

Date: December 5, 2006Committee Meeting Date: December 13, 2006Board Meeting Date: N/A**BOARD MEMORANDUM**ACTION  DISCUSSION  INFO 

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

**THROUGH:** Michael T. Burns  
 General Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. Burns" with a small "MD" or similar initials at the end.

**FROM:** Carolyn M. Gonot  
 Chief Development Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn M. Gonot" in a cursive style.

**SUBJECT:** Transit Sustainability Policy

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

At the September, October, and November 2006 meetings, the committee was presented with information regarding the development of VTA's Transit Sustainability Policy, including a set of Goals and Core Principles, an Evaluation and Recommendation Process, and Service Performance Standards and Design Guidelines. The VTA Board of Directors adopted the policy's Goals and Core Principles in October 2006. At the December committee meeting, VTA staff will present the entire Transit Sustainability Policy package including the unifying policy language (Attachment A) and the policy's appendix of mode specific Service Design Guidelines (Attachment B).

The Transit Sustainability Policy is ridership-based. The policy is intended to provide a framework for the efficient and effective expenditure of public funds and to achieve the highest return on transit investments in terms of public good and system productivity. The policy is also designed to help inform the Board's decision-making by providing an evaluation and recommendation process that can be applied uniformly to any project or service in any location throughout Santa Clara County and for comparing operating and capital costs for various transit modes that achieve similar corridor ridership levels.

The policy will guide the implementation of new transit services as well as the refinement and maintenance of existing transit services. All proposed new services will be subject to the Transit Sustainability Policy and will undergo analysis using the standards and criteria presented in the Service Design Guidelines. The guidelines are designed for use in the evaluation and design of existing service, potential service changes, and proposed new services. They are also designed

to address somewhat more qualitative issues such as route and system design, mode specific operational requirements, and land use transportation integration. The Board-adopted Service Management Plan will incorporate elements of the guidelines.

The first comprehensive application of the policy will be as an evaluation tool for the Comprehensive Operational Analysis work being conducted in early 2007. Lastly, to maintain its effectiveness, the policy will be periodically reviewed, and updated as necessary.

The Transit Sustainability Policy will be presented to the Board of Directors for adoption at its January 2007 meeting.

Prepared by: Chris Augenstein, Transportation Planning Manager