

Date: June 25, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: July 11, 2007

Board Meeting Date: N/A

**BOARD MEMORANDUM**

ACTION X DISCUSSION        INFO       

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

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

**FROM:** Jim Lawson  
Government Affairs Manager

**SUBJECT:** Draft Citizens Watchdog Committee Annual Report

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review, revise as needed, and approve the draft Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06).

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax devoted to transit projects. The Measure A ballot specified that, among other duties, the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) must review all 2000 Measure A expenditures, have an independent audit conducted each fiscal year, hold public hearings and issue reports at least annually to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds are being spent, and publish the results of the independent audit and the annual report in local newspapers.

In fulfillment of its ballot-defined responsibilities, for the period of FY06 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006) the CWC has:

- Completed its review of 2000 Measure A expenditures.
- Had an independent audit conducted of the 2000 Measure A financial statements and records.
- On April 9, 2007 published in local newspapers the results of the independent audit.
- On April 11, 2007 conducted a public hearing to receive input from the community on 2000 Measure A Program expenditures, the results of the annual independent audit, and on 2000 Measure A Program reports.

The final step is development of the inaugural CWC Annual Report stating the Committee's conclusion on whether, for FY06, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were being spent in accordance with the intent of the measure. This report will be published in local newspapers.

## **DISCUSSION**

The draft CWC Annual Report for FY06 was submitted to the Committee for review and input at its May 2007 meeting. However, there was insufficient time at that meeting to fully review and discuss the draft Annual Report and thus the Committee requested that it be brought back to a future meeting.

Now submitted for Committee review, revision if needed, then approval is the draft CWC Annual Report for FY06. It briefly describes the 2000 Measure A Program, its history and its current status. A mandatory component of the report is the Committee conclusion on whether, for that period, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

To finalize the report, keeping in mind that it will be published local newspapers and posted on VTA's website, two key factors the Committee will need to decide on are:

- Whether the draft report accurately describes the Committee's conclusion on whether 2000 Measure A tax dollars are being spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.
- On the presentation, whether to:
  - List all CAC/CWC members and the jurisdictions and entities they represent and include the signature of all members.
  - List all CAC/CWC members and the jurisdictions and entities they represent but have only the Chairperson sign it.
  - List all CAC/CWC members and have only the Chairperson sign.

It is projected that the CWC Annual report will be published in general circulation newspapers in VTA's service area, including non-English publications (Spanish and Vietnamese). It will also be prominently posted on VTA's website. This is the same method used to publicly notice the community of the public hearing conducted by the Committee in April. It is projected that the Annual Report could, at the earliest, be published in late July.

Prepared by: Stephen Flynn, Sr. Management Analyst

## 2000 Measure A Transportation Improvement Program

**DRAFT (revised: 07/02/07)**

Annual Report from the Citizens Watchdog Committee

### **BACKGROUND:**

Measure A, approved by Santa Clara County voters in 2000, is a 30-year half cent sales tax devoted to improvement projects for the area's public transit network. Total estimated Measure A revenues are currently projected at approximately \$7 billion. Measure A ballot specified that the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) must review all 2000 Measure A expenditures, have an independent audit conducted each fiscal year, hold public hearings and issue reports at least annually to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds are being spent, and publish the results of the independent audit and the annual report in local newspapers and make them available to the public.

The VTA Board of Directors is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Measure A Program and for all policy-related decisions including the composition, implementation schedule and funding level of projects. The Citizens Watchdog Committee's responsibility is limited to reviewing 2000 Measure A expenditures to ensure funds are being spent in accordance with the intent of the ballot.

Among the projects specified in the ballot are:

- Extend BART to Silicon Valley.
- Extend Light Rail from Downtown San Jose to the East Valley.
- Improve bus service in major bus corridors.
- Purchase zero-emission buses and construct service facilities.
- Provide connections from Mineta San Jose Airport to BART, Caltrain and VTA light rail.
- Construct a New Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center.
- Increase Caltrain service and electrify from Palo Alto to Gilroy.
- Upgrade Altamont Commuter Express (ACE).

### **STATUS:**

This report summarizes the status of the 2000 Measure A Program for FY06 (7/01/05 – 6/30/06). During that period, approximately \$104 million was expended towards delivering 2000A projects, with significant progress being made on or the following projects being completed:

- Substantially completed 35% (preliminary) engineering on the BART project.
- Continued development on land-use studies for areas surrounding future BART stations.
- Completed Preliminary Engineering on the Capital Expressway Light Rail Project to Nieman Station.
- Operated zero-emission buses on VTA bus lines.
- Continued design for Caltrain double-track improvements in South County.
- Completed the study identifying future capital needs for local Caltrain improvements

Since the close of FY06, significant additional process has been made on :

- Implementing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), including the 522 and undertaking studies for other BRT improvements in Measure A corridors.
- Completed 35% (preliminary) engineering on the BART project.
- The final design of Capital Expressway Light Rail to Eastridge.
- The final design of the Caltrain Double Tracking project to Gilroy.

**CONCLUSION:**

To develop its finding, the CWC reviewed expenditures for the period, evaluated the results of the independent audit it commissioned of the 2000 Measure A financial statements and records (available at VTA’s website: [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org)), and conducted a public hearing on 4/11/07 to receive input from the community.

After thorough and careful consideration of all information and input received,

**It is the conclusion of the Citizens Watchdog Committee that, for FY06, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.**

Sincerely,

Martin B. Schulter  
Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee

Citizens Watchdog Committee members:

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTS</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTS</u>
Noel Tebo	City of San Jose	Sally Probst	Senior Citizens
Charlotte B. Powers	City of San Jose	Martin B. Schulter	Disabled Persons
Margaret Okuzumi	North County Cities	Stephen C. Blaylock	Mass Transit
Users			
Donald R. Burnett	West Valley Cities	Ellen Fletcher	Bicyclists
Connie Rogers	South County Cities	Chris C. Elias	
	Environmentalists		
Roberta H. Hughan	Santa Clara County	Luis Pavel Mendez	Pedestrians
Laura Stuchinsky	Silicon Valley Leadership Group		
Ray Hashimoto	Building Industry Association		
Gaye Morando	Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition		
Robert Jacobvitz	Building Owners and Managers Association –Silicon Valley		
Vacant	South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council		