

Date: February 16, 2006

Committee Meeting Date: March 8, 2006

Board Meeting Date: N/A

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION DISCUSSION X INFO

TO: Citizens Advisory Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Carolyn M. Gonot
Chief Development Officer

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned by 1996 Measure B Citizens' Watchdog Committee

FOR DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND:

In 1996, voters in Santa Clara County approved Measures A and B. Measure A, an advisory measure, defined a specific package of transportation improvements for the county. Measure B authorized the enactment of a ½-cent sales tax for general County purposes for a nine-year period. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is responsible for delivering the Measure B Program. This sales tax will expired on March 31, 2006.

Measure B also established an independent Santa Clara County Citizens' Watchdog Committee (CWC). The CWC is a 17-member body of Santa Clara County citizens whose purpose is to report to the public on how the Measure B funds have been spent. The CWC also contracts with an independent auditor to conduct an annual financial audit. The CWC must hold hearings, issue reports at least annually on their findings, and publicize the results.

In 2000, voters in Santa Clara County approved Measure A, a 30-year, ½-cent sales tax for specific transit improvements. The VTA Board of Directors is responsible for delivering the 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program, which begins April 1, 2006.

The 2000 Measure A also established VTA's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) as the independent oversight body for the 2000 Measure A program, which was termed the "Citizen's Watchdog Committee" in the ballot measure.

As the CAC moves toward assuming its role as the independent oversight body for the 2000 Measure A Program, staff has begun the process of informing the committee on its mandated duties as defined by the ballot measure. Related to this, CAC recently asked Jeff Davis, Program Administrator for the County's 1996 Measure B Program, to attend a future meeting to share with CAC lessons learned by the Measure B Citizens' Watchdog Committee. Mr. Davis has graciously agreed to come to the March meeting to share his experiences, expertise and the lessons learned by the CWC.

Prepared by: Stephen Flynn, Sr. Management Analyst