

Transit Funding Overview

November 6, 2026

VCTC Roles

- County Transportation Commission
- Designated Recipient of Federal Transit Administration funds
- Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Fund Source Overview: Local

- Local Transportation Fund (LTF), provided under the Transportation Development Act (TDA)
  - ¼ cent general sales tax collected statewide and returned to the county

Fund Source Overview: State

- State Transit Assistance (STA), provided under TDA and allocated by the State Controller's Office
  - Half of the STA is allocated to regional agencies by population of county in relation to the rest of the state
  - Remaining half allocated by operator revenues reported to the State Controller's Office in the prior year
- Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP): follows STA formula
- SB 1 State of Good Repair (SGR): follows STA formula
- SB 125 Transit Program: partially follows STA formula (not ongoing)

Fund Source Overview: Federal

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds
  - 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Funding
  - 5339(a) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Formula Program
  - 5337 State of Good Repair Grants
  - 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
  - 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas
- COVID-19 Relief Funds
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

VCTC Allocation Practices

- VCTC allocation methodologies and practices vary and are based on:
  - Funding program requirements
  - Regional and operator need
  - Historical practice
  - Availability of eligible fund sources and local matching funds
  - Equity
  - Funding deadlines
- Allocations are approved by the Commission

VCTC Allocation Practices: LTF

- Priority order, then population, in accordance with the TDA
- Administration, planning and programming, pedestrian and bicycle projects, and passenger rail receive priority over public transportation and local streets and roads claims
- Since 2013, allocate one-third (1/3) of LTF revenue growth to Metrolink and adding that amount to existing annual $400,000 allocation
- Remaining two-thirds (2/3) of LTF revenue growth apportioned to the local bus transit operators, further distributed by population as required by the TDA

VCTC Allocation Practices: State

- State Transit Assistance (STA) Fund
  - Consistent with Commission direction in 2013, Regional Share portion of the STA is used for VCTC costs
  - In recent years, some Regional Share used for Sespe Creek Bridge Project with majority expected to be reimbursed
  - Operator Share allocated to Operators in accordance with State Controller estimates
- Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)
  - VCTC allocates Regional Share based on need; has been primarily used for countywide free fare programs
  - Operators are able to receive Operator Share allocation directly, consistent with State Controller estimates

VCTC Allocation Practices: State

- Senate Bill 1 State of Good Repair Funds
  - VCTC allocates Regional Share based on need; has mostly been used for Metrolink capital projects
  - Operator Share allocated to Operators in accordance with State Controller estimates
- Senate Bill 125 Transit Program
  - Regional Share allocated based on program objectives, project need, and equity of funding amongst the operators
  - Operator Share portion of the Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program component included with operators' overall SB 125 allocation

VCTC Allocation Practices: Federal

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
  - VCTC call for projects process prior to administration by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in 2023
  - VCTC maintains a prioritization role
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
  - SCAG-administered, VCTC maintains a prioritization role
- COVID-19 Relief Funds
  - Accounted for prior allocation amounts; distributed funds based on operating costs

VCTC Allocation Practices: Federal

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funds
  - FTA does not prescribe a methodology to distribute funds
  - Operators receive revenue generated by service in addition to a portion of population-based revenue
- Exceptions
  - VCTC uses a portion of Metrolink-generated FTA 5307 Program funds to offset increase in LTF allocation
  - VCTC uses CalVans-generated 5307 revenue, which has averaged several hundred thousand dollars in the past few years

Set-Aside Allocations

- VCTC may set aside a portion of funds for Commission or regional needs prior to distribution (LTF/FTA)
- Fund administration, planning activities, and regional or countywide plans, programs, and projects (LTF/FTA)
- Metrolink allocation (LTF)
- Article 3 Bicycle and Pedestrian amount for call for projects process (LTF)

Set-Aside Allocations

- Set-aside allocations for VCTC are based on needs identified during the annual budget process and FTA program of projects development process

- Consistent with goals and priorities in VCTC adopted strategic plan, other needs identified by the Commission, and federal requirements

    - Examples: Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Ventura County Multimodal Transportation Network Climate Vulnerability Assessment & Action Plan, U.S. 101 Conejo Pass Wildlife Tracking Study, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, Short-Range Transit Plan, Umo/VCbuspass, RideCo, Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Programming, FTA subrecipient compliance monitoring

Set-Aside Allocations: FTA Funds

- FTA funds distributed through four urbanized areas (UZA)
  - Oxnard/Ventura
  - Thousand Oaks/Moorpark
  - Camarillo
  - Simi Valley
- Set-aside allocations funded from population-generated amount from all four UZAs and deducted prior to distribution to the transit operators
- Amount used per UZA is calculated using prescribed formula, with Gold Coast Transit District's share from the Oxnard/Ventura UZA based on its proportionate share of FTA apportionments
- Remaining operators' shares based on population

VCTC Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget

Fund Source	Transit and Transportation Programs[1]	Rail Program	Commuter Assistance Programs	Planning and Programming[1]	General Government Program	Highway Program	Total
LTF	639,200	11,909,500	5,000	43,801,012	2,936,700		59,291,412
Local Contributions	3,179,242	450,900	-	50,000	-		3,680,142
Farebox	719,984	-	-	-	-		719,984
VCTC Fund Balance	2,125,000	-	-	-	-		2,125,000
SAFE[2]	-			-	-	1,225,394	1,225,394
Local Funds	**6,663,426**	**12,360,400**	**5,000**	**43,851,012**	**2,936,700**	**1,225,394**	**67,041,932**
STA	11,923,972	9,000,680	107,380	944,142	-		21,976,174
LCTOP	-	-	-	1,461,100	-		1,461,100
SB1 SGR	785,363	4,258,000	-	85,381	-		5,128,744
SB 125	33,235,408	824,000	-	2,000,700	-		36,060,108
Other[3]	482,880	7,130,000	-	2,275,074	-	1,029,726	10,917,680
State Funds	**46,427,623**	**21,212,680**	**107,380**	**6,766,397**	**-**	**1,029,726**	**75,543,806**
FTA Funds	11,927,831	1,384,000	429,520	1,214,285	-		14,955,636
CMAQ	4,543,320	-	396,300	23,000	593,700		5,556,320
STBG[4]	-	627,620	-	-	-	2,136,280	2,763,900
Federal Funds	**16,471,151**	**2,011,620**	**825,820**	**1,237,285**	**593,700**	**2,136,280**	**23,275,856**
Total	**69,562,200**	**35,584,700**	**938,200**	**51,854,694**	**3,530,400**	**4,391,400**	**165,861,594**
Local % of Total Budget	10%	35%	1%	85%	83%	28%	40%
State % of Total Budget	67%	60%	11%	13%	0%	23%	46%
Federal % of Total Budget	24%	6%	88%	2%	17%	49%	14%

[1]Transit/Transportation Programs and Planning and Programming include pass-through allocations to the transit operators

[2]Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

[3]Other State Funds include Public Utilities Commission Access for All, Solutions for Congested Corridors, Priority Legislative Budgets Program, REAP 2.0, Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant, State Transportation Improvement Program and Freeway Service Patrol funds

[4]Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)

SB 125 Financial Plan Projections

- SB 125 Financial Plan developed and submitted (June 2026)
- Revenue & expenditure forecast through FY 2030/2031
- Rising operating costs outpacing revenue growth

Future Actions

- Evaluating funding approaches amid fiscal uncertainty
- Reviewing allocation methodologies used by other RTPAs
- Any proposed changes will be presented to Commission
- VCTC is engaging HDL for LTF revenue forecasting

Questions?