



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tap2Ride fare payment now available on bus systems across Ventura County

Riders on seven public transit systems can easily pay fares using mobile devices and contactless debit and credit cards – no bus pass or cash required

CAMARILLO, Calif. – Tap2Ride, a contactless system that allows riders to pay fares with mobile devices and contactless debit and credit cards, is now available on seven public transit systems across Ventura County.

Camarillo Area Transit, Gold Coast Transit District, Moorpark City Transit, Simi Valley Transit, Thousand Oaks Transit, Valley Express and VCTC Intercity fixed-route buses now offer the Tap2Ride fare payment option, making bus travel easier and faster. There's no need to carry exact change or purchase a bus pass before riding. Passengers can simply tap their contactless debit or credit card, mobile wallet or smart watch on the yellow payment reader as they board.

Tap2Ride offers additional advantages, including:

- **A regionwide “fare capping” discount** for riders who use two or more systems. When paying through Tap2Ride, the Tap2Ride system “caps” the amount a passenger pays when riding during a set period. The cap mirrors the same discount as a 31-day pass without the upfront cost of purchasing a pass.
- **Regional transfers.** Passengers can transfer to any bus for free within two hours when using Tap2Ride. The transfer is automatically applied to the card used to pay the fare on the first bus. No need to request a transfer slip from the bus driver.
- **Reduced fare benefits.** Medicare card holders, people age 65 and older, and U.S. military veterans can register a debit or credit card to receive reduced fares on any bus in the county. Registration is available at the California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP) website, benefits.calitp.org.

Riders without access to a bank-provided contactless card or access to a bank account are encouraged to seek assistance through the Bank On national platform, which is led by the nonprofit Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund). Bank On has partnered with more than 100 bank branches across Ventura County. More information about Bank On and a full list of Ventura County partner banks can be found on the Tap2Ride page on VCTC's website at goventura.org/affordable-banking-options.

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), the regional transportation planning agency for Ventura County, introduced Tap2Ride on the VCTC Intercity service in June 2025 and has been collaborating with transit operators and Cal-ITP to bring the system to buses countywide.

Funding for the Tap2Ride expansion was provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) through the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 program.

"As the agency responsible for coordinating transportation across Ventura County, VCTC is proud to help our transit agency partners implement the Tap2Ride system," said VCTC Executive Director Martin Erickson. "Tap2Ride provides passengers a way to pay fares that is simple and consistent, regardless of which bus they are riding. For new and infrequent riders, Tap2Ride is an easy way to try their local public transit systems."

"We're excited to make riding the bus even easier and faster. With Tap2Ride, riders can simply tap their card and go, just like paying for a cup of coffee," said Vanessa Rauschenberger, General Manager at Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD).

"This regional launch is a huge achievement for VCTC and a major milestone for Cal-ITP," said Gillian Gillett, Chief of Data & Digital Services and California Integrated Mobility Program Manager at Caltrans. "Ventura County transit operators have worked together to leverage the State of California's master service agreements and Cal-ITP's technology offerings to deliver a more cohesive experience for their customers. This work demonstrates Cal-ITP's vision for the future of transit in California – a simpler, more connected transit network that makes it easier for transit operators to provide high quality, affordable service for their customers."

About Cal-ITP and Cal-ITP Benefits

The California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP) partners with state transportation agencies and transit providers to make it easier to use public transportation. Through Cal-ITP Benefits, transit riders can quickly and securely verify their eligibility online for discounted fares and link that discount benefit to a contactless debit or credit card to automatically receive reduced fares whenever they tap to pay with the card. Ventura County is the largest regional deployment of open-loop payments and transit benefit enrollment through Cal-ITP Benefits to date.

About the Ventura County Transportation Commission

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

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