

Date: _____ November 13, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: _____ December 12, 2007

Board Meeting Date: _____ N/A

BOARD MEMORANDUM

INFORMATION ITEM

TO: Committee for Transit Accessibility
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Donald A. Smith, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Bus Stop Shelters at Scott Boulevard and Space Park in Santa Clara

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

BACKGROUND:

At the September 2006 Committee for Transit Accessibility meeting, Ms. Maureen Daly and Mr. David Crawford from Hope Services on Alfred Street in Santa Clara requested, during public comments, that VTA install a bus shelter and trash receptacle at the bus stop on Scott Boulevard at Space Park Drive in Santa Clara, near Hope Services. Chairperson Morrow requested that staff meet with Ms. Daly and Mr. Crawford after the meeting to address the issue. This memorandum updates the Committee on progress achieved to-date in accommodating the request.

DISCUSSION:

VTA contracts with Clear Channel Outdoor Advertising to provide passenger shelters and maintenance in exchange for advertising rights at 75% of the VTA bus stops that have shelters. The contract allows for up to 694 shelters throughout the County, and they have been divided up per agreements with each of the fifteen cities in the County. All of the 694 shelters have been deployed in the field and there are no provisions in the contract to expand beyond that number.

Clear Channel has two types of shelters. One is their standard shelter that contains a lighted side panel in which the ad is placed. These shelters are six feet by twelve feet, and require a significant amount of sidewalk space or a special concrete pad to accommodate the shelter and still maintain accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The other type of shelter that Clear Channel stocks in small quantities has a three-foot by twelve-foot footprint. It does not contain an advertising panel. These smaller shelters can be used in areas with limited sidewalk width that do not permit the use of a standard size shelter.

VTA Staff determines which stops receive shelters based on criteria focusing on stop boardings and the physical constraints of the stop. Unless the stop has a high volume of riders (typically

100 or more per day), VTA will not normally place a shelter there. Physical constraints will also often preclude the placement of a shelter at a stop.

VTA Staff have monthly meetings with Clear Channel to discuss issues related to the placement and maintenance of shelters. The request to have shelters placed at the two stops at Scott Boulevard and Space Park has been discussed at these meetings. After completing a site review, Clear Channel and VTA staff agreed that the northbound stop could accommodate a small shelter and still comply with ADA. Delays in installing the shelter were due to the need to identify a small shelter to relocate to the stop and a need to revise Clear Channel's indemnification language due to changes in Santa Clara's permitting requirements. The entire process took much longer than expected.

Clear Channel reported to VTA that even their smaller shelter will not fit at the southbound stop with enough clearance to meet ADA accessibility requirements. The site restrictions include a narrow sidewalk, a grassy berm behind the sidewalk with only a small recessed area cut into the berm with a retaining wall, a traffic signal pole near the recessed area, and a utility box in the sidewalk that requires access be maintained. The combination of few passenger boardings (averaging 22 per day) and the physical constraints that will not accommodate even a smaller shelter led to the determination that this location is unsuitable for a shelter. VTA Staff reported these findings to the CTA at its October 10, 2007 meeting.

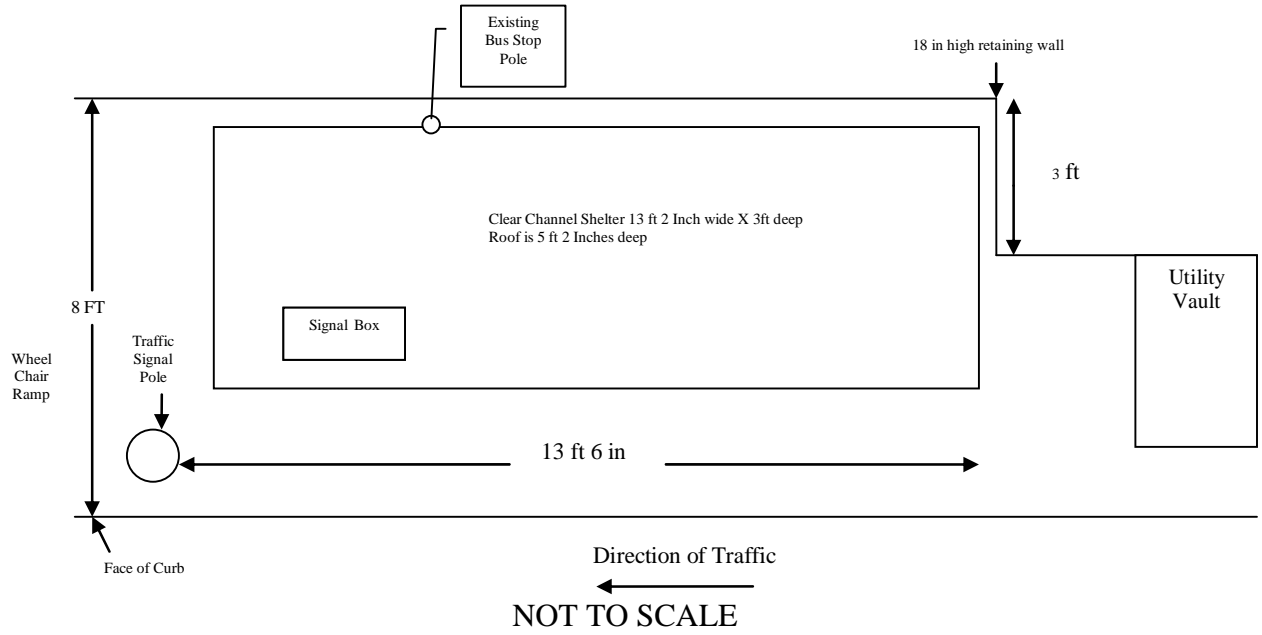
Stop 317302 Southbound at Scott Boulevard Opposite Space Park



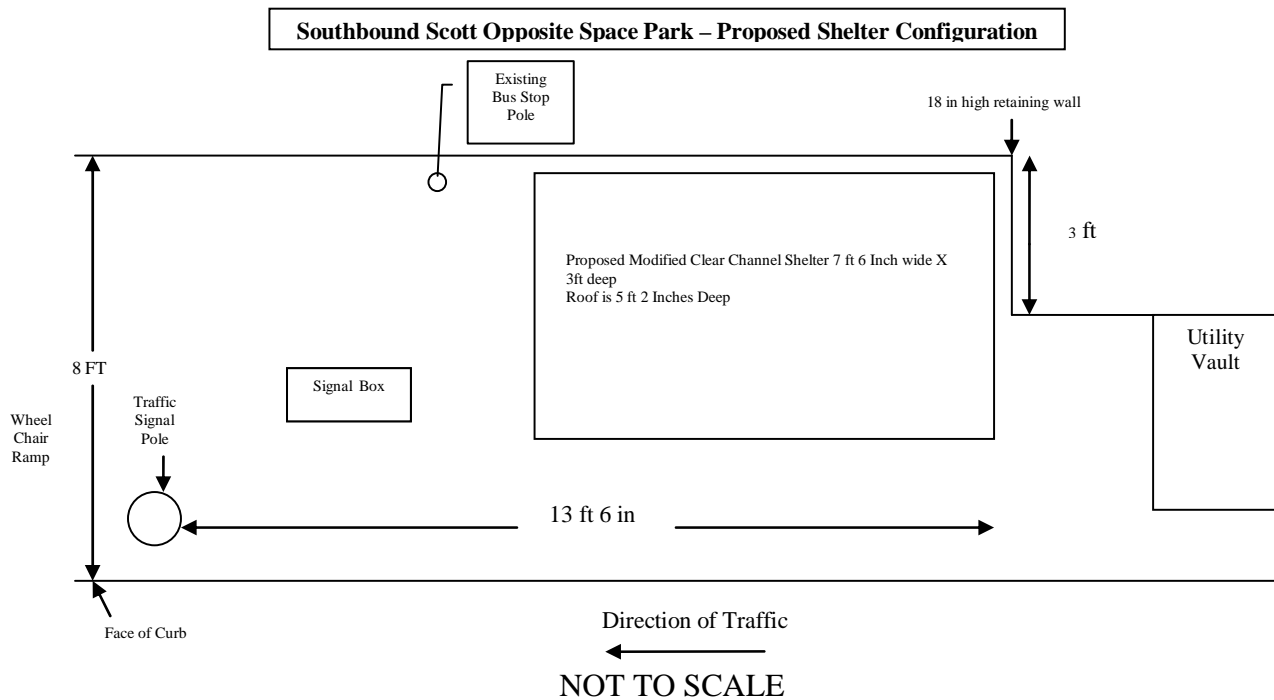
Stop 317302 Southbound at Scott Boulevard Opposite Space Park



Southbound Scott Opposite Space Park – Clearances with Small Shelter Configuration



VTA Staff continued to work with Clear Channel to explore other options for placing a shelter at this location. One was the possibility of modifying a small shelter to fit into the existing recessed area and maintain ADA compliance. As shown in the diagram below, the proposed configuration would be 7.5 feet wide by 3 feet deep (walls) with a roof that is the standard 5 feet 2 inches deep. This would provide adequate clearance between the shelter and the signal box, bus stop pole, traffic signal pole and wheelchair ramp to the left and the utility vault to the right. While their shelter contract does not require Clear Channel to make custom modifications to their shelters, they expressed a willingness to explore this option and report their findings back to VTA.



Prepared by: William Capps, Manager, Service and Operations Planning