



Date: February 27, 2007  
 Committee Meeting Date: March 7, 2007  
 Board Meeting Date: N/A  
 ACTION  DISCUSSION  INFO

**BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** 2000 Measure A Watchdog Committee (Citizens Advisory Committee)  
 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
 Board of Directors

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Caltrain Capital Priorities Study

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

The purpose of the Caltrain Capital Priorities Study is to develop a prioritized list of capital improvements to the Caltrain system, which will meet operational needs, improve passenger accessibility, and improve system ridership over a 30-year time horizon. The study is intended to guide VTA capital investments in the Caltrain system for federal, state and local funds (including 2000 Measure A sales tax revenues) allocated to Santa Clara County for transit purposes. The study was guided by a subcommittee of Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) members.

VTA, as one of the three member agencies of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain JPB), is responsible for contributing to the Caltrain capital program. VTA's capital contribution comes from three sources: funds identified in the Measure A Revenue and Expenditure Plan, capital funds in the VTA annual capital budget, and state and federal funds that come to the San Jose Urbanized Area that can be used for transit capital projects. VTA has contributed millions of dollars of capital funds to the Caltrain system since the JPB was formed in 1992.

System improvements from Tamien north are usually implemented by the JPB with VTA acting as a funding partner. Examples of recent projects either completed or underway include refurbishment of the Palo Alto, California Avenue and Lawrence Stations and construction of a new Caltrain maintenance base. Improvements south of Tamien, on Union Pacific-owned tracks, are the responsibility of VTA for funding and implementation. Recent examples are the continuing program to double track the line from Tamien to Gilroy and the addition of parking in San Martin.

## **Study Methodology**

A subcommittee of the VTA Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed to provide policy guidance, develop scoring criteria and score individual Caltrain projects. The PAC Subcommittee members were: Norman Kline (Chair); Yoriko Kishimoto (Vice Chair); Steve Glickman; Laura Macias; Christopher Moylan; Dominic Caserta; Linda LeZotte; and Greg Sellers.

Candidate projects were submitted by Santa Clara County cities along the Caltrain line and also by Caltrain staff. Those projects submitted by Caltrain staff were consistent with the on-going *Caltrain 2025* study, a capital improvement strategy document recently released to the public.

VTA staff, assisted by consultant Kimley-Horn Associates, developed a methodology to first establish a 30-year list of Caltrain capital projects, then evaluate and prioritize projects for investment. VTA staff also developed forecasts of future Caltrain ridership based on service scenarios that were consistent with the *Caltrain 2025 Study*.

After an initial VTA staff project scoring exercise, the Subcommittee then modified the initial set of criteria and applied weights to each criterion. The criteria used by the Subcommittee to evaluate projects, in order of weight, were:

- Safety
- State of Good Repair
- Travel Time
- Ridership
- Cost Effectiveness
- Environmental Benefit
- Service Improvements
- System Access
- Community Values
- Corridor Vision
- Project Readiness

The Subcommittee decided to exclude Caltrain capital projects that were specifically funded in the VTA Expenditure Plan (Electrification, Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center) from the scoring exercise. Scored projects were organized into four categories based on service level and horizon year and scored within each grouping.

The Policy Advisory Committee received the report on December 14, 2006. The VTA Board of Directors received the report on February 1, 2007. VTA staff is completing a full report that explains the methodology used to score projects and lists each project with scores.

The results of study will allow VTA to prioritize investment in Caltrain capital projects. The methodology developed by the Subcommittee using weighted criteria can be used periodically to update evaluation of Caltrain investments.

Prepared by: Steven Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner