



**VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

**Transit Operators Advisory Committee
(TRANSCOM)**

VCTC Large Conference Room

751 East Daily Drive, Suite 420

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

(Action may be taken on any item listed on the 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. 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 MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Action:

- For discussion.

Responsible Staff: Jeni Eddington

ITEM 6 OPIOID RESCUE PROGRAM

Recommended Action:

- Receive presentation from Ventura County Behavioral/Public Health

Responsible Staff: Amanda Fagan

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 7 VCTC PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) REGIONWIDE CALL FOR PROJECT NOMINATIONS FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) AND CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) FUNDING

Recommended Action:

- Recommend the Commission approve the VCTC project prioritization framework and submit to SCAG.

Responsible Staff: Geiska Velasquez

ITEM 8 FY 2024/25 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM ALLOCATION

Recommended Action:

- Approve recommendation to the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) allocation request of \$2,129,456 in regional funds and \$26,184 in local shares from the cities of Moorpark, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks for a total allocation request of \$2,155,640 for Ventura County's "Free Fare" program.

Responsible Staff: Heather Miller

ITEM 9 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

Recommended Action:

- Receive and file.

Responsible Staff: Dolores Lopez

ITEM 10 REVISION TO JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) PROGRAM

Recommended Action:

- Recommend VCTC approve reprogramming a total of \$50,000 in unexpended JARC balance from the Free Low-Income Transit Passes to the Thousand Oaks Employee Rideshare Vehicle.

Responsible Staff: Geiska Velasquez

ITEM 11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recommended Action:

- For discussion.

Responsible Staff: Claire Grasty

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ITEM 12 **ADJOURN TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 AT 1:30 P.M.** in the VCTC Large Conference Room at 751 East Daily Drive #420 in Camarillo.

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VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transit Operators Advisory Committee (TRANSCOM)
VCTC Large Conference Room
751 East Daily Drive, Suite 420
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
1:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 1 **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Woomer called the meeting to order at 1:32p.

ITEM 2 **INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENT**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Woomer, City of Moorpark (Chair)
Lydia Salas, City of Camarillo (Vice-chair)
Vic Kamhi, City of Simi Valley
Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura
Austin Novstrup, Gold Coast Transit District
Matt Miller, VCTC Intercity

MEMBERS ABSENT: City of Fillmore
City of Oxnard
City of Ojai
City of Port Hueneme
City of Santa Paula
City of Thousand Oaks
County of Ventura

EX OFFICIO PRESENT: Karly Ibrahim, CSU Channel Islands
Holly Galbreath, VC Air Pollution Control Dist.
Brenda Craig, Mobility Management Partners

VCTC STAFF PRESENT: Claire Grasty, Public Transit Director
Aubrey Smith, Transit Planning Manager
Heather Miller, Programming Manager
Matt Miller, Transit Operations Manager

The City of Moorpark has extended the Transdev contract and has procured two shuttles that are anticipated in a couple of months. VCTC Intercity and GCTD instituted schedule changes effective January 2025.

Simi Valley Transit received four replacement vehicles and three micro transit vehicles. California State University at Channel Islands has had a change in management and will have a new TRANSCOM member. Heather Miller announced the upcoming federal funding opportunities. The ADA certification services RFP is on the Commission agenda for January, and ADA training and Transit Equity Day are scheduled for February 2025.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - None

ITEM 5 MEETING MINUTES – The committee received the December meeting minutes.

ITEM 6 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025 – The committee received the 2025 meeting schedule.

ITEM 7 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

ACTION

Novstrup moved, seconded by Gonzalez, that Salas act Chairperson and Albarran/Puga act as the Vice chairperson to the Transit Operators Advisory Committee (TRANSCOM) for the 2025 calendar year.

ITEM 8 TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE GOALS
Dolores Lopez stated that the agencies would be assessing performance goals for the next TAM Plan update.

ITEM 9 ON DEMAND RIDE SHARING SOFTWARE UPDATE (RIDE CO)
Matt Miller and Aubrey Smith updated the committee on the RideCo contract, timeline, and next steps.

ITEM 10 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE
The committee received the ADA Certification Services Program monthly update for December and discussed changes to the in-service certification process.

ITEM 11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 12 ADJOURNMENT - Chair Woomer adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.



Item 7

March 12, 2025

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

FROM: GEISKA VELASQUEZ, PROGRAM MANAGER

**SUBJECT: VCTC PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)
REGIONWIDE CALL FOR PROJECT NOMINATIONS FOR SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) AND CONGESTION
MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATION:

- RECOMMEND THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE VCTC PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK AND SUBMIT TO SCAG

BACKGROUND:

The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program are Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) programs that provide flexible funding for transportation. The STBG program provides funding to best address state and local surface transportation needs. The CMAQ program provides funding for transportation projects or programs that improve air quality and relieve congestion and must generate an emissions reduction and be located in, or offer a benefit to, a nonattainment or maintenance area.

In past years VCTC was provided per state law with a county apportionment for these funds and would recommend to SCAG the projects to be programmed in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). As of July 1, 2023, SCAG is responsible for conducting a regionwide request-for-project nominations process for selection of STBG/CMAQ-funded projects.

VCTC is responsible for the coordination and submission of a local Project Prioritization Framework, and subsequently a project nomination package, to SCAG from eligible entities in Ventura County. SCAG will then review the project nominations packages submitted by VCTC and the other County Transportation Commissions (CTC's) against the program criteria and develop a list of prioritized projects for approval by the SCAG Regional Council. Projects approved by SCAG for STBG and CMAQ funding will then be programmed in the 2027 FTIP, and a contingency list will be maintained by SCAG for any cost savings or future funding opportunities.

Staff are seeking committee and VCTC approval of the Project Prioritization Framework (Attachment A) that will serve as the basis for the project nomination process for STBG and CMAQ funding in Ventura County. SCAG will initiate a call for project nominations on March 31, 2025, consistent with the guidelines approved on March 6, 2025, and included for reference here in Attachment B.

This item supports the 2023 VCTC Strategic Plan Tier 2 Top Priorities including integrating the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), encouraging local partners to plan and prioritize building new bike lanes (and seeking funding for this purpose), and coordinating efforts to prioritize and submit grant applications for goods movement.

DISCUSSION:

The CMAQ and STBG Program Guidelines (Attachment B) establish the structure for project selection and allocation of funds within the SCAG region. The guidelines were developed by SCAG in consultation with CTCs in the region, including bi-weekly meetings to review each section of the guidelines prior to region-wide circulation. There will also be three workshop opportunities for Ventura County eligible applicants on the guidelines and application process. Two will be held virtually by SCAG and one will be hosted in person by VCTC staff. This will be an opportunity to ask any VCTC Project Prioritization Framework specific questions in addition to the SCAG presentation.

This call-for-project nominations will primarily make funding available from apportionments for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026-27 and FFY 2027-28. STBG and CMAQ funding are subject to the Timely Use of Funds with obligation and/or Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Transfer deadlines for these apportionment years being September 30, 2029, and September 30, 2030, respectively. The current federal surface transportation authorization, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, is in effect through September 2026. Therefore, funding availability for the call for project nominations is subject to a subsequent congressional reauthorization or continuing resolution.

Table 1, Project Selection Milestones, outlines the tentative dates and deadlines for key milestones for the call-for-project nominations process and will be updated as necessary with future communication to this committee.

Table 1: PROJECT SELECTION MILESTONES	Scheduled Date
SCAG GUIDELINE ADOPTION	March 6, 2025
SCAG HOSTED ONLINE WORKSHOPS	March 12, 2-4 p.m. March 18, 10 - noon
PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK TO TRANSCOM	March 12, 2025
PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK TO TTAC	March 19, 2025
VCTC HOSTED IN PERSON SCAG WORKSHOP AT THE CAMARILLO LIBRARY	March 25, 2025, 1:00-3:00pm
PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK TO VCTC	April 4, 2025
SCAG APPLICATION PORTAL OPEN TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	March 31, 2025
APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE	May 16, 2025 at 5pm
PROJECT NOMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS TO TRANSCOM	June 11, 2025
PROJECT NOMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS TO TTAC	June 18, 2025
PROJECT NOMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS TO VCTC	July 11, 2025
REGIONAL COUNCIL AWARDS FUNDING	November 6, 2025
IMPLEMENTATION INTO THE 2027 FTIP	December 2025

The funding availability for this call for project nominations per the SCAG guidelines, is set by program target percentages. The Ventura County region STBG target percentage is 4.3%, or roughly \$27M, and the CMAQ target percentage is 3.3% or roughly \$20M.

Eligible applicants for STBG and CMAQ funds in Ventura County include cities, counties, transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and VCTC. Eligible projects must be eligible for STBG or CMAQ funds, as detailed in 23 USC Sec. 133, 149, et al. Consistent with SCAG Connect SoCal 2024 goals and strategies and Federal Performance Measure Goals, proposed projects should be used for activities related to the following primary project categories and have a clear transportation nexus as indicated in the Guidelines (Attachment B, page 6).

The VCTC Project Prioritization Framework presented here, outlines how project nominations submitted within the county will be prioritized for funding as part of the final SCAG selection. This framework will be posted to the VCTC website upon approval of the Commission, and will be presented at the March 25, 2025, workshop as well.

The SCAG application portal will be open to eligible applicants beginning March 31st, and will close on May 16, 2025. Ventura County applicants may ask VCTC staff for review or technical assistance during that time. Staff will then review, score and develop project nomination recommendations for approval by the Commission and submission to SCAG as part of the final STBG/CMAQ programming selection.



Project Prioritization Framework for the Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Call-for-Project Nominations

Per the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) 2025 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program guidelines, County Transportation Commissions (CTCs), such as the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), must develop a Project Prioritization Framework outlining how projects nominations submitted within Ventura County will be prioritized for funding as part of the final SCAG selection.

This Call-for-Project Nominations will primarily make funding available from apportionments for obligation in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-27 and FFY 2027-28. STBG and CMAQ funding are subject to the Timely Use of Funds with obligation or Federal Transit Authority (FTA) transfer deadlines for these apportionment years being September 30, 2029, and September 30, 2030, respectively.

All applicants must submit project nomination via the SCAG online portal by May 16, 2025. VCTC will evaluate and score Ventura County project nominations based on the following prioritized criteria.

VCTC Project Prioritization Framework:

1) Applicant and Project Eligibility (20 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will screen applicants and projects for eligibility with federal and regional requirements. Projects must be eligible for STBG and/or CMAQ funds, as detailed in 23 USC Sec. 133, 149
 - i) Eligible Project Nominations will receive a Score of **20 points** and categorized by eligibility.
 - ii) Ineligible Projects will receive a **Score of 0** and not be recommended for funding this cycle.

2) Deliverability and Readiness (20 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will evaluate potential implementing agencies and whether they have sufficient capacity and technical expertise to meet required federal deadlines and will evaluate project nominations for potential deliverability issues which will lose points if an agency consistently fails to deliver without adequate justification. VCTC will otherwise prioritize project delivery as such:
 - i) STBG/CMAQ projects currently programmed in the 2025 FTIP but have never been through a SCAG call-for-projects process that are applying to retain the project in the 2027 FTIP will receive **20 points**.
 - ii) Projects funded in a prior STBG/CMAQ Call-for-Projects that need additional funding to fully deliver the project and follow the federal aid process will receive **20 Points** for deliverability.
 - iii) Projects funded in the Active Transportation Program (ATP) that need additional funding to fully deliver the awarded project following the federal aid process will receive **17 points**.
 - iv) Projects that have fully funded or completed all project development phases, including PAED and PS&E, that need funding for construction and/or implementation **in or prior to FFY 2026-27** following the federal aid process, will receive **14 points**.
 - v) Projects that have fully funded or completed all project development phases, including PAED and PS&E, that need funding for construction and/or implementation **in or prior to FFY 2027-28** following the federal aid process, will receive **11 points**.



- vi) Projects requesting the full spectrum of project delivery including PAED, PS&E, and CON to obligate and/or transfer in or prior to end of **FFY 2026-27** will receive **8 points**.

3) Transit Coordination (10 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with demonstrated attention to Transit related development, coordination, and connections throughout Ventura County.
 - i) Project nominations that are Transit in nature (bus purchases, etc.) will receive **10 points**
 - ii) Projects with a connection to Transit, and/or a benefit to Transit Riders will receive **5 points**.

4) Community/Stakeholder Engagement (5 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with demonstrated community support for a total of 5 Points. Community support may be determined through a variety of means, including (but not limited to):
 - i) Responses to public outreach, including comments received at public meetings or hearings, feedback from community workshops, survey responses, etc, will receive **5 points**.

5) Implementation of Regional and Transportation Plans (5 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with projects identified in the Ventura County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).
 - i) Project nominations implementing projects identified in Ventura County CTP in Scenario A, B, or C will receive **5 points**.

6) Older Adult, Disabled, and Limited Mobility Consideration (5 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with demonstrated attention to the needs of the community members experiencing significant mobility limitations.
 - i) Project nominations with demonstrated attention to the needs of individuals with mobility disabilities will receive an additional **5 points**. This may be determined through a variety of means, including (but not limited to): ADA elements of the project nomination, documented outreach to groups in this category, letter of support from an agency serving this community.

VCTC Prioritized Project Nominations:

VCTC will develop a Project Prioritization Nomination package based on this Project Prioritization Framework for SCAG’s consideration. The following point distribution to be applied to VCTC scored projects and provided to SCAG for review and scoring according to the 2025 Guidelines Appendix E.

VCTC Project Prioritization Nomination	Points to SCAG
Highly Recommended (Scoring higher than 50 on VCTC Prioritization)	50 Points
Recommended (Scoring between 40-50 on VCTC Prioritization)	40 Points
Contingency List (Scoring between 20-40 on VCTC Prioritization)	20 Points
Not Recommended (Scoring below 20 on VCTC Prioritization)	0 Points



Item 8

March 12, 2025

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE

FROM: HEATHER MILLER, PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: FY 2024/25 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) ALLOCATION

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve recommendation to the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) allocation request of \$2,129,456 in regional funds and \$26,184 in local shares from the cities of Moorpark, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks for a total allocation request of \$2,155,640 for Ventura County's "Free Fare" program.

BACKGROUND:

The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) was established in 2014 with Senate Bill (SB) 862 with funding provided by a five percent allocation of the annual proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) which receives revenue from California's cap-and-trade auctions to fund climate-related programs. The program provides funds to public transportation agencies for investments in capital projects and services that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).

The State Controller's Office (SCO) released a FY 2024/2025 LCTOP Eligibility List on February 13, 2025, thus opening up this year's LCTOP call-for-projects, with Allocation Requests due to Caltrans by April 24, 2025. This year's allocation decreased slightly (-3%) overall compared to last year's distribution.

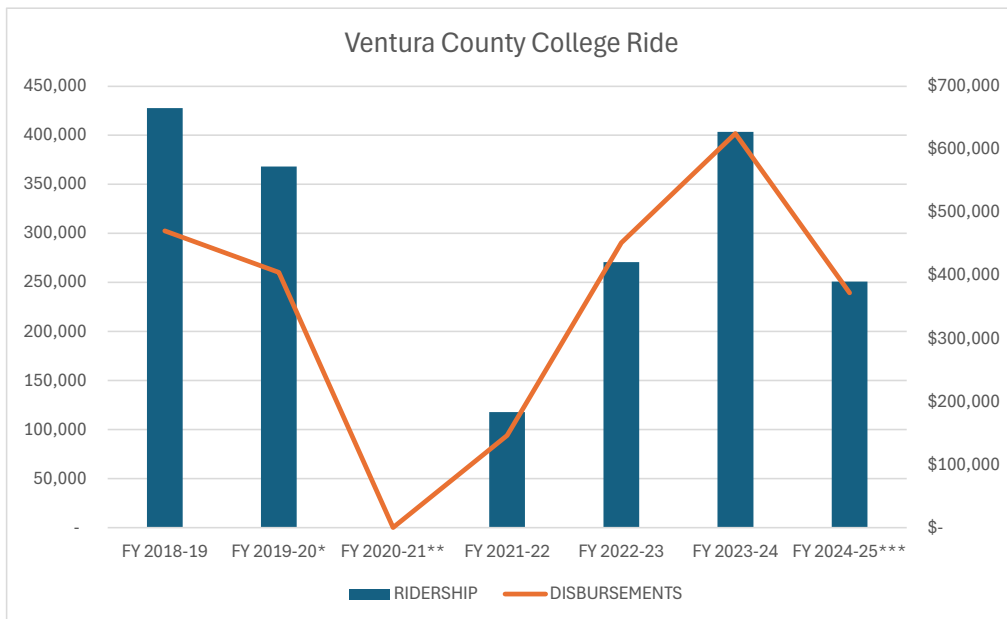
The following table provides a breakdown for Ventura County, including Section 99313 (VCTC/regional funding based on county population) and Section 99314 (funding to transit operators based on service levels/fare revenue, i.e., "local shares"):

VENTURA COUNTY LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP)	FY 2024/25 ALLOCATION
Ventura County Transportation Commission (99313)	\$ 2,129,456
VCTC corresponding to SCRRRA - Metrolink Service (99314)	\$ 225,406
City of Camarillo (99314)	\$ 13,335
Gold Coast Transit District (99314)	\$ 75,854
City of Moorpark (99314)	\$ 5,326
City of Simi Valley (99314)	\$ 20,726
City of Thousand Oaks (99314)	\$ 7,523
TOTAL	\$ 2,477,626

BACKGROUND:

Over the years, VCTC has sponsored various LCTOP funded regional projects aimed at benefiting transit users across the county. These efforts have included countywide free fare programs, new transit service (demonstration bus routes and Metrolink rail service) and capital investments in zero-emission infrastructure. Among the most successful and inclusive programs embarked by VCTC has been the regional free fare programs.

At its inception in 2018, VCTC launched the LCTOP funded “College Ride” program to provide fare free transit to college enrolled students in Ventura County. Local transit operators both participated in the program and co-sponsored the project with their local LCTOP shares. The program proved to be very popular from the outset averaging over 35,000 riders a month. The program was suspended during COVID but was reactivated in 2022. Ridership continues its recovery to pre-COVID numbers with ridership anticipated to reach over 40,000 a month in FY 2024-25.



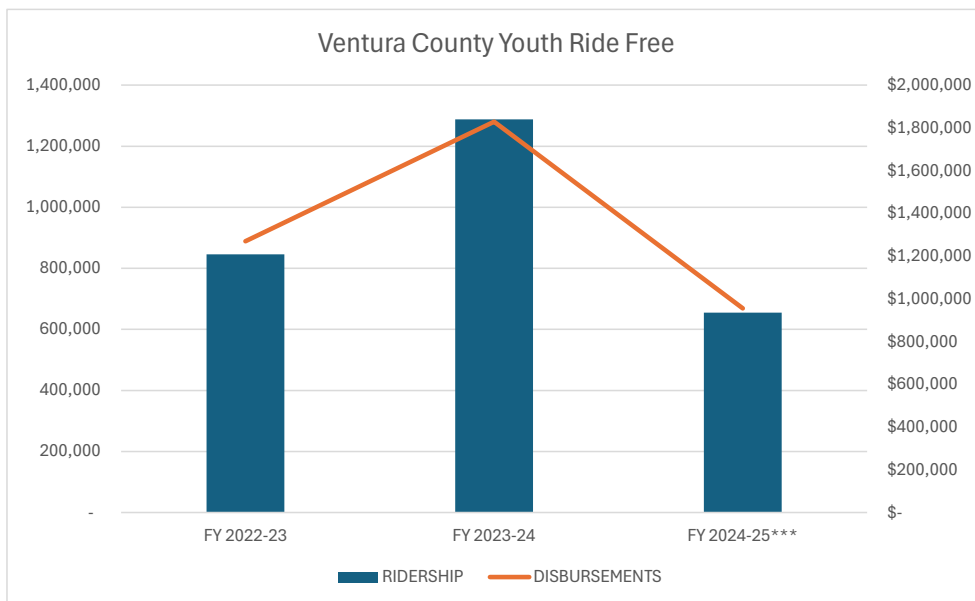
* Fare collection was suspended in March 2020 due to COVID.

** Fare collection suspended countywide for the entire year 2020-21 due to COVID.

*** Data through December 2024 (6 mos) for FY 2024-25.

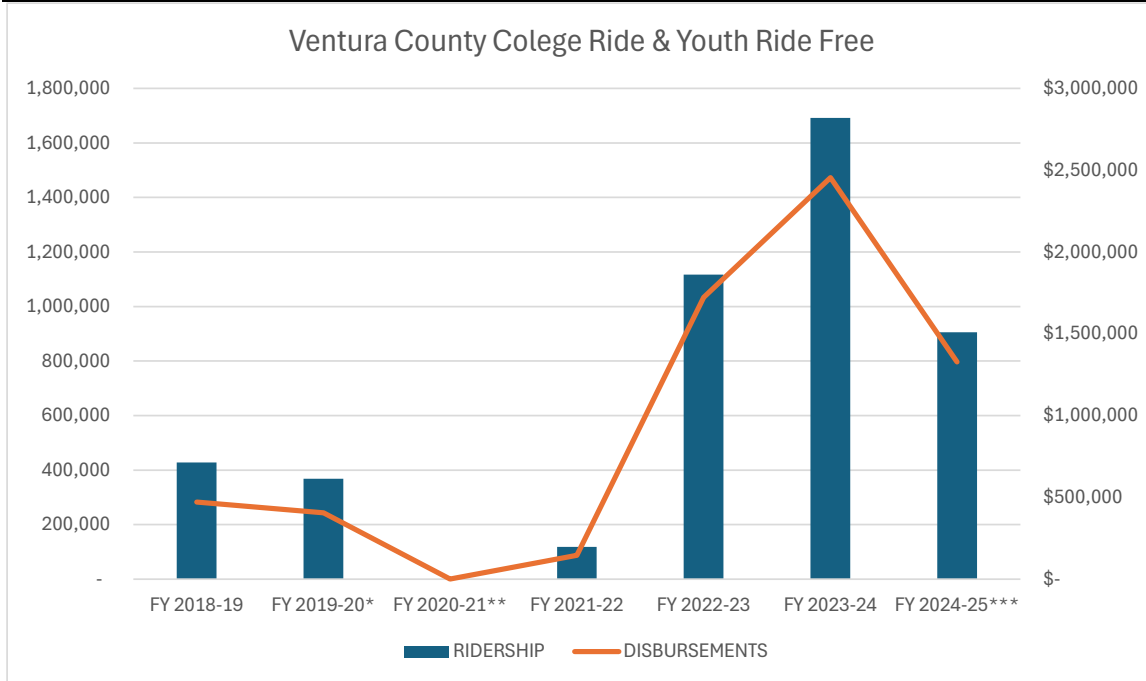
The success of the College Ride program encouraged VCTC to expand fare free programs in particular to draw youth and high school students onto public transit. As a result, in 2022 VCTC launched the “Youth Ride Free” program with the goal of assisting the region in post-pandemic transit ridership recovery, a high priority for Ventura County; and to expose and incentivize young people to ride public transit; and to lessen the financial burden of transportation costs for low-income households.

The Youth Ride Free program proved to be even more successful than the College Ride program averaging 70,000 riders monthly and growing to over 100,000 riders monthly in the last two years.



*** Data through December 2024 (6 mos.) for FY 2024-25.

Eventually both programs were combined into the “Free Fare” program which also includes fare free transit on select days for the general public. Disbursements to operators for the two programs have grown significantly over the years thus introducing funding challenges. FY 2024-25 is trending to reach nearly \$3 million in expected disbursements which would exceed current LCTOP funding available for the programs.



* Fare collection was suspended in March 2020 due to COVID.

** Fare collection suspended countywide for the entire year 2020-21 due to COVID.

*** Data through December 2024 (6 mos) for FY 2024-25.

VCTC has adopted policies over the years to address the costs of the program, has explored alternative funding sources and has considered scaling down the program due to the funding challenges.

The reimbursement policy has been revised to counter the program’s volatility. Initially, reimbursement rates stood at \$1.10 per trip for all transit operators in the county. When the program was temporarily suspended due to COVID, funds accumulated. Since LCTOP funds have a deadline for expenditure, VCTC adjusted the fare reimbursement to reflect the average fare per operator, thus increasing expenditures. When ridership picked up post-COVID and funds began to deplete at a brisker pace, VCTC acted to establish a new reimbursement policy whereby operators were reimbursed for 75% of their average fare starting April 1, 2024. This action lessened the strain on funding. Additionally, VCTC secured supplemental funding with the allocation of one-time SB 125 funds for the program. SB 125 funds provide a one-time infusion of supplemental funds, which means the future sustainability of the Free Fare program is still in question.

DISCUSSION:

Free fare initiatives have proven to be a successful incentive in attracting young people to use public transit. These programs can largely be credited for the post-pandemic recovery of ridership for local transit operators. Attachment A illustrates the program’s effectiveness for GCTD, a standout among operators in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region in recovering

ridership since 2019. In addition, these programs are effective in providing much needed financial relief to a large demographic of low-income riders.

The “Youth Ride Free” program has gained in popularity since its launch and ridership has increased significantly year over year. In FY 2023-24, over 1.2 million trips were subsidized with the “Youth Ride Free” program. Additionally, the “College Ride” program subsidized approximately 400,000 trips in FY 2023-24. The combined total for these two programs exceeds 1.6 million trips in a year. If current trends continue, FY 2024-25 demand will exceed the past year’s demand.

VCTC staff therefore recommends requesting the full FY 2024/2025 allocation of regional (99313) LCTOP funds in the amount of \$2,129,456 for a combined project that includes both the “College Ride” and “Youth Ride Free” as well as three (3) selected “Free Fare Days,” collectively called the Ventura County “Free Fare” program. Additionally, local (99314) shares totaling \$26,184 from participating cities will also contribute to the program for a total allocation request of \$2,155,640 for this program. Funding for the program is expected to be supplemented by additional SB 125 funds as needed.

VCTC will not request funding for Metrolink as in years past in order to use all LCTOP funds that are available for the Free Fare program. Operating costs for Ventura County’s Metrolink weekend service will be absorbed by the regular Metrolink budget.

Free Fare program details:

“Youth Ride Free” allows 18 and under individuals and those over 18 enrolled in high school to ride any public transit bus in Ventura County for free, anytime, anywhere. The “College Ride” Program allows students enrolled at California Lutheran University, California State University Channel Islands, Moorpark College, Oxnard College, Ventura College, Santa Barbara City College, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Ventura County Adult Education Consortium to ride any public transit bus in Ventura County for free. The “Free Fare Days” Program will allow anyone to ride any bus service for free within Ventura County on three days: Clean Air Day, Transit Equity Day and Earth Day. LCTOP funds serve as fare buy-down for participating Ventura County service operators including Gold Coast (GCTD), VCTC Intercity, Valley Express, Camarillo (CAT), Thousand Oaks (TOT), Moorpark (MCT), Ojai Trolley, and Simi Valley Transit (SVT). Most of the participating agencies also contribute their local LCTOP shares to the program. The fare buy-down will continue to be 75% of the average fare calculated for each transit operator.

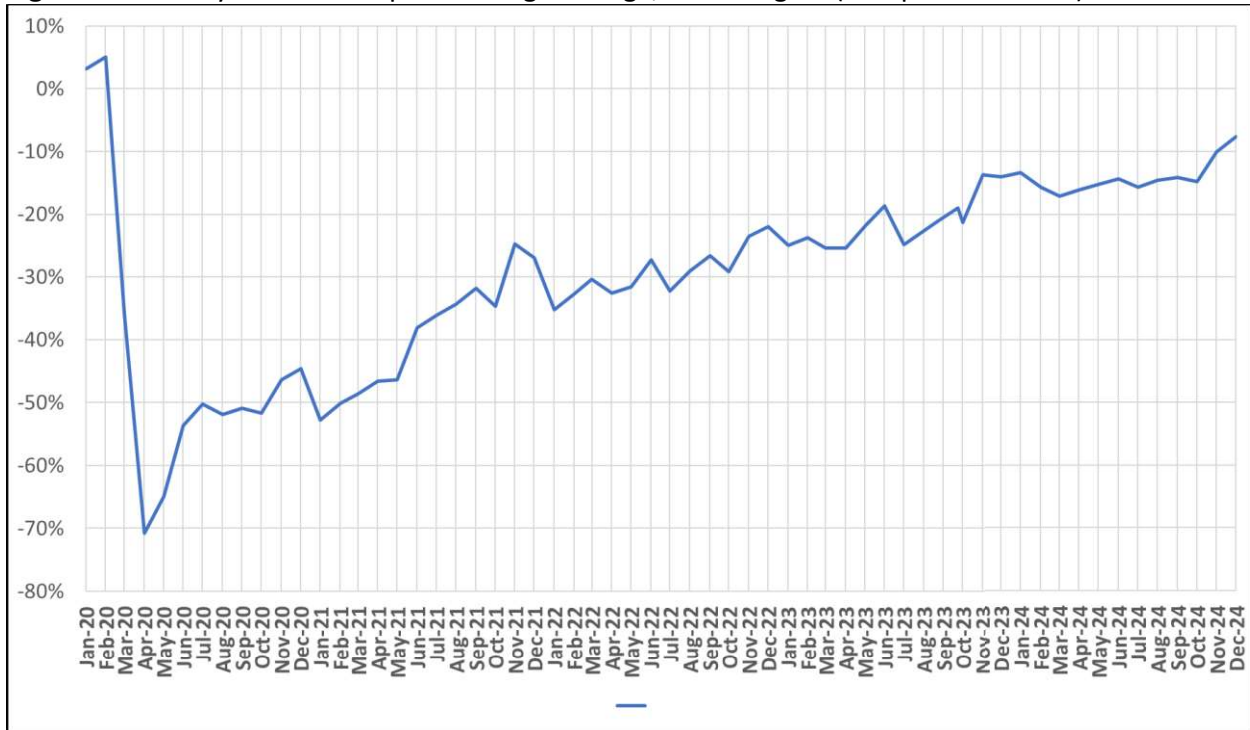
Local Shares

The cities of Camarillo, Moorpark and Thousand Oaks have elected to contribute their local shares to the countywide “Free Fare” program. As such, the total recommended request for allocation includes local shares of \$26,184.

SCRRA (Metrolink), GCTD, and City of Simi Valley will use their local shares for agency specific projects. SCCRA will use funds for Metrolink's "Student Adventure Program" offering a 50% discount on passes. City of Simi Valley will use local shares to fund the gap between the Free Fare reimbursement and city fares since the current reimbursement rate is 75% of fare.

VCTC staff will bring TRANSCOM's approved recommendation to the VCTC on April 4 for Commission approval. The Allocation Request will be submitted to Caltrans on April 24 with anticipated SCO release of approved funds in December 2025.

Figure 1. Monthly Bus Ridership Percentage Change, SCAG Region (Compared to 2019)



Source: Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database, as of February 2025.

Table 1. Bus Ridership Change by Operator (Compared to 2019)

Bus Operator	FY24 Qtr3	FY24 Qtr4	FY25 Qtr1	FY25 Qtr2
	Jan-Mar	Mar-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Anaheim Transportation Network	-3%	-9%	-20%	-14%
Antelope Valley Transit Authority	-30%	-39%	-40%	-41%
Beach Cities Transit (City of Redondo Beach)	-27%	-33%	-28%	-30%
City of Commerce Municipal Buslines	33%	34%	31%	30%
City of Glendale*	-24%	-25%	-27%	-14%
City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation	-15%	-19%	-13%	-15%
City of Pasadena	-18%	-21%	-25%	-24%
Culver City Municipal Bus Lines	-36%	-34%	-32%	-24%
Foothill Transit	-20%	-21%	-17%	-13%
Gold Coast Transit	7%	4%	2%	2%
City of Gardena Transportation Department	-24%	-21%	-20%	-17%
Imperial County Transportation Commission	25%	23%	-11%	-5%
Long Beach Transit	-26%	-23%	-21%	-15%



Bus Operator	FY24 Qtr3 Jan-Mar	FY24 Qtr4 Mar-Jun	FY25 Qtr1 Jul-Sep	FY25 Qtr2 Oct-Dec
Los Angeles County Metro	-13%	-12%	-11%	-11%
Montebello Bus Lines	-46%	-48%	-48%	-45%
Norwalk Transit System	-18%	-17%	-12%	-14%
Omnitrans	-32%	-34%	-34%	-30%
Orange County Transportation Authority	-5%	-4%	-1%	1%
Riverside Transit Agency	-34%	-33%	-32%	-27%
Santa Clarita Transit	-11%	-13%	-9%	-5%
Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus	-28%	-32%	-36%	-26%
SunLine Transit Agency	-35%	-35%	-38%	-31%
Torrance Transit System	-40%	-36%	-32%	-32%
Ventura Intercity Service Transit Authority	-38%	-36%	-30%	-27%
Victor Valley Transit Authority	-38%	-30%	-28%	-26%
TOTAL	-15%	-15%	-14%	-13%

Source: Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database, as of February 2025.

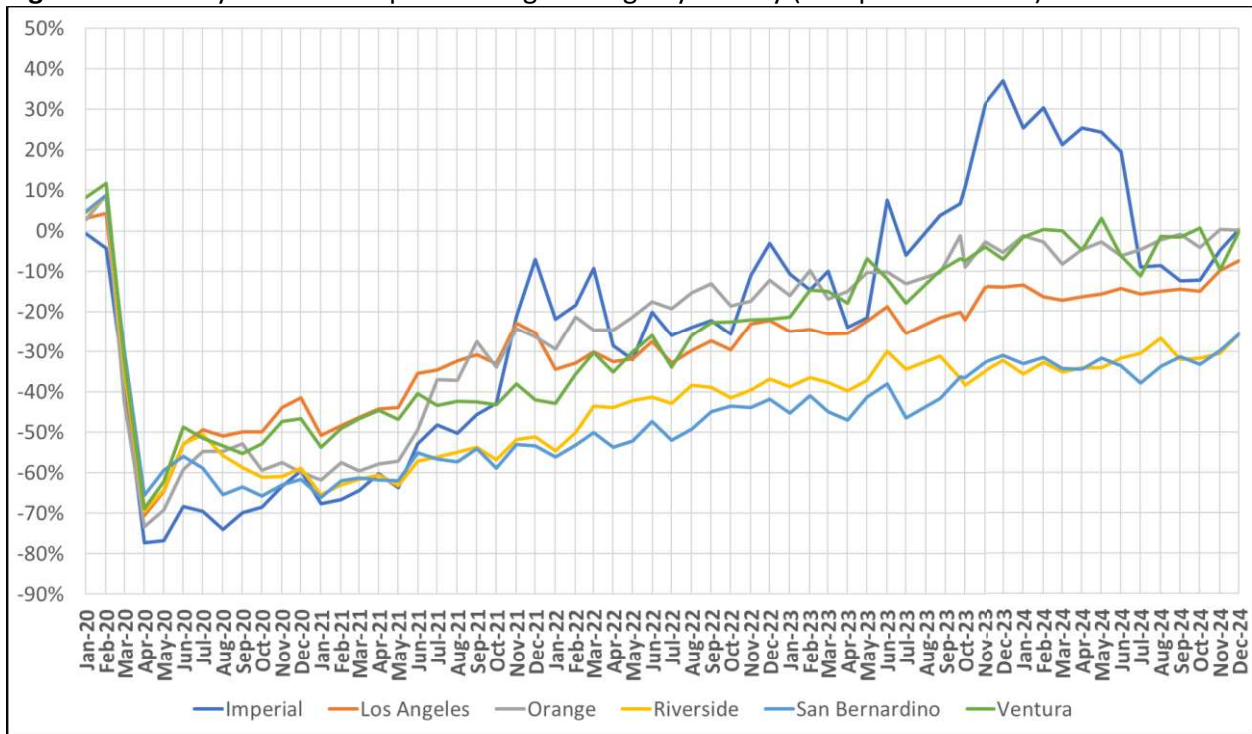
*City of Glendale baseline FY 2019 ridership numbers were corrected, adjusting the baseline 2019 monthly ridership numbers and the respective quarterly ridership change comparison.

Note: Anaheim Transportation Network, City of Pasadena, and Ventura Intercity Service Transit Authority were unable to report ridership statistics in the previous NTD reporting round, covering July and August 2024, but have since reported their ridership statistics, updating the results for this period.

Most counties in the region have experienced moderate gains in transit ridership over the course of the past year, with Riverside County experiencing the most significant increase of 10 percent when comparing December 2024 to December 2023. Meanwhile, Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino counties have experienced a smaller gain of eight percent each. Orange County experienced a six percent gain. Imperial County is the only county in the region experiencing a significant loss in ridership, with a 27 percent decrease over the same period. The significant decrease in ridership over the previous year is likely influenced by Imperial County’s substantial ridership growth at the end of 2023 and into early 2024. For example, in December 2023, Imperial County experienced a 41 percent increase in ridership compared to December 2022. Overall, regional bus ridership increased by seven percent year-over-year between December 2024 and December 2023.

Overall, these trends represent a significant improvement from December 2020, when regional transit ridership was down by 45 percent against December 2019. Furthermore, bus ridership has returned to pre-pandemic levels (December 2019) in Imperial County, Orange County, and Ventura counties, as shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2. Monthly Bus Ridership Percentage Change by County (Compared to 2019)



Source: Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database, as of February 2025.

Data reported by L.A. Metro for its bus and rail systems through December 2024 is reflected in **Figure 3**. L.A. Metro bus ridership increased by nearly seven percent in December 2024 compared to December 2023, marking the 25th consecutive month of year-over-year bus ridership growth. L.A. Metro rail ridership also rose by 11 percent over the same time period. Although these trends are an improvement from December 2020, they remain below pre-pandemic levels. For example, compared to December 2019, bus ridership in December 2024 was down six percent, and rail ridership was down 29 percent over the same time period. The 29 percent decrease of rail ridership compared to December 2019 is likely attributable to holiday seasonal trends.



Item 9

DATE: MARCH 12, 2025
MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)
FROM: DOLORES LOPEZ, REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNER
SUBJECT: ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES PROGRAM MONTHLY UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

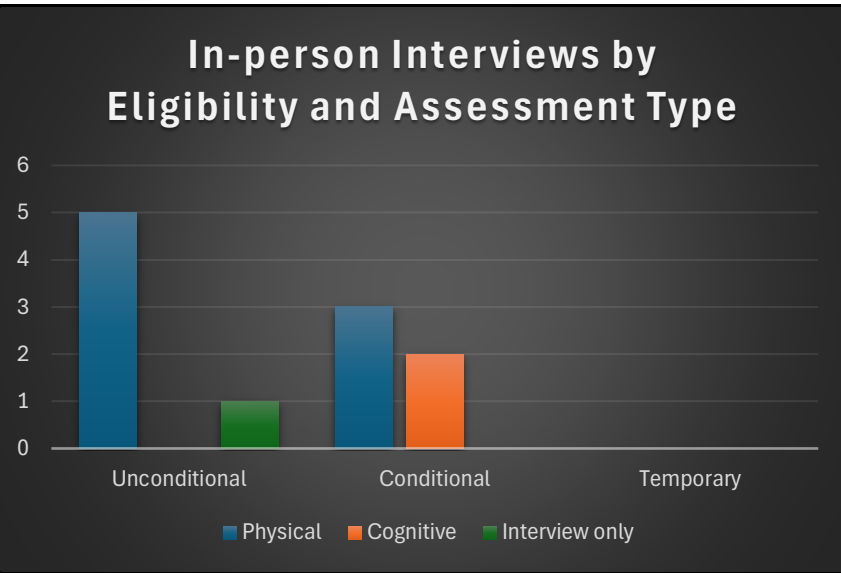
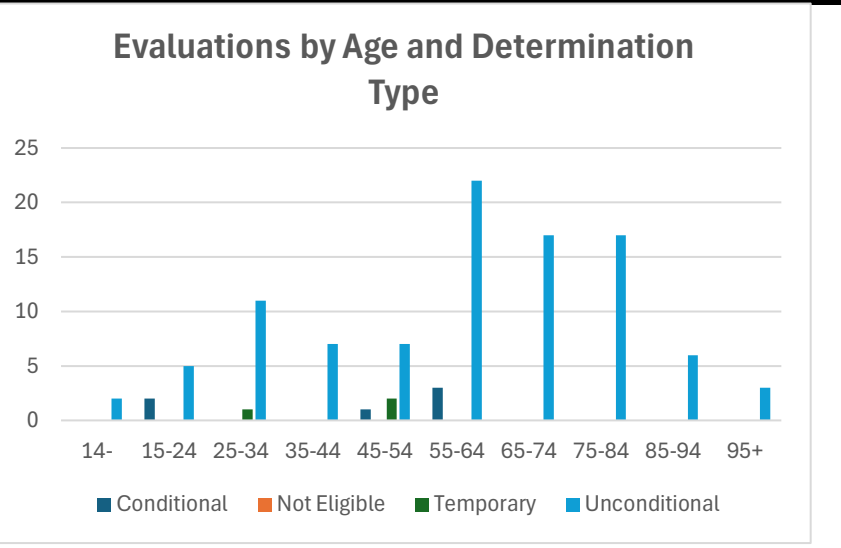
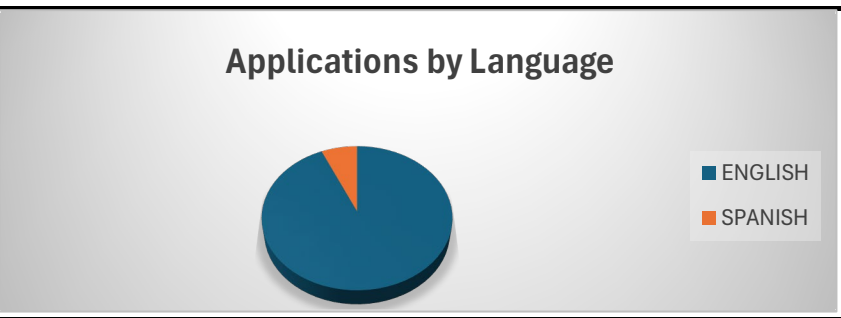
Mobility Management Partners (MMP) is VCTC's contracted service provider for ADA Paratransit Eligibility Certification services.

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

Feb-25							
		Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep
Call Center	Inbound ADA Calls	469	449	369	352	419	393
	Outbound ADA calls	102	217	201	168	205	296
	Average hold time (in seconds)	0.68	0.6	0.03	0.47	2.35	0.83
	Outbound Area Transmittals	1	0	1	2	6	3
	Inbound Area Transmittals	11	5	11	7	11	8
							Riders requesting service outside of Ventura County
							Riders requesting service into Ventura County
Applications Received	Recertification	58	60	54	43	47	36
	New Applications	47	56	39	34	47	49
							Total applications received: 105
							Online Applications Received: 0 (0%)
Applications Received by Service Area	Camarillo Area	14	11	8	7	11	8
	Gold Coast Area	44	51	41	39	39	34
	Valley Express Area	6	3	3	2	3	2
	Moorpark Area	2	4	2	3	1	0
	Simi Valley Area	22	24	16	10	24	14
	Thousand Oaks	15	23	19	16	15	24
	Out of County	2	0	4	0	1	3
Completed Determinations by Evaluation Type	Complete, with Functional Evaluation	8	3	5	1	2	0
	Complete Interview w/ Cognitive Evaluation	2	7	2	0	3	0
	Complete, Special Circumstance (no Interview)	19	12	3	2	7	2
	Complete, Over 85+	1	5	2	4	5	6
	Complete, Phone Interview *	35	40	20	33	31	31
	Complete, Short-term Certification (60 days)	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Complete, Recertifications	41	50	36	31	33	31
	Completed Determinations	106	117	68	71	82	70
	Cost per Determination	\$221.66	\$200.82	\$345.54	\$330.93	\$286.54	\$164.47
Delays in Processing (Cumulative)	Due to Incomplete application by client	4	1	2	2	5	6
	Pending Professional Evaluation (PE)	12	17	14	15	14	11
	Applications that failed to meet 21 day rule	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Applicants awaiting interviews	5	3	3	5	3	3
Assessments	Assessment Categories		Total	VTA	CAM	TO	SIM
	With Physical Assessment		8	5	3		
	With Cognitive Assessment		2	1	1		
	Interview only (at assessment sites)		1		1		
	No Shows for Interview (In-Person=1) (Phone=4)		5	2		2	1
	Total In-Person Interviews Scheduled (but cancelled)		4	1	3		
	Total Number of Appointment Days		10				
Determinations by Eligibility						Total	%
Unconditional (including S.C., Over 85+ , Phone interviews)						97	92%
Conditional						6	6%
Temporary *						3	2%
Denials						0	0%
Short Term (including Emergency)						0	0%

Riders requesting service outside of Ventura County

Riders requesting service into Ventura County



Applications Received - February

GCT	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Casitas Springs	0	0	0	0
Meiners Oaks	0	0	0	0
Miramonte	0	0	0	0
Ojai	3	1	5	1
Oak View	0	0	1	0
Oxnard	21	27	19	18
Saticoy	0	0	0	0
Port Hueneme	5	2	3	2
Ventura	15	21	13	18
Valley Express	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Fillmore	2	2	1	0
Piru	0	0	0	1
Santa Paula	4	1	2	1
Thousand Oaks DAR	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Agoura	0	0	0	2
Agoura Hills	2	1	0	0
Newbury Park	1	3	3	5
Oak Park	0	0	1	0
Thousand Oaks	10	14	14	9
Westlake Village	2	4	1	0
Simi Valley DAR	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Simi Valley	22	24	16	10
Camarillo	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Camarillo	14	11	8	7
Somis	0	0	0	0
Moorpark DAR	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Moorpark	2	4	2	3
Other	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov
Sunland, Bell Canyon	2	0	4	1

Monthly Queue Call 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	469	102	571	2	377	13	79	0	79	0	83	0.68	64.61%
Monday	98	18	116	2	74	4	20	0	20	0	10	0.11	58.16%
Tuesday	107	10	117	2	90	0	17	0	17	0	46	1.23	70.09%
Wednesday	94	22	116	2	74	3	17	0	17	0	0	0.00	63.83%
Thursday	89	32	121	1	77	4	8	0	8	0	83	1.82	77.53%
Friday	78	20	98	2	60	2	16	0	16	0	0	0.00	53.85%
Saturday	3	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.00	0.00%



Item # 10

March 12, 2025

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: GEISKA VELASQUEZ, PROGRAM MANAGER PROGRAMMING

**SUBJECT: REVISION TO JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC)
PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

- Recommend VCTC approve reprogramming a total of \$50,000 in unexpended balance from the Free Low-Income Transit Passes to the Thousand Oaks Employee Rideshare Vehicle

BACKGROUND:

In the 2019 JARC call for projects, the Commission approved an application from the City of Thousand Oaks for \$50,000 for Free Low-Income Transit Passes. However, due to the free fares implemented in response to COVID these funds could not be applied for their intended purpose, and after fares were reinstated the City determined that the proposed program was no longer feasible.

In 2024 JARC call-for-projects the City of Thousand Oaks requested \$360,000 to replace EV Powered Employee Rideshare Program Vehicles. This project was placed on the contingency list for future funding opportunities. VCTC staff have reviewed the grant and concluded that this project can use the money in question.

Staff recommend at this time to move \$50,000 in JARC from the Free Low-Income Transit Passes project and use the funds instead to purchase one or more Thousand Oaks Employee Rideshare Vehicles as requested in the application of Thousand Oaks in the most recent call for projects.