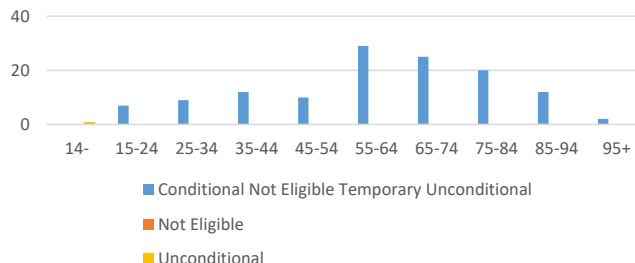
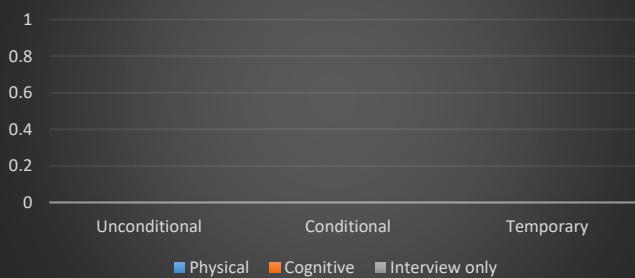
Jan-23								
		Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	
Call Center	Inbound ADA Calls	463	340	329	478	459	503	
	Outbound ADA calls	385	190	165	144	202	356	
	Average hold time (in seconds)	0.6	0.38	0.35	0.65	1.59	1.16	
	Outbound Area Transmittals	3	2	5	5	1	4	
	Inbound Area Transmittals	5	6	3	4	2	6	
As of 3/17/2020, MMP closed their Camarillo office and began working remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.								
Riders requesting service outside of Ventura County								
Riders requesting service into Ventura County								
Applications Received	Recertification	71	64	58	40	47	75	
	New Applications	43	37	38	51	51	64	
Total applications received: 114								
Online Applications Received: 0 (0%)								
Applications Received by Service Area	Camarillo Area	11	7	15	10	12	16	
	Gold Coast Area	53	41	42	43	37	47	
	Valley Express Area	3	7	7	5	1	8	
	Moorpark Area	5	2	2	2	8	2	
	Simi Valley Area	17	27	17	16	22	26	
	Thousand Oaks	25	16	12	15	18	37	
	Out of County	0	1	1	0	0	3	
Applications by Language								
Completed Determinations by Evaluation Type	Complete, with Functional Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Complete, Interview w/o Functional Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Complete, Special Circumstance (no Interview)	18	17	14	26	18	19	
	Complete, Over 85+	8	5	7	12	9	6	
	Complete, Phone Interview	23	16	20	20	22	23	
	Complete, Short-term Certification (60 days)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Complete, Recertifications	56	59	45	28	46	74	
	Completed Determinations	105	97	86	86	95	122	
Evaluations by Age and Determination Type								
Delays in Processing (Cumulative)	Due to incomplete application by client	7	7	8	9	8	3	
	Pending Professional Evaluation (PE)	18	7	11	9	8	17	
	Applications that failed to meet 21 day rule	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Applicants awaiting phone interviews	1	0	1	2	1	3	
Assessments	Assessment Categories			Total	CAM	VCTC	SIMI	
	With Physical Assessment			0	0	0	0	
	With Cognitive Assessment			0	0	0	0	
	Interview only (at assessment sites)			0	0	0	0	
	No Shows for Phone Interview			2	0	0	0	
	Total In-Person Interviews Scheduled			0	0	0	0	
	Total Number of Appointment Days			0	0	0	0	
Determinations by Eligibility							Total	%
Unconditional (including S.C., Over 85+ , Phone interviews, short-term)							93	89%
Conditional							8	7%
Temporary							4	4%
Denials							0	0%
Short Term								0%
In-person Interviews by Eligibility and Assessment Type								

Jan-23

Jan-23				
Applications Received - GCT Area Cities	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct
Casitas Springs	0	0	0	0
Meiners Oaks	0	0	0	0
Miramonte	0	0	0	0
Ojai	3	1	0	2
Oak View	0	1	0	0
Oxnard	32	25	26	23
Saticoy	0	0	0	0
Port Hueneme	3	4	5	3
Ventura	15	10	11	15
Applications Received-Valley Express Area Cities				
Fillmore	1	3	4	1
Piru	0	0	2	0
Santa Paula	2	4	1	1

MX Admin Report (January)

	Call Count			Queue Size	Answered	Abandoned	Redirected	Disconnected	To VoiceMail	Hold Time			Service Level
	In	Out	Total	Max	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Min	Max	Avg	
Grand Total	440	384	824	2	348	14	78	0	78	0	374	0.61	67.27%
Sunday	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.00	0.00%
Monday	81	41	122	2	61	3	17	0	17	0	0	0.00	61.73%
Tuesday	112	101	213	2	86	6	20	0	20	0	0	0.00	63.39%
Wednesday	96	54	150	2	68	3	25	0	25	0	0	0.00	59.38%
Thursday	77	77	154	2	72	1	4	0	4	0	0	0.00	79.22%
Friday	66	111	177	2	58	1	7	0	7	0	374	2.78	81.82%
Saturday	7	0	7	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	0	0.00	42.86%

Feb-23							
		Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep
Call Center	Inbound ADA Calls	432	463	340	329	478	459
	Outbound ADA calls	292	385	190	165	144	202
	Average hold time (in seconds)	0.25	0.6	0.38	0.35	0.65	1.59
	Outbound Area Transmittals	1	3	2	5	5	1
	Inbound Area Transmittals	7	5	6	3	4	2
As of 3/17/2020, MMP closed their Camarillo office and began working remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.							
Riders requesting service outside of Ventura County							
Riders requesting service into Ventura County							
Applications Received	Recertification	55	71	64	58	40	47
	New Applications	93	43	37	38	51	51
Total applications received: 148							
Online Applications Received: 0 (0%)							
Applications Received by Service Area	Camarillo Area	12	11	7	15	10	12
	Gold Coast Area	66	53	41	42	43	37
	Valley Express Area	5	3	7	7	5	1
	Moorpark Area	5	5	2	2	2	8
	Simi Valley Area	37	17	27	17	16	22
	Thousand Oaks	21	25	16	12	15	18
	Out of County	2	0	1	1	0	0
Applications by Language 							
Completed Determinations by Evaluation Type	Complete, with Functional Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Complete, Interview w/o Functional Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Complete, Special Circumstance (no Interview)	36	18	17	14	26	18
	Complete, Over 85+	6	8	5	7	12	9
	Complete, Phone Interview	22	23	16	20	20	22
	Complete, Short-term Certification (60 days)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Complete, Recertifications	75	56	59	45	28	46
	Completed Determinations	139	105	97	86	86	95
Delays in Processing (Cumulative)	Due to incomplete application by client	4	7	7	8	9	8
	Pending Professional Evaluation (PE)	18	18	7	11	9	8
	Applications that failed to meet 21 day rule	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Applicants awaiting phone interviews	0	1	0	1	2	1
Assessments	Assessment Categories			Total	CAM	VCTC	SIMI
	With Physical Assessment			0	0	0	0
	With Cognitive Assessment			0	0	0	0
	Interview only (at assessment sites)			0	0	0	0
	No Shows for Phone Interview			1	0	0	0
	Total In-Person Interviews Scheduled			0	0	0	0
	Total Number of Appointment Days			0	0	0	0
Determinations by Eligibility						Total	%
Unconditional (including S.C., Over 85+ , Phone interviews, short-term)						127	91%
Conditional						5	4%
Temporary						7	5%
Denials						0	0%
Short Term						0	0%
Evaluations by Age and Determination Type 							
In-person Interviews by Eligibility and Assessment Type 							

Feb-23

Feb-23				
Applications Received - GCT Area Cities	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Casitas Springs	0	0	0	0
Meiners Oaks	0	0	0	0
Miramonte	0	0	0	0
Ojai	3	3	1	0
Oak View	0	0	1	0
Oxnard	36	32	25	26
Saticoy	0	0	0	0
Port Hueneme	7	3	4	5
Ventura	20	15	10	11
Applications Received-Valley Express Area Cities				
Fillmore	0	1	3	4
Piru	0	0	0	2
Santa Paula	5	2	4	1

MX Admin Report (February)

	Call Count			Queue Size	Answered	Abandoned	Redirected	Disconnected	To VoiceMail	Hold Time			Service Level
	In	Out	Total	Max	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Min	Max	Avg	
Grand Total	425	284	709	2	365	12	48	0	48	0	57	0.25	73.18%
Sunday	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0.00	33.33%
Monday	74	54	128	1	64	3	7	0	7	0	0	0.00	68.92%
Tuesday	71	40	111	1	61	3	7	0	7	0	0	0.00	74.65%
Wednesday	103	108	211	2	78	5	20	0	20	0	43	0.29	63.11%
Thursday	98	59	157	1	94	0	4	0	4	0	5	0.03	86.73%
Friday	72	22	94	1	67	1	4	0	4	0	57	1.15	77.78%
Saturday	4	1	5	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0.00	0.00%



Item #7

March 8, 2023

**MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: CLAIRE GRASTY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

SUBJECT: ZERO EMISSION BUS AD HOC COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

- That the committee form a new Ad Hoc Committee focused on zero emission bus (ZEB) planning and implementation.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation went into effect, which requires all public transit agencies to gradually transition to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. Under this regulation, a small transit agency (such as VCTC) is required to submit a board approved Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan (Rollout Plan) to CARB by June 30, 2023. A Rollout Plan describes how a transit agency plans to achieve full transition to ZEB technologies. ZEB Rollout Plans include information on the types and technology of ZEBs to be purchased, their purchase schedule, timing of their operation in Disadvantaged Communities (as defined by CalEnviroScreen), a schedule for related infrastructure build-out, potential funding sources and training plans. A ZEB Rollout Plan allows a transit agency to plan ahead, familiarize itself with available ZEB technologies, and to learn about potential challenges and available solutions for a smooth transition. Information gathered from the Rollout Plans will also guide the State in developing incentive funding plans, inform utilities on potential electrical and infrastructure needs, and educate the general public on environmental benefits of ZEB technologies.

The CARB ICT regulation requires small agencies like VCTC to begin purchasing ZEBs in 2026 (25% of new purchases); starting in 2029, 100% of bus purchases must be ZEBs. Nonetheless, the CARB ICT rule exempts cutaways (operated by the Valley Express), motorcoaches (operated by VCTC Intercity) and articulated buses to at least 2026 (or later) if no Altoona emissions tested vehicles are available. At this time, there are no Altoona tested hydrogen cutaways or motorcoaches available. The ICT regulation also provides exemptions for agencies based on lack of feasible vehicle alternatives, challenging terrain, operating profiles that aren't feasible with zero emission alternatives, and other challenges.

At the January meeting, TRANSCOM asked staff to develop an ad hoc committee to support the planning for and implementation of ZEBs and ZEB infrastructure. The committee will help Ventura County transit agencies coordinate where possible and share knowledge and resources.



Item #9

March 8, 2023

**MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: REDISTRIBUTION OF CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY
(CMAQ) AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) FUNDS**

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve redistribution of previously-programmed CMAQ and CRP funds as shown in the Attachment, with the caveat that staff remains authorized to administratively make further adjustments as the situation warrants.

BACKGROUND:

At the June meetings, TRANSCOM and TTAC approved guidelines for the combined CMAQ/TDA Article 3/State of Good Repair Call for Projects. Then at the November meetings the Committees approved the recommended selection of projects. The November staff report included a statement that VCTC staff may reprogram funds between CMAQ and CRP to ensure the maximum availability of both types of funding.

Also, at prior Committee meetings during the Announcements item, VCTC staff mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had notified Caltrans and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) that SCAG had until July 2023 to adopt a new process for selection of CMAQ and Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects whereby projects are prioritized on a regional basis.

This new federal direction requires SCAG to adopt a project selection process that could reduce the influence of the county transportation commissions on how federal funds are prioritized locally, and transfers potentially greater influence to SCAG. However, it was understood that programming actions for STP and CMAQ that occur prior to the June 2023 deadline will be grandfathered in, and the funding will be secured for those projects. As a result, the county transportation commissions can commit the estimated funding through fiscal year 2025/26. While the new CRP was not part of the federal direction that was provided, given that the federal authorizing language was very similar to STP and CMAQ, it was anticipated that in the future CRP might be incorporated into the new process.

In the ongoing discussions between SCAG and the six county commissions, it has been agreed that the new process will require project sponsors to initially apply to their county commission, with the commissions determining the initial intra-county priorities and then forwarding to SCAG

for the final decision. However, it was believed that the new process would not be employed at first, since all the funds through 2026 were anticipated to have already been programmed by June.

On February 13th, FHWA staff informed SCAG that the new regionwide prioritizing process must also apply to CRP, but that in this case there would be no transition period, and so that new CRP projects cannot be programmed in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) until SCAG has adopted its new regional prioritization process and then completed the process for the selection of CRP projects. VCTC had identified five (5) projects to receive CRP funds and had submitted to SCAG the TIP amendment to program the selected projects, but as a result of the FHWA directive SCAG for the time being is not able to approve amending CRP funds into the FTIP.

DISCUSSION:

Although SCAG cannot yet program CRP funds into the FTIP, VCTC must quickly identify the CMAQ funds distribution so that those funds can be amended into the FTIP by June, before the new process goes into effect for CMAQ. It appears that the new process for CRP will mean that the projects identified by VCTC will then be subjected to the new SCAG process. Although the details of this process are not yet known, staff is now strategizing to consider which projects are likely to be most appropriate to be submitted for a regional CRP process. Considerations include each project's likely competitiveness given the CRP program's emphasis on carbon dioxide emissions reduction; the desire to minimize the VCTC program's complexity by limiting the number of projects receiving CRP; the ability of each project to wait possibly one year for the SCAG process to be rolled out and implemented; the need to use the more reliable CMAQ funds to complete the Lynn Road project that is also receiving Active Transportation Program competitive grant funds, and the need to have sufficient projects ready to use CRP funds, once they are selected, in time to avoid lapsing CRP funds given that the first year apportionment of those funds will lapse September 2025.

The attached table shows the projects originally identified to receive CRP funds, and the proposed revision to this distribution based on the new considerations described herein. In recognition that there is still significant uncertainty, it will be important for VCTC to potentially act quickly to make changes between the CMAQ and CRP program, as the situation develops. Two projects, the Thousand Oaks Transit Microgrid and the Camarillo Central Avenue Bike Lanes, are identified as recommended candidates to apply for CRP, with no CMAQ to be committed at this time.

RECOMMENDED REDISTRIBUTION OF CMAQ AND CRP

	Sponsor	Original CMAQ	Original CRP	Revised CMAQ	Revised CRP
Lynn Road Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Improvements	Thousand Oaks	\$ 1,443,000	\$ 1,068,595	\$ 2,511,595	\$ -
Microgrid for EV Bus Charging Infrastructure	Thousand Oaks	\$ 368,210	\$ 694,150	\$ -	\$ 1,062,360
Residential Street Sidewalk and HAWK Signal	Ventura	\$ 1,753,297	\$ 1,367,500	\$ 3,120,797	\$ -
Central Avenue Bike Lanes ¹	Camarillo	\$ 3,347,012	\$ 1,964,788	\$ -	\$ 5,311,800
North Terminal Shore Power ²	Port of Hueneme	\$ 9,075,023	\$ 1,367,500	\$ 10,442,523	\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 15,986,542	\$ 6,462,533	\$ 16,074,915	\$ 6,374,160

¹VCTC will support shifting a portion of the CRP to be recommended to SCAG for Central Avenue to instead cover a cost increase in the previously-approved Pleasant Valley Road Bike Lanes, which can obligate the funds within one year.

²The Shore Power project had an unfunded Shelf List amount of \$1,469,949. This amount can be submitted to SCAG for the regional project selection. However, depending on the SCAG timeline, CRP might not be available until after this project starts construction, and the ability to still apply CRP at that point is unknown. Due to the uncertainty of fund estimates, the CMAQ amount can be increased slightly to cover what was already committed for this project.



Item #10

March 8, 2023

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: HEATHER MILLER, PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: 2023 ACCESS FOR ALL PROGRAM - SELECTION OF ACCESS PROVIDERS

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) as a FY 2022/23 Access Provider and award of Access Funds totaling \$129,000 toward the purchase of a one wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) for the Go Now South Oxnard Microtransit pilot project.
- Approve Ventura Transit System, Incorporated as a FY 2022/23 Access Provider and award of funds totaling \$120,713 for a countywide on-demand WAV service fare subsidy pilot program.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2018, SB 1376 was signed into law requiring the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as part of its regulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), such as Uber and Lyft, establish a program to improve the accessibility of persons with disabilities to on-demand transportation services. As a result, the CPUC established the TNC Access for All Program (AFA) requiring TNCs collect a fee in the amount of \$0.10 for each TNC trip provided and remit such fees to the CPUC based on the geographic area (county) in which the trip originated. These "Access Funds" are set aside to distribute through approved Local Access Fund Administrators (LAFAs) to qualified "Access Providers" that establish on-demand wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) transportation programs within their county.

The purpose of the AFA program is to incentivize the expansion and availability of on-demand WAV transportation service in Ventura County through operating and capital assistance. Eligible expenses include operational costs, vehicle costs, driver training/incentives, technology investments, ride fare subsidies, and outreach.

On January 9, VCTC, as the designated LAFA for Ventura County, approved local Access for All Program Guidelines and issued a call for projects for FY 2022/23 Access Funds totaling \$ 249,713 with applications due February 10. VCTC staff would undergo a review of the applications and return to this committee with funding recommendations.

DISCUSSION:

VCTC received two applications requesting a total funding amount of \$499,426. Applications were screened for eligibility by VCTC staff according to the Program Guidelines. A three-member evaluation team including VCTC Programming and Transit staff scored each application according to

the criteria in the adopted Guidelines which emphasized project readiness, WAV service improvements in the County, and public outreach. The following table provides a summary of the evaluation results:

Evaluation Criteria		Max Score	GCTD	VTS
PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION (TOTAL 25 POINTS)	• Description of Applicant Agency/Organization's Operations	10	10	10
	• Description of the Proposed Project	15	15	10
Part I		25	25	20
PART II: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, OBJECTIVE AND BENEFITS (TOTAL 75 POINTS)	• Project Readiness and Technical Capacity	15	15	15
	• Project Implementation Plan	20	18	17
	• WAV Service Improvements	15	13	12
	• Program Outreach	15	13	13
	• Expenses/Revenue	10	8	10
Part II		75	67	67
TOTAL		100	92	87

Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) proposal requested funding to purchase as many as four (4) expansion WAVs to support demand for the GO Now South Oxnard Micro-transit pilot project. The pilot project provides on-demand public transit in an area of Oxnard where traditional fixed-route service has proven difficult to successfully operate. The service area targets 22,000 residents and 7,000 jobs. Driver response time is targeted to not exceed 30 minutes from receipt of customer trip with trip requests made available through the TransLoc App. GCTD will leverage other funds for operating the service expected to launch in the Spring of 2023 with existing fleet. The pilot service will allow GCTD to implement and potentially replicate on-demand WAV transportation as opportunities are identified.

Ventura Transit System, Incorporated (VTS) proposed a fare subsidy program to provide on-demand WAV transportation service across Ventura County 24 hours a day/365 days a year. VTS is a private transportation provider with a fleet of 85 wheelchair accessible vehicles and ability to provide service countywide. VTS currently contracts Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) in Ventura County and serves as Access Provider for the Access for All programs in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Given the limitation of available funds, VCTC staff recommends \$129,000 in funding for the purchase of one wheelchair accessible vehicle to support GCTD's GO Now South Oxnard Micro-transit pilot project. Staff recommends the remainder of FY 22/23 Access funds totaling \$120,713 be awarded to VTS for a fare subsidy program to support the expansion of on-demand WAV transportation across Ventura County.

FY 2022/23 Access Funds

Applicant	Project Description	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding
Gold Coast Transit District	Expand WAV fleet to support Microtransit Rollout	\$ 249,713	\$ 129,000
Ventura Transit System, Inc.	On-demand WAV service for Ventura County	\$ 249,713	\$ 120,713
		Total \$	249,713

Next Steps

The TRANSCOM recommendation to award Access Funds to selected Access Providers will be brought to the Ventura County Transportation Commission for approval on April 7, 2023 with funds obligated no later than June 2023.



March 08, 2023

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE
FROM: HEATHER MILLER, PROGRAM MANAGER
SUBJECT: FY 2022/23 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) ALLOCATION

RECOMMENDATION:

- For Discussion.

BACKGROUND:

The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) is a Cap-and-Trade program established in 2014 with Senate Bill (SB) 862 that provides funds to public transportation agencies for investments in capital projects and service that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve mobility with a priority on serving Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).

The State Controller's Office (SCO) announced FY 2022/23 LCTOP allocation amounts on March 1, 2023. With the late announcement, allocation request packages are now due May 1st. The following table provides a breakdown of this year's allocations for Ventura County, including Section 99313 (regional funding based on county population) and Section 99314 (funding to transit operators based on service levels/fare revenue, i.e., "local shares"):

VENTURA COUNTY LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP)	FY 2022/23 ALLOCATION
Ventura County Transportation Commission (99313)	\$ 2,046,301
VCTC corresponding to SCRRA - Metrolink Service (99314)	\$ 214,375
City of Camarillo (99314)	\$ 12,682
Gold Coast Transit District (99314)	\$ 72,142
City of Moorpark (99314)	\$ 5,065
City of Simi Valley (99314)	\$ 19,712
City of Thousand Oaks (99314)	\$ 7,155
TOTAL	\$ 2,377,432

DISCUSSION:

Over the years, VCTC has sponsored multiple projects for the region including new Intercity routes and the College Ride program, the Youth Ride Free program, and Metrolink Weekend Train Service. Metrolink weekend service is sufficiently funded for the next two or three years. Likewise, the College Ride program, providing fare free transit to college enrolled students in Ventura County, is sufficiently funded for the next two years. Additionally, new LCTOP guidelines removed the five-

year limit on operations projects (including free/reduced fare program), allowing VCTC to request additional funding for the College Ride program in future cycles.

Due to the success of the Youth Ride Free program, VCTC staff recommends requesting FY 2022/23 regional funds in the amount of \$1 million for this program. The Youth Free Fare program is a free fare pilot program to eligible students (K-12) using LCTOP funds as fare buy down. All students can ride “for free” on all participating public transit services. Last year, the program was co-sponsored with local shares from the cities of Camarillo, Moorpark, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. VCTC will be in contact with local agencies to ascertain interest in continuing this arrangement with FY 2022/23 local shares.

VCTC staff also proposes using \$400,000 for a “Free Fare Days” program funding up to eight (8) fare free days launched countywide and including the same participating transit operators as the College Ride and Youth Fare programs. The following days would be proposed as free fare days:

- Transit Equity Day
- Earth Day
- Dump the Pump Day
- Car Free Day
- Clean Air Day
- Veteran’s Day
- Bike to School Day

VCTC would request input from the operators before finalizing this list.

With the remaining FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds of approximately \$600,000, VCTC is proposing an “Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure” project. Funds would support electric vehicle charging infrastructure implementation countywide for agencies that are moving forward with battery electric as their fuel path.

VCTC will bring back a final recommendation for approval by this committee at the next TRANSCOM meeting in April. VCTC staff will bring TRANSCOM’s approved recommendation to the Commission for approval in May.