

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
and
2000 MEASURE A CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Chairperson Schulter, in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Ray Hashimoto
Roberta Hughan
Judi Kirkham
Gaye Morando

Charlotte Powers
Sally Probst
Connie Rogers
Martin Schulter, Chairperson
Laura Stuchinsky
Noel Tebo

Representing

Building Industry Association
Santa Clara County
South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council
Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce
Coalition
City of San Jose
Senior Citizens
South County Cities
Disabled Persons
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
City of San Jose

Members Absent

Stephen Blaylock
Don Burnett
Chris Elias
Ellen Fletcher
Robert Jacobvitz, Vice Chairperson

Margaret Okuzumi

Representing

Mass Transit Users
West Valley Cities
Environmentalists
Bicyclists
Building Owners and Managers Association
(BOMA) –Silicon Valley
North County Cities

A quorum was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

Member Hashimoto arrived at the meeting at 4:39 p.m.
and a quorum was declared.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

Member Tebo arrived at the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

4. Committee Staff Report

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a brief report highlighting: 1) Purchase Agreement for the Mitchell Block property in downtown San Jose is scheduled to close on Thursday, December 13, 2007, 2) San Jose City Council has recommended the northern alignment to Coyote Creek for the BART Extension Project; 3) VTA's new bus service is scheduled to begin on Monday, January 14, 2008, 4) VTA Board of Directors Summit meeting scheduled for February 1, 2008 will be facilitated by James M. Kouzes; 5) VTA Board of Directors will consider the Local Streets and County Roads list of projects at their December 13, 2007 meeting; and 6) VTA Low-Floor Vehicles will be available for boarding at each of the stations by March 2009.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Schulter distributed a letter to acknowledge and recognize Jack J. Collins, Retired VTA Chief Engineering and Construction Officer, for his diligent work and contributions to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC).

Chairperson Schulter noted that he would not be able to attend the January 9, 2008 CAC meeting due to a schedule conflict.

Chairperson Schulter expressed appreciation and thanked Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, and Mr. Lawson for their diligent work and outstanding effort they provide to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC).

Mr. Lawson introduced Menominee McCarter, new Board Assistant, to the Committee Members.

BUSINESS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ GENERAL MANAGER

COMBINED CAC AND 2000 MEASURE A CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDAS

6. Minutes of November 7, 2007

M/S/C (Powers/Morando) to approve the Minutes of November 7, 2007.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA

7. Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report July through September 2007

M/S/C (Powers/Morando) to review the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report July through September 2007.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR AGENDA

8. Nominating Subcommittee Report

Member Stuchinsky provided a brief overview on the Nominating Committee Report for CAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2008. Member Stuchinsky noted Noel Tebo's nomination for Chairperson for 2008 and Robert Jacobvitz's nomination for Vice Chairperson for 2008.

Chairperson Schulter noted that the Committee would accept nominations from the floor at the January 9, 2008 CAC meeting.

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the Committee accepted the Nominating Subcommittee Report.

9. Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements

Mark Robinson, Acting Chief Engineering and Construction Officer, provided a brief overview on the Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements. Mr. Robinson reported that the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) initiated a Caltrain Safety Program for the railway corridor in San Mateo County. He stated that the Safety Program focuses on pedestrian and vehicle safety improvements along the Caltrain corridor at stations, at-grade vehicle crossings, and other locations where safety can be improved.

Mr. Robinson reported that VTA initiated a similar Safety Program for the Caltrain Commuter Rail System in Santa Clara County. VTA contracted HNTB to perform the safety study of the Caltrain Corridor between Palo Alto and Gilroy, including the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Right-of-Way.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Robinson commented that HNTB collected safety and operations statistics and performed a grade crossing inventory. They developed recommendations for county-wide safety improvement projects for implementation over a five-year period.

The HNTB report identifies necessary safety related projects in the County, including projects previously identified and funded from sources other than the 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program. All projects are listed in priority order based on previous programming, level of pedestrian traffic, level of adjacent Transportation Oriented Development (TOD), and grouping by phase with similar projects.

Mr. Robinson stated that the first phase consists of installing signage and roadway striping, and constructing medians between opposing traffic lanes. The second phase includes various pedestrian improvements including guard rails, emergency swing gates, automatic pedestrian crossing gates, fencing, concrete crossing surface panels, and other various improvements.

Member Powers queried about the Chynoweth Avenue design improvements. Mr. Robinson responded that the improvements consist of signing, striping, other construction in Phase 1 and pedestrian gates, emergency swing gates, tactile warning tiles, guardrails, welded wire mesh fence, sidewalk, and other construction items in Phase 2.

Member Probst queried if there were any improvements planned for Churchill Avenue. Mr. Robinson responded that there are improvements scheduled through the Caltrain Program.

Member Hashimoto asked when the safety information was collected. Mr. Robinson responded that he will come back to the Committee with the timeframe when the data was collected.

M/S/C (Powers/Probst) to review and recommend that the Board of Directors approve the list of projects for the Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements Project.

2000 MEASURE A CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE REGULAR AGENDA

10. Update on New Bus Service for January 14, 2008

Jim Unites, Operations Planning Program Manager, provided a status report on the New Bus Service for January 14, 2008. Mr. Unites reported that the Board of Directors approved the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) at their August 30, 2007 meeting. Mr. Unites stated that the COA study evaluated VTA's bus route structure and performance and analyzed the market conditions for public transit in Santa Clara County.

VTA's new bus service plan was developed based on this analysis with the goal of targeting market opportunities, enhancing service efficiencies, and increasing customer convenience. A primary consideration of the COA was to improve bus service utilizing the same funding level. VTA's New Bus Service begins on Monday, January 14, 2008 and affects over 90 percent of VTA's bus routes. VTA will be increasing weekday service frequency to 15-minutes or better on many core routes. Eleven new low fare Community Bus routes will begin providing local neighborhood service. Two new Express Bus routes will provide frequent service from South County and the Fremont BART Station to downtown San Jose.

Mr. Unites stated that VTA has worked collaboratively with all the coordinating agencies, such as AC Transit, SamTrans, and Caltrain to ensure that VTA's new schedules match with their new schedules. He continued that VTA has worked with SamTrans on a new transfer policy to mitigate issues in Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

VTA has developed a wide-ranging approach that includes employee education, customer outreach, passenger information, marketing, signage, trip planning, and field ambassadors to ensure VTA customers receive the information they need to successfully use the New Bus Service.

Bernice Alaniz, Marketing and Public Affairs Deputy Director, commented that VTA is focusing on effectively communicating the changes and marketing the new services. VTA is conducting 50 trip planning sessions throughout the County to reach customers. Information Service Representatives are being retrained on the new bus service and additional information is available at: www.vta.org/busservice.

Ms. Alaniz stated that VTA has the following publications on the new bus service: Interim Service Change brochure, Fact Sheets, System Maps, Service Frequency Charts, and the December Take-One. VTA has implemented a media advertising campaign in English and Spanish. VTA will implement an eight page tabloid in the Mercury News Paper on December 31, 2007 to highlight the new bus service.

Member Tebo asked if the new service is generated to attract new riders or to provide better service to the current riders. Ms. Alaniz responded that the intent is to do both, nothing that the COA was a comprehensive study of VTA's entire bus system. The goal of the COA was to target market opportunities, enhance service efficiencies, and increase customer convenience.

Member Probst asked if the Committee will receive updates on the new bus service. Mr. Unites responded that staff will provide quarterly updates to the Committee.

Member Powers asked about the public attendance at the trip planning sessions. Ms. Alaniz responded that VTA utilized well attended venues to ensure that many individuals were contacted. She stated that customers may also utilize VTA's new Trip Planner powered by Google or contact VTA's Customer Service Call Center for bus and route information.

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the Update on New Bus Service for January 14, 2008 was discussed.

11. VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007

John H. Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, provided a brief report on the VTP Highway Semi-Annual Progress Report. Mr. Ristow reported on the Progress Summary and highlighted the following:

Conceptual Study Projects

- Mapping and traffic studies for the US 101 Implementation – Trimble to Mabury Project; and
- VTA is performing conceptual studies and preparing a Project Study Report (PSR) within the limits of the El Camino Real/Route 85/237/Middlefield Project.

Projects in the Environmental/Preliminary Engineering Phase

- US 101 Auxiliary Lanes – Embarcadero to Route 85 Project is in the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) Phase with the preparation of the Environmental Document;
- I-880 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Widening Project is in Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) Phase;
- US 101 Improvements – I-280 to Yerba Buena Road Project was signed by Caltrans on December 1, 2005, upon project approval, VTA will file the Mitigated Negative Declaration at the County of Santa Clara and at the State Clearinghouse;
- VTA is performing preliminary engineering and conceptual design for the I-880/ I-280/Stevens Creek Improvements Project. Current work includes traffic studies, surveys, mapping, and preparation of a PSR;
- VTA is preparing preliminary engineering design and studies of the proposed US 101/Route 25 Interchange and US 101 Widening – Monterey Road to Route 129;
- Work to complete a PSR/Project Report and Environmental Document (State – CEQA only) for the US 101 De La Cruz Boulevard/Trimble Road Interchange Improvements;
- VTA met with the City of Milpitas and presented new options for connections at Main Street as part of the Calaveras Boulevard Improvements; and
- Mary Avenue Extension Project is currently in the Project Approval/Environmental Document Phase with the Environmental Document and the combined Project Study Report/Project Report expected to be finalized in early 2008.

Projects in Final Design (PS&E)

- The design team for the I-880/Route 237 Planting Project is preparing design submittals for Caltrans with completion of the 65 percent design anticipated in Fall 2007; and
- VTA is preparing design submittals for the I-880/Coleman Avenue Planting Project to Caltrans with the 65 percent anticipated to be complete in Fall 2007.

Projects under Construction

- RGW Construction, Inc. was awarded the construction contract for the Route 152/156 Interchange Project with the first charged day on March 27, 2007. Stage 2 construction, including pavement, retaining wall, and embankment construction, is now complete, and traffic is being shifted onto the widened pavement to allow construction of the separation structure.

Member Powers expressed appreciation for the report layout and details. Mr. Ristow stated that the goal of the Progress Summary report is to communicate overall progress in a simple and informative manner.

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report was discussed.

12. Report on Eastridge Access to the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project

Ken Ronsse, Design and Construction Manager, provided a brief report on the Eastridge Access to the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project. Mr. Ronsse highlighted the following: Project Background, Project Location, Operational Characteristics, Project Description, Multi-Modal Corridor, Project Budget and Schedule, Eastridge Transit Center, and Eastridge Station Configuration.

Mr. Ronsse reported that part of the Downtown East Valley (DTEV) Transit Plan is included in the 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program with the following two implementation phases for light rail: Eastridge Extension and Nieman Extension.

Operational Characteristics

- High speed light rail (mainly 55 mph with exclusive right-of-way);
- Establishes important transit hub that includes light rail, bus, shopping and health service;
- Additional daily ridership estimated at 2,135 in year 2030 for the Eastridge Extension;
- Potential for new transit oriented developments and more potential transit users;
- Project would encourage industrial and commercial development and create more job opportunities; and
- Connects transit link between East Valley to job-rich North San Jose, Downtown San Jose, and BART.

Project Description

- 3.1 mile light rail extension of Capitol Light Rail line in City of San Jose;
- Transitions current 8 lane expressway to 6 lane multi-modal boulevard;
- Grade Separation at major intersections and POC at elevated Story Station;
- (3) Light Rail Stations for Eastridge located at Story Road, Ocala-Cunningham, and Eastridge and (1) Light Rail Station for Nieman Extension; and
- Expansion and reconfiguration of Eastridge Transit Center.

Multi-Modal Corridor

- Removing existing Capitol Expressway community barrier;
- Improving pedestrian safety by reduction of roadway width and speed;
- Providing continuous multi-use path on east side of expressway;
- Adding landscape buffer along the expressway;
- Including extensive tree planting in median;
- Introducing bike lanes along expressway; and
- Connecting walkways to proposed creek trails.

Mr. Ronsse reported that the Eastridge Extension Project Budget is \$334 million, noting that the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) were approved. The final design for the Eastridge Extension Project is underway and the next activities include the archeological investigation, property acquisition, and utility relocation. Eastridge Extension Project is scheduled for revenue service in FY 2013.

Nieman Extension Project Budget is \$210 million, noting that the FEIR was approved with the Eastridge Extension Project. The Nieman Extension Project SEIR and project design are scheduled in the future.

Mr. Ronsse reported that the Eastridge Station configuration will be a multi-modal facility with an integrated plaza that has a strong connection between bus and light rail service. The Eastridge Station will be coordinated with airport restriction and mall expansion plan. The Eastridge Station will allow for convenient light rail extension in the future and includes flexibility for light rail operations.

Member Powers queried about the high cost of the Nieman Extension Project. Mr. Ronsse responded that the cost is due mainly to the Aerial Guideway Structure and a 15 train layover facility for the light rail system.

Member Rogers asked about the DTEV Project. Mr. Ronsse responded that the DTEV Project environmental document will include two options: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or light rail for the project, noting that the plan would accommodate either option.

Member Tebo stated that the Eastridge Station appears to be an excellent facility for the neighborhood and buses, but inadequate for transit riders since the connection is at the back of the mall. Mr. Ronsse responded that the Eastridge Station is the end of the system line and the intent was to ensure that everyone's needs were best served.

Members Tebo and Rogers suggested that the connection be closer to the mall to ensure that it is convenient for the transit riders. Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, responded that staff has tried several times to have discussions and negotiate with Eastridge Mall management to try to have the connection closer to the mall.

Member Tebo stressed the importance to make transit connections convenient for the riders. Member Tebo expressed appreciation and thanked staff for the presentation.

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the Report on Eastridge Access to the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project was discussed.

9. Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements (continued)

Mark Robinson, Acting Chief Engineering and Construction Officer, referenced Member Hashimoto's question regarding accident data. Mr. Robinson stated that accident data has been collected since 2001.

Mr. Robinson referenced Member Probst's question regarding improvements for Churchill Avenue. Mr. Robinson responded that improvements are inventoried in the HNTB report.

13. Update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process for the Independent Auditor

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a brief update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process for the Independent Auditor. Mr. Lawson reported that one of the responsibilities of the 2000 Measure A Watchdog Committee is to perform an annual audit of the 2000 Measure A Program Budget. This year based on the CWC a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued for the Independent Auditor.

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, reported that the RFP is in its final review stage. Mr. Flynn stated that it will be available to be advertised within the next week in the Mercury Newspaper and other newspapers. Staff anticipates that VTA will receive proposals the second week in January 2008.

Mr. Flynn suggested that the Audit Subcommittee be established at the January 9, 2008 meeting to review, evaluate, and create a short list of the firms for the Committee to review and select from. Mr. Flynn suggested that the Committee consider the final award of the Independent Auditor at the February 13, 2008 meeting.

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the Update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process for the Independent Auditor was discussed.

COMBINED CAC AND CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE ITEMS

14. CAC and the 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Work Plan

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the CAC and the 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Work Plan was reviewed.

OTHER

15. Announcements

Member Hashimoto stressed the importance to place funding in storm water planning efforts and queried about VTA's planning efforts. Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, responded that VTA projects go through an extensive environmental process, noting that projects that receive federal funding go through a federal environmental process.

Member Rogers announced that the City of Gilroy accepted an application from Westfield Shopping Mall to construct a mall similar to Santana Row and queried when the application would be reviewed by the Congestion Management Agency. Mr. Lawson responded that staff will come back to the Committee with information.

Member Rogers also announced that Joe Thompson in Gilroy is advocating constructing more Intermodal Facilities in the jurisdiction. Member Rogers queried if the Congestion Management Agency would review the Intermodal Facilities. Mr. Lawson responded that staff will come back to the Committee with information.

16. ADJOURN

On order of Chairperson Schulter, there being no objection, the Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Garza, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors