

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
and
2000 MEASURE A CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairperson Tebo, in Conference Room B-104, VTA River Oaks Campus, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Noel Tebo	CAC Chairperson	Present	
Charlotte Powers	CAC Member	Present	
Margaret Okuzumi	CAC Member	Absent	
Connie Rogers	CAC Member	Absent	
Roberta Hughan	CAC Member	Absent	
Ray Hashimoto	CAC Member	Present	
Gaye Morando	CAC Member	Present	
Robert Jacobvitz	CAC Vice Chairperson	Present	
Sally Probst	CAC Member	Present	
Martin Schulter	CAC Member	Absent	
Stephen Blaylock	CAC Member	Present	
Chris Elias	CAC Member	Present	
Norman Kline	CAC Member	Present	
Bena Chang	CAC Member	Present	

A quorum was present.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Chairperson Tebo moved Agenda Item #6, Receive a report on the Semi-Annual Measure A Fund Exchange, after the Consent Agenda.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

4. Committee Staff Report

Greta Helm, Chief External Affairs Officer and Staff Liaison, reported on the following: 1) Martin Luther King Train sponsored by VTA; 2) Schedule of public meetings to discuss changes to the Transit Service Plan; 3) Update on the State budget; and 4) Status of federal stimulus package.

Member Elias took his seat at 4:37 p.m.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Tebo reported attending the December 11, 2008 Board of Directors Workshop. He noted the Workshop identified the following projects as priority: 1) Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) project; 2) Caltrain electrification; 3) High Speed Rail; and 4) Protection of existing services. He stressed the importance of the Committee's input on the priority projects.

Member Kline reported on topics discussed at the Workshop. He noted the bonding crisis has affected the long-term plans of VTA. He stated the General Manager recommends implementing self funded two-year Capital Improvement Projects. He stressed the SVRT is the main priority among all the projects. He suggested the Committee receive a presentation on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) so the Committee can provide their input.

Chairperson Tebo inquired on the Committee's items of concern for year 2009.

Member Powers expressed concern on passenger safety. She inquired if budget cutbacks would affect the security on public transportation.

Member Elias expressed concern on the changes to the project priorities. He stressed the importance of communicating changes to the public. He also expressed concern on the Governor's proposal to waive environmental regulations.

Member Blaylock noted the importance of continually reviewing the transportation system. He expects the Committee's structure and function to grow and be improved. He suggested the Committee receive more information on Express Lanes.

Member Probst commented on the significance of workers' rights and improving public relations. She recommended receiving more information on Express Lanes. She noted the entrance to State Route 85 from Moffet Boulevard, in the City of Mountain View, not be lost due to the Express Lanes.

Member Chang commented on the importance of reviewing the 2000 Measure A figures to effectively provide input to the Board of Directors.

Member Hashimoto commented on enhancing the need for new developments. He expressed concern on unessential environmental requirements that delay project completion and increases project cost.

Vice Chairperson Jacobvitz suggested enhancing the relationship of VTA to the public and improve access to public transportation. He recommended providing continuous education to staff. He announced staff would be attending a Building Owners and Managers Association luncheon to communicate VTA's projects and future plans.

Greta Helm, Chief External Affairs Officer and Staff Liaison, noted the Communication Department is available to work with the Committee to improve VTA's relationship with the public.

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

The Agenda was taken out of order.

COMBINED CAC AND 2000 MEASURE A CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDAS

7. Minutes of December 10, 2008

Member Probst recommended removing the name of Ex-CAC Member Fletcher on the Roll Call list.

M/S/C (Powers/Jacobvitz) to approve the minutes of December 10, 2008 as amended.

8. CAC Quarterly Attendance Report

On order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the CAC Quarterly Attendance Report.

9. Monthly Legislative History Matrix

On order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Monthly Legislative History Matrix.

2000 MEASURE A CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE REGULAR AGENDA

6. Measure A Exchange Semi-Annual Report

Amin Surani, Principal Transportation Planner, reported the goal of the fund exchange is to provide funding to local projects. He noted the attachment illustrates the status of the projects, breakdown of the funds, and project expenditures.

Chairperson Tebo inquired on the impact of the fund exchange to the Capitol Expressway LRT Extension and Airport People Mover projects. Mr. Surani responded the two projects would not be affected. He noted the construction schedule for the two projects matches the availability of STIP funds.

Member Kline expressed concern on the exchange made with Measure A and STIP funds. He commented there is a risk STIP funds would not be available to replace Measure A funds. He recommended changing the language of the fund exchange to state Measure A funds were loaned and allocated STIP funds would be used to pay it back. Mr. Surani responded STIP funds are provided by the State on a two-year cycle. He explained the California Transportation Commission already assigned STIP funds for the two major projects. He noted the fund exchange was instrumental in moving some of the local projects forward.

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

Member Elias commented on the possibility that receipt of STIP funds may be delayed due to the current economic crisis. Mr. Surani explained delay on receiving STIP funds would not affect the two projects because they would not be ready to utilize the funds.

Member Elias inquired on the status of the state budget in relation to transportation funding. Ms. Helm responded staff would provide a status on the state budget to the Committee at a future meeting.

Member Kline recommended the status of the fund exchange should be released to the public and incorporated to the 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee report.

Member Chang inquired if the use of Measure A funds for local projects has cost savings. Mr. Surani responded there are cost savings because local projects are not subject to undergo State processes.

Member Powers expressed support for the fund exchange. She noted it moves local projects forward and provides cost savings. She recommended the Committee receive information on the status of the Measure A projects and the STIP process.

Member Kline recommended developing a policy for the 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee that would deal with issues similar to the fund exchange.

Member Blaylock recommended agendaizing the Measure A Exchange Semi-Annual Report as an Action Item at a future meeting to provide an opportunity for the Committee's input.

Member Probst commented on the significance of having the flexibility to use restricted funds on projects ready for completion before costs escalate.

Chairperson Tebo commented more transit projects need to be incorporated on the list of projects under the fund exchange.

On order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the Committee received the Measure A Exchange Semi-Annual Report.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR AGENDA

10. Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: January

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, reported all advisory committees approved their draft mission statements. She noted some advisory committees continue to meet to update their bylaws. Next step is to develop a Task Force. The goal of the Task Force is to align advisory committee work plans with standing committee work plans to eliminate duplication. She noted this process would enhance the advisory committees' role to advise the Board of Directors.

On order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the Committee received the Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: January.

11. CAC Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee

There was report from the CAC ACE Subcommittee.

12. 2009 Annual Transit Service Plan

Jim Unites, Operations Planning Program Manager, reported on the 2009 Annual Transit Service Plan highlighting the following: 1) Proposed major service changes; 2) Proposed community bus studies; 3) Proposed minor service change; and 4) Marketing/Community outreach plan.

Member Chang recommended language be incorporated in the Proposed VTA Annual Transit Service Plan handout that states “increased bus service would be provided on performing bus lines.”

Member Kline inquired if staff plans to conduct a strategic approach to enhance the performance and structure of community buses. He recommended providing free community bus service that connects to major bus lines. He noted this approach would increase ridership.

Member Elias requested the Committee receive a presentation on Light Rail Systems Analysis.

On order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the Committee received a report on the 2009 Annual Transit Service Plan.

COMBINED CAC AND CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE ITEMS

13. CAC and the 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog (CWC) Work Plans

Member Kline requested a presentation on Bus Rapid Transit be agendaized.

Member Blaylock requested the Measure D item be agendaized at a future meeting.

On order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the CAC and CWC Work Plans.

OTHER

14. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On Order of Chairperson Tebo and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco
VTA Board of Directors