

OTHER

14. VTA Sustainability Program

Tom Fitzwater, Environmental Planning Manager, reviewed the goals and strategies of the Sustainability Program, the efforts that VTA implemented to be more sustainable and green, and the future improvements that will be implemented.

Member Kishimoto suggested that VTA examine employee alternative commuting.

Chairperson Pro Tempore Kniss suggested that VTA contact Santa Clara County Staff to obtain the County's implementation strategies on retrofitting the lighting and heating in the County building.

Member Kishimoto inquired if VTA will develop a countywide action plan that will reduce emissions. Mr. Ristow noted that the plan to reduce emissions is at a regional level and will be discussed later on the agenda.

Member Kishimoto suggested that VTA help Santa Clara County cities with their emission inventories. Mr. Fitzwater noted that there are on-going discussions with an environmental agency regarding that issue.

On order of Chairperson Pro Tempore Kniss, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole reviewed the VTA Sustainability Program.

16. Update Preliminary Engineering of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project

Casey Emoto, Transportation Engineering Manager, reported on the US 101 and SR 85 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes highlighting the following: 1) definition of HOT lane; 2) Santa Clara County HOV lane network; 3) Timeline for HOT lanes in Santa Clara County; 3) Concept for county HOT lanes; 4) HOT Lane project examples in the nation; 4) rationale for considering HOT lanes for the County; 5) stakeholder coordination; 6) US 101 and SR 85 Preliminary study process and technical considerations; 7) policy and implementation challenges; and 8) next steps towards VTA HOT Lane implementation.

Chairperson Pro Tempore Kniss relinquished her seat and left the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto presided over the remainder of the Meeting.

Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto suggested that VTA also examine the smooth transition to Dumbarton. Mr. Ristow noted that San Mateo is part of the stakeholder group and there are current discussions about the issue.

Michael Ludwig, Interested Citizen, addressed the Committee and stated that he supports HOT Lanes. He suggested that VTA consider a 24-hour HOV lane implementation instead of peak hours only.

On order of Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received an Update on the Preliminary Engineering of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project.

15. Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035 – Draft Project Lists

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, reported on the changes of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process of MTC and its relationship to Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035. The current RTP process is focused on HOT Lanes Pricing, Land Use Integration and Green House Gases/Emissions. He noted that staff will forward a more refined and constrained project list by next month.

Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto commented that the reduction of green house gas emissions efforts be accelerated. She requested staff to provide updates on the criteria that will be used to score projects.

On order of Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole reviewed the Valley Transportation Plan 2035 – Draft Project Lists.

17. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

There were no Items of Concern and Referral to Administration.

18. Committee Work Plan

On order of Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole reviewed the Committee Work Plan.

19. Committee Staff Report

Mr. Ristow reported that VTA was able to successfully implement the New Service Plan, which commenced on Monday, January 14, 2008.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, reported that VTA did a good job in informing the public about the service changes. He also reported about the fire incidents in Downtown San Jose in the morning and the issues that staff is working on with Bus Routes 68 and 89.

On order of Chairperson Pro Tempore Kishimoto, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received the Committee Staff Report.

20. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report

21. Determine Consent Agenda for February 7, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting