



VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Transit Operators Advisory Committee (TRANSCOM)

VCTC Large Conference Room

751 East Daily Drive, Suite 420

Camarillo, CA

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

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.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Action:

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

Responsible Staff: Jeni Eddington

ITEM 6 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

Recommended Action:

- *Receive and file.*

Responsible Staff: Dolores Lopez

ITEM 7 VCTC FARE ACTIVITY UPDATE

Recommended Action:

- *For discussion.*

Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty, Matt Miller, Aubrey Smith

ITEM 8 SCAG REGIONWIDE CALL FOR CMAQ, STP, AND CRP FUNDS

Recommended Action:

- *Request agency information by December 18th regarding cost increases for previously selected projects from competitive project selections, or (on a very limited basis) new projects they wish to nominate, for consideration for the upcoming SCAG call for projects for which applications will be due from SCAG to VCTC by March 29 2024, and for consideration of FY 24/25 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funds.*

Responsible Staff: Peter De Haan

ITEM 9 SB-125 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING UPDATE

Recommended Action:

- *For discussion.*

Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty

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 10** **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
Recommended Action:
• *For discussion.*
Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty

- ITEM 11** **ADJOURNMENT**

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VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transit Operators Advisory Committee (TRANSCOM)

VCTC Large Conference Room
751 East Daily Drive #420
Camarillo, CA

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
1:30 p.m.

Item 5

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tyler Nestved, City of Thousand Oaks (Acting Chair)
Lydia Salas, City of Camarillo
Michelle Woomer, City of Moorpark
Ben Gonzales, City of Simi Valley
Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura
Susanna Arroyo, County of Ventura
Austin Novstrup, Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD)
Claire Grasty, Public Transit Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: City of Fillmore
City of Ojai
City of Oxnard
City of Port Hueneme
City of Santa Paula

EX OFFICIO PRESENT: Karly Ibrahim CSU Channel Islands
Holly Galbreath, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District

VCTC STAFF PRESENT: Drew Kent, Program Manager – Transportation Data & Services
Heather Miller, Program Manager

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Nestved called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claire Grasty announced that the Commission approved the Transit Integration and Efficiency Study (TIES). Austin Novstrup announced that outreach for Gold Coast Transit District's Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) has begun. Lydia Salas announced the City of Camarillo's purchase of a trolley. Ben Gonzales announced that the Simi Valley City Council approved the purchase of two (2) CNG buses and eight (8) paratransit cutaways. Michelle Woomer announced free fares for ECTA passengers through March 2024. Matt Miller announced that the residents of a new Housing Authority project will be purchasing annual transit passes and that VCTC is requesting that operators sign an MOU to accept the

pass and be reimbursed for their services. Heather Miller announced FTIP due dates and the Access for All pilot program soft launch. Tyler Nestved announced that Thousand Oaks Transit was approved for the purchase of two CNG cutaway vehicles (replacing two EV's that had to be returned) and that the City of Thousand Oaks is recruiting a Transit Analyst.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS – None.

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION

Woomer moved, seconded by Albarran, that the committee approve the September 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 TRANSPORTATION DATA & ANALYTICS PILOT PROGRAM (CLEARGUIDE)

The committee received a presentation on the Transportation Data and Analytics Pilot Program and the ClearGuide dashboard and tools including 1) project history, 2) project purpose, 3) historic data sources, and 4) a tutorial of ClearGuide.

ITEM 7 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE (EXPANDED)

The committee received the ADA certification services program monthly update for filing. Claire Grasty noted that the cost per determination has been added to the report at the committee's request. Staff will bring forward a recommendation regarding in person interviews based on the recommendation of the ADA subcommittee.

ITEM 8 SB-125 TRANSPORTATION BILL UPDATE

Claire Grasty shared that it is estimated that in the current fiscal year, VCTC apportionments will be \$42.3 million for transit capital and operations and \$5.0 million for zero-emissions transit capital. She said that Ventura County's share is estimated to be another \$42.3 million for transit capital and \$8.5 million for zero-emission transit capital, subject to future budget acts. She added that VCTC staff has been compiling information for countywide projects and needs.

ITEM 9 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- SB-125 Transportation Bill Update
- ADA subcommittee
- TransTrack Presentation
- VCbuspass Implementation Update and Farebox
- Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) (as needed)
- Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Implementation (as needed)
- Transit Grant Project Status Report Tracking (as needed)

ITEM 10 ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Nestved adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.



Item 6

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

RECOMMENDATION:

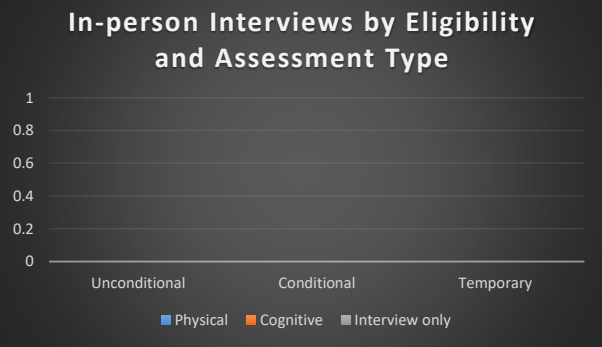
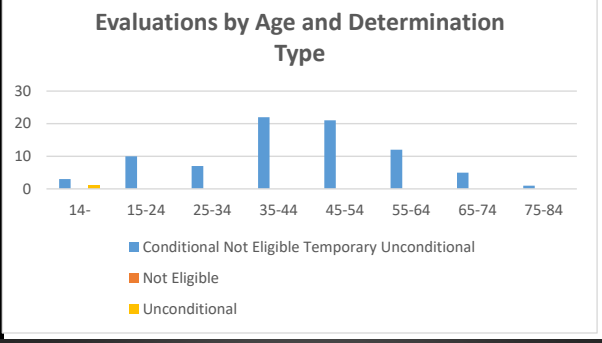
- Receive and file the monthly ADA Certification services report(s) and program update.

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.

Oct-23							
		Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May
Call Center	Inbound ADA Calls	410	470	446	345	409	451
	Outbound ADA calls	481	322	317	259	524	556
	Average hold time (in seconds)	0.67	0.49	0.25	0.01	0.55	1.27
	Outbound Area Transmittals	4	5	5	3	6	3
	Inbound Area Transmittals	9	6	8	8	16	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	47	48	46	50	52	74
	New Applications	46	78	62	56	65	62
Total applications received: 93							
Online Applications Received: 0 (0%)							
Applications Received by Service Area	Camarillo Area	8	8	8	10	11	4
	Gold Coast Area	43	52	47	43	50	60
	Valley Express Area	5	7	4	2	2	4
	Moorpark Area	4	3	3	8	4	3
	Simi Valley Area	13	27	24	18	21	27
	Thousand Oaks	17	25	20	24	29	37
	Out of County	3	4	2	1	0	1
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)	7	13	16	23	29	17
	Complete, Over 85+	2	8	3	11	5	8
	Complete, Phone Interview	50	39	26	19	27	28
	Complete, Short-term Certification (60 days)	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Complete, Recertifications	38	29	40	45	57	74
	Completed Determinations	97	90	86	98	118	127
Cost per Determination	\$281.62	\$303.52	\$317.64	278.74	\$224.76	\$207.20	
Delays in Processing (Cumulative)	Due to incomplete application by client	3	4	2	2	7	8
	Pending Professional Evaluation (PE)	13	27	14	13	12	14
	Applications that failed to meet 21 day rule	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Applicants awaiting phone interviews	2	5	4	3	0	0
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)						87	90%
Conditional						6	6%
Temporary						4	4%
Denials						0	0%
Short Term (including Emergency)						0	0%



Applications Received - October				
GCT	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Casitas Springs	0	0	0	0
Meiners Oaks	0	0	0	0
Miramonte	0	0	0	0
Ojai	1	0	0	1
Oak View	2	1	0	0
Oxnard	27	29	22	22
Saticoy	0	0	0	0
Port Hueneme	0	3	3	3
Ventura	13	19	22	17
Valley Express	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Fillmore	3	3	1	1
Piru	0	0	0	0
Santa Paula	2	4	3	1
Thousand Oaks DAR	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Agoura	0	0	0	1
Agoura Hills	1	0	0	1
Newbury Park	3	4	2	2
Oak Park	3	2	1	0
Thousand Oaks	7	16	16	19
Westlake Village	3	3	1	1
Simi Valley DAR	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Simi Valley	13	27	24	18
Camarillo	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Camarillo	8	8	8	10
Somis	0	0	0	0
Moorpark DAR	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Moorpark	4	3	3	8
Other	Oct	Sept	Aug	July
Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Santa Maria	3	4	2	1

MX Admin Report (October)

	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	407	481	888	2	357	6	43	1	43	0	179	0.67	73.46%
Sunday	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0.00	0.00%
Monday	78	85	163	1	74	1	3	0	3	0	7	0.06	80.77%
Tuesday	93	94	187	1	85	2	6	0	6	0	179	2.29	77.42%
Wednesday	93	162	255	2	79	1	13	0	13	0	1	0.00	70.97%
Thursday	69	62	131	1	64	1	4	0	4	0	33	0.38	85.51%
Friday	69	78	147	2	55	1	12	1	12	0	85	0.70	56.52%
Saturday	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0.00	0.00%



Item 7

November 8, 2022

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: CLAIRE GRASTY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC TRANSIT
MATT MILLER, PROGRAM MANAGER – TRANSIT SERVICES
AUBREY SMITH, PROGRAM MANAGER – REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNING

SUBJECT: VCTC FARE ACTIVITY UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

- For Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the public transit industry. Fare considerations have been vital in addressing the challenges and concerns for both transit agencies and passengers. Operators continue to face significant budget shortfalls due to decreased ridership and reduced farebox recovery. Short and long-term decisions need to be made about fare adjustments, additional subsidies, or cost-saving measures to ensure financial sustainability in a post-pandemic environment. Flexibility and adaptability related to fare policies and technologies are crucial to address the evolving challenges and ensure public transit remains accessible and equitable for those who need it while ensuring the long-term sustainability of transit agencies.

Several operators have started discussing and/or analyzing their fare systems. Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) and VCTC are embarking on Short Range Transit Plans (SRTP) that will result in a comprehensive review of fare policies and technologies within Ventura County. VCTC is also engaged in efforts to evaluate technologies countywide that include replacement of fareboxes, increased utilization of the VCbuspass system on fixed-route vehicles, expanding VCbuspass to DAR services in the east county, and adding open-loop payment readers to the Intercity bus fleet through a partnership with SBCAG.

DISCUSSION:

SRTP Fare Evaluation Task

As part of VCTC's SRTP, the project team will be conducting a fare evaluation of all bus operators, except GCTD, who will be moving to increase fares prior to when the fare evaluation will be complete, to assess the equity, efficiency, and effectiveness of fare structures for bus operators within the County. The project team will review current funding source requirements and identify potential strategies to optimize the current fare structures, policies, and technologies. The strategies will address equity concerns (i.e., fare subsidies, reduced fares for low-income individuals, regional fares

or fare capping mechanisms). Components of this fare evaluation that will be included in this task analysis include:

- Policies (i.e. fare adjustment frequency, fare adjustments on consistent schedule countywide, etc.)
- Regional, Premium and Microtransit fares
- Effect of cash collection on operations
- Cost of fare collection
- Analyzing fares and associated equity impacts

This task will result in recommendations for potential fare policy changes and/or adjustments that consider trade-offs between equity goals, fare affordability, revenue generation, and ridership goals. These recommendations will include associated challenges, opportunities, and implementation considerations that will be divided into three time periods:

1. Near-Term Opportunities – Implement within six (6) months to one (1) year
2. Mid-Term Opportunities – Implement within the next two (2) years but require additional lead time to implement, including changes to fare technology.
3. Long-Term Opportunities – Implement with factors that require investments in fare technology, personnel, or capital infrastructure that may take more than three (3) years

The recommendations will include action items, timelines, required resources, and communications strategies required for implementation.

Fare Collection and Technology

Staff have begun to plan for changes in fare collection and related technology. Under deliberation is which technology path to take as several challenges and opportunities have all been presented at the same time.

In 2020, VCTC launched the card or app based VCbuspass with regionally accepted monthly passes and a loaded value option and outfitted all operators with Umo readers. The VCbuspasses also have the ability to be reloaded at CVS, Walgreens, 7-11 and Family Dollar stores countywide (see attached map). Recently, we were notified that at the end of FY25, Genfare would no longer be supporting the Odyssey fareboxes installed on transit vehicles countywide and began to hear about trouble procuring replacement parts for them. Simultaneously, open-loop payment technology has made its way into transit with the help of Cal-ITP and is a priority for VCTC.

As a result of this confluence of factors, staff are deliberating which technology path to take while researching capabilities and costs. Here's some of the factors under consideration:

- Do we replace fareboxes with simple cash only boxes? Or ones with open-loop payment capable?
- If replacing fareboxes with simple cash boxes, do we leverage existing Umo contactless system and swap out current readers with ones that have the open-loop payment capability? What happens to agency GFI paper passes?
- Do we purchase separate readers with another backend system? This is the least desirable option as it would add a third technology system for vehicles with another back-end system.

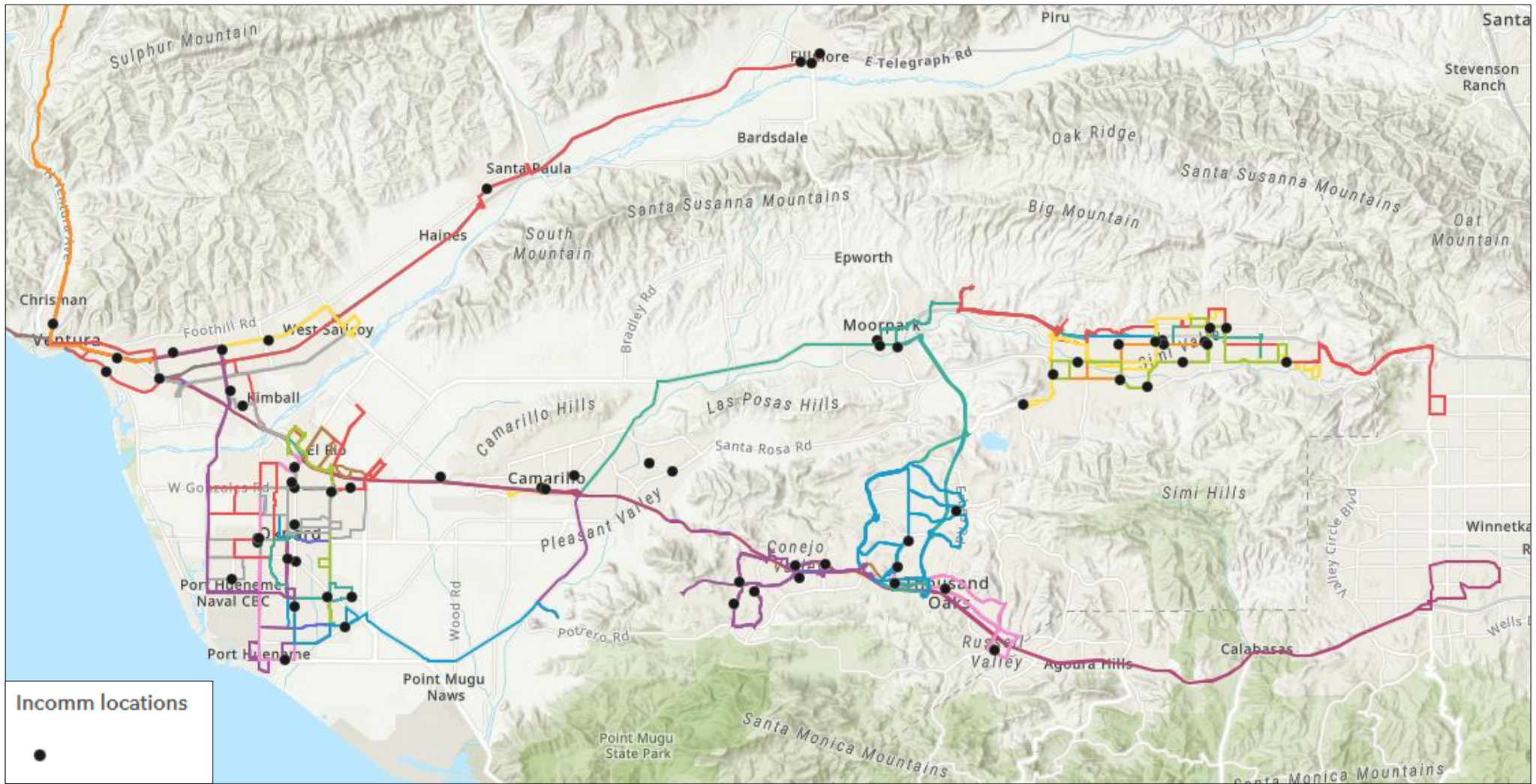
Based on feedback received from the Committee, VCTC would like to determine the following:

- What are your agencies planning to do regarding GFI? Continue or discontinue?
- Do your agencies want to continue to sell your own passes or use solely VCbuspass or another platform like Token Transit or something else?
- Do agencies want to have Cubic/Umo readers on their paratransit vehicles?

	Merchant	location	Address1	City	State	Zip	Latitude	Longitude
1	CVS Pharmacy		3069 451 South Reino Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91320	34.1711521	-118.9561763
2	CVS Pharmacy		3934 60 N Moorpark Rd	Thousand Oaks	CA	91360-4454	34.179713	-118.875518
3	CVS Pharmacy		8520 1205 South Oxnard Boulevard	Oxnard	CA	93030	34.1885003	-119.1766365
4	CVS Pharmacy		8820 123 North Reino Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91320	34.1800288	-118.9538655
5	CVS Pharmacy		9143 5800 Santa Rosa Road	Camarillo	CA	93012	34.2258278	-118.9876304
6	CVS Pharmacy		9151 600 West Main Street	Santa Paula	CA	93060	34.3436174	-119.0805132
7	CVS Pharmacy		9221 2120 Newbury Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91320	34.1820342	-118.9236731
8	CVS Pharmacy		9236 50 N Ashwood Ave	Ventura	CA	93003-1810	34.275434	-119.238846
9	CVS Pharmacy		9241 1822 East Avenida De Los Arboles	Thousand Oaks	CA	91362	34.2097953	-118.844411
10	CVS Pharmacy		9530 155 West Los Angeles Avenue	Moorpark	CA	93021	34.2804078	-118.8843729
11	CVS Pharmacy		9556 1740 South Victoria Avenue	Ventura	CA	93003	34.2593687	-119.2094636
12	CVS Pharmacy		9631 2825 Cochran Street	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.2808121	-118.7411199
13	CVS Pharmacy		9633 1382 North Moorpark Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91360	34.1970019	-118.8682724
14	CVS Pharmacy		9683 5900 Telegraph Rd	Ventura	CA	93003-4300	34.276858	-119.214084
15	CVS Pharmacy		9695 551 South Ventura Road	Oxnard	CA	93030	34.1968142	-119.1963105
16	CVS Pharmacy		9715 2791 Agoura Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91361	34.1515262	-118.8250069
17	CVS Pharmacy		9719 5259 Mission Oaks Boulevard	Camarillo	CA	93012	34.2295278	-118.9991831
18	CVS Pharmacy		9764 351 Carmen Drive	Camarillo	CA	93010	34.2192063	-119.0531318
19	CVS Pharmacy		9790 4440 Alamo Street	Simi Valley	CA	93063	34.2855725	-118.7083695
20	CVS Pharmacy		9844 760 Arneill Road	Camarillo	CA	93010	34.2244391	-119.0370803
21	CVS Pharmacy		9859 3935 Cochran Street	Simi Valley	CA	93063	34.2801624	-118.7194142
22	CVS Pharmacy		9969 7850 Telegraph Road	Ventura	CA	93004	34.2807655	-119.1907853
23	CVS Pharmacy		10026 591 Country Club Drive	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.2537969	-118.8110351
24	CVS Pharmacy		11033 2260 East Thompson Boulevard	Ventura	CA	93001	34.2732855	-119.2670894
25	CVS Pharmacy		11305 328 Central Avenue	Fillmore	CA	93015	34.3996269	-118.9132745
26	7 Eleven		13869 1773 East Thousand Oaks Boulevard	Thousand Oaks	CA	91362	34.1774383	-118.8502479
27	7 Eleven		13871 2654 Cochran Street	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.2786	-118.74
28	7 Eleven		13874 2060 East Pleasant Valley Road	Oxnard	CA	93033	34.1611004	-119.1521085
29	7 Eleven		13880 50 East Wilbur Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91360	34.1861136	-118.8742668
30	7 Eleven		13890 6320 Bristol Road	Ventura	CA	93003	34.253099	-119.2034334
31	7 Eleven		13901 3309 Kimber Drive	Thousand Oaks	CA	91320	34.1763191	-118.9462762
32	7 Eleven		16027 1850 Cochran Street	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.278683	-118.7625058
33	7 Eleven		17957 2201 East Channel Islands Boulevard	Oxnard	CA	93033	34.1735835	-119.148616
34	7 Eleven		20014 1955 South Patterson Road	Oxnard	CA	93035	34.1814672	-119.2088067
35	7 Eleven		23085 3280 Saviers Road	Oxnard	CA	93033	34.170076	-119.1772442
36	7 Eleven		24324 1970 Sequoia Avenue	Simi Valley	CA	93063	34.2713172	-118.7305057
37	7 Eleven		25132 2543 Royal Avenue	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.2611982	-118.7481684
38	7 Eleven		25612 1110 South C Street	Oxnard	CA	93033	34.1897205	-119.180751
39	7 Eleven		27478 530 East Los Angeles Avenue	Moorpark	CA	93021	34.27775331	-118.8743276
40	7 Eleven		29677 5820 East Los Angeles Avenue	Simi Valley	CA	93063	34.2713035	-118.6779734
41	7 Eleven		33159 1501 West 5th Street	Oxnard	CA	93030	34.1979653	-119.1957287
42	7 Eleven		33162 609 Rancho Conejo Boulevard	Thousand Oaks	CA	91320	34.1868788	-118.9255915
43	7 Eleven		33399 2201 East Gonzales Road	Oxnard	CA	93036	34.2193402	-119.1490385
44	7 Eleven		33513 903 W Ventura St	Fillmore	CA	93015-1756	34.395984	-118.922954
45	7 Eleven		33557 3998 Cochran Street	Simi Valley	CA	93063	34.278669	-118.718227
46	7 Eleven		33567 255 Carmen Drive	Camarillo	CA	93010	34.2188483	-119.0513301
47	7 Eleven		34898 1911 North Oxnard Boulevard	Oxnard	CA	93036	34.2195073	-119.1776332
48	7 Eleven		35660 1369 Erringer Road	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.264275	-118.7618839
49	7 Eleven		37928 505 North Ventura Avenue	Ventura	CA	93001	34.2875334	-119.299305
50	7 Eleven		38564 110 Magnolia Ave	Oxnard	CA	93030-5332	34.203667	-119.177591
51	7 Eleven		39218 1494 Madera Road	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.2662529	-118.7957951
52	7 Eleven		39735 2780 Tapo Canyon Rd	Simi Valley	CA	93063-2375	34.28554	-118.717101
53	7 Eleven		39880 3500 E Main St	Ventura	CA	93003-5063	34.264446	-119.245636
54	7 Eleven		43110 2124 Harbor Blvd	Ventura	CA	93001-3706	34.267272	-119.272246
55	7 Eleven		43114 4418 Central Ave	Camarillo	CA	93010-8305	34.22357	-119.103727
56	7 Eleven		46170 706 E Los Angeles Ave	Simi Valley	CA	93065-1821	34.271395	-118.783291
57	7 Eleven		46708 660 W Ventura St	Fillmore	CA	93015-1925	34.39593	-118.91737
58	Family Dollar	1193200000FAMD	445 West Hueneme Road	Oxnard	CA	93033	34.1474106	-119.1822792
59	Family Dollar	1251200000FAMD	2015 North Oxnard Blvd	Oxnard	CA	93036	34.22170095	-119.1785717

60	Walgreens	5846	2303 East Vineyard Avenue	Oxnard	CA	93036	34.2276005	-119.1771664
61	Walgreens	7305	2851 South Rose Avenue	Oxnard	CA	93033	34.173896	-119.16076
62	Walgreens	7449	481 South Ventura Road	Oxnard	CA	93030	34.1985083	-119.1955043
63	Walgreens	7992	550 North Ventu Park Road	Thousand Oaks	CA	91320	34.187176	-118.9105268
64	Walgreens	10354	2417 Sycamore Drive	Simi Valley	CA	93065	34.2798859	-118.7443786
65	Walgreens	10738	140 West Los Angeles Avenue	Moorpark	CA	93021	34.2785148	-118.8829241
66	Walgreens	11707	1801 North Rose Avenue	Oxnard	CA	93030	34.2176323	-119.1592596

INCOMM LOCATIONS AND TRANSIT ROUTES





Item 8

November 8, 2023

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSOM)
FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR
**SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)
REGIONWIDE CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT
AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ), SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
(STP), AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) FUNDS**

RECOMMENDATION:

- Request agency information by December 18th regarding cost increases for previously selected projects from competitive project selections, or (on a very limited basis) new projects they wish to nominate, for consideration for the upcoming SCAG call for projects for which applications will be due from SCAG to VCTC by March 29, 2024, and for consideration of FY 24/25 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funds.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2022, VCTC completed its project selection process for CMAQ and CRP projects using funds made available by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The project selection process also programmed the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Bicycle and Pedestrian funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 22/23 and FY 23/24.

As has been previously discussed, in 2021 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) notified Caltrans that multi-county MPOs such as SCAG should play a more active role in the selection of projects to be funded with the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program that are destined to Ventura County. Later, FHWA 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. Since VCTC was established in 1989, it had received a specific apportionment of these funds and submitted the recommended project list to SCAG for review and approval as specified in the state law governing county transportation commissions.

It was understood that programming actions for STP and CMAQ that occur prior to the June 2023 deadline would be grandfathered in, and the funding will be secured for those projects. As a result, the county transportation commissions were able to commit the estimated funding through fiscal year 2025/26. While the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) established under the IIJA was not part of the prior 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.

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. The only exception to this requirement for CRP was to allow SCAG to move forward with programming ready-to-go projects identified by the County Transportation Commissions to receive funds apportioned to CRP during the first year of IJJA, FY 21/22, to ensure that these funds will be obligated before they lapse in September, 2025. VCTC had identified five (5) projects to receive CRP funds apportioned through FY 25/26, but as a result of the FHWA directive SCAG could only approve the FY 21/22 CRP funds. As a result, VCTC in working with TTAC recommended that \$4,667,000 that VCTC had intended to commit to the Central Avenue Bike Lanes project in Camarillo instead be identified as a priority for a future request to SCAG for CRP funds. However, at last month's meeting TTAC instead approved the staff recommendation to include the \$4,667,000 in VCTC State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) nomination to the California Transportation Commission, to receive funds from the Ventura County STIP share.

SCAG is now developing selecting guidelines for the required regionwide call for projects, and shared preliminary drafts with county transportation commission staff for review. Subsequent to the commissions' CMAQ and STP project selection, Caltrans completed updated CMAQ and STP apportionments based on IJJA authorized amounts, resulting in an incremental increase in these funds which are subject to the new SCAG process, in addition to the authorized CRP funds from FY 23/24 forward.

Under the draft process, the county commissions will prioritize and submit applications to SCAG, selecting projects for consideration based on their own process for the county, subject to various requirements for encouraging broad participation. The deadline for county commission submittal of applications is March 29, 2024. SCAG has also provided to VCTC a preliminary draft application.

DISCUSSION:

The SCAG CRP Guidelines call for 65% of the CRP funds to be programmed through a call for projects, with the remaining 35% to be programmed to regional initiatives, to identify, evaluate, and awarded funding to projects that achieve regional transportation goals and further the objectives of Connect SoCal. SCAG has developed the following estimates for funds available in the regionwide call for projects, including the incremental increase in CMAQ and STP, and 65% of the CRP funding for FY 22/23 – 25/26:

CMAQ	\$ 57 million
STP	\$130 million
CRP	\$ 88 million

The draft guidelines for STP and CMAQ identify advisory county funding targets percentages based on various planning criteria, and the Ventura County targets are 4.3% for STP, or \$5.6 million, and 3.3% for CMAQ, or \$1.9 million. SCAG does not believe that FHWA will allow publication of advisory targets for CRP. For illustrative purposes, since the IJJA authorization of CRP has the same language as Surface Transportation Block Grant, which California distributes to regions as STP, if CRP were to have the same 4.3% target as STP, then VCTC's target would be \$3.8 million.

Staff will share the SCAG guidelines with the committees when they become publicly available. We believe that the requirements for outreach in identifying candidate projects will have been met, due to various VCTC's previous efforts, including: (1) the public outreach conducted in

support of VCTC planning efforts including 101 Communities Connected, the Freight Corridors Study, and the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update; (2) the recent CMAQ/STP/TDA Article 3 call for projects; and (3) the ongoing work with the transit operators to identify projects for use of state budget funds made available to transit through SB 125.

Given the relatively small amount of money likely to come to Ventura County, there will be few if any new projects that VCTC can consider for submittal to SCAG, and the priority for the available funds is likely to be assisting previously committed projects which are short of funds due to unanticipated cost increases. Staff recommends that local agencies be asked to provide to VCTC staff by December 18th the amount of funds required for such projects. Subsequent to receiving feedback from TRANSCOM and TTAC, VCTC anticipates sending a notice to public works directors on November 20th, requesting information on projects requiring additional funds.

Rather than developing project numerical scores and a ranked list, the SCAG draft guidelines provide for county commissions to submit a project list with each project designated as "Highly Recommended," "Recommended," or "Contingency." Commissions are required to develop a written procedure for selecting projects to submit to SCAG, and to assign priority, and this written procedure must receive prior SCAG staff approval. Accordingly, VCTC staff intends to prepare the project prioritization procedure for Committee approval in January. The SCAG draft guidelines provide that the county commission's prioritization will account for 50% of a project's score for CMAQ and STP, and 20% for CRP.

At the February committee meetings, staff plans to recommend the SCAG project submittal list and the assignment of priority categories. Staff will then work with the project sponsors to complete the SCAG project applications for the selected projects, to be submitted by VCTC to SCAG by the March 29th deadline. In addition, as part of this project prioritization process VCTC will also identify projects to use the approximately \$750,000 of TDA Article 3 to come available in FY 24/25, not including the maintenance set aside.

Although staff plans to bring formal prioritization criteria to the committees in February, given the relatively small amount of available funds, we expect the projects to generally be selected and prioritized as follows:

- Project readiness;
- For previously committed competitively selected projects, the ranking score that it received when it was originally selected;
- For STP, continuing VCTC's policy of giving priority to the US 101 project.
- Should a new project be considered for CMAQ, CRP, or TDA Article 3, it will likely have less readiness than a previously committed project, but should funds be available it could be further ranked using VCTC's previously approved criteria for CMAQ, CRP and Article 3;
- Assignment of projects to CMAQ or CRP fund types based on likely competitiveness given SCAG's different criteria for the two programs.