

Date: _____ November 30, 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: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: Regional Transportation Plan / Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

BACKGROUND:

At the meeting, staff will provide a short verbal briefing on the status of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and VTA's update of its long-range transportation plan, Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030. Most elements of the VTP update will proceed on a schedule that is slightly ahead of the RTP. The RTP sets a planning framework for transportation in the entire Bay Area by establishing a regional "vision" for transportation policy issues and also transportation program development and project funding. Countywide long-range transportation plans, such as VTP 2035, provide county-level vision and input into the RTP.

DISCUSSION:

The current RTP process essentially involves 5 steps: 1) defining a regional vision; 2) assessing the performance of the vision; 3) developing policies to support the plan vision; 4) developing phases for the vision given finances; and 5) developing a financially-constrained plan. Because of the complexity of understanding, coordinating the elements and articulating issues for the nine-county Bay Area, the structure and schedule of key tasks for the RTP is dynamic, and Agency staff must be prepared to adapt, sometimes in very short timeframes, to changing conditions or requirements. In addition, MTC must be flexible to respond to new State or Federal legislation, or to interpretations of recently adopted legislation, which may in turn influence requirements at a local level. The RTP is scheduled for adoption by MTC in early 2009, and must include a list of

financially-constrained projects. Any project that could have regional significance, particularly as it pertains to air quality or transportation system capacity enhancement, must be in the fiscally-constrained portion of the RTP to receive Federal or State funding, or to move into construction phases.

VTP projects serve as VTA’s recommendations for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The core planning and policy development work for both the VTP and RTP will occur over the next 12-16 months leading to the adoption of both plan updates in late 2008 and early 2009, respectively. This work will include program and project development, strategic planning work, policy development, and community outreach.

At the December committee meeting, staff will provide a brief verbal presentation about the VTP and RTP processes, including an outline of key events. Over the next 16 months, additional items will be periodically brought through the appropriate committees and to the Board for information and action as needed. Table 1 below provides an overview of key events.

Table 1 VTP 2035 – Current Schedule of Key Events

| Key Event | Timeframe |
|--|------------------------|
| VTA begins updating project lists | September/October 2007 |
| MTC releases fund estimates | September/October 2007 |
| MTC conducts initial visioning analysis | October 2007 |
| Begin VTP Visioning, Goal setting, and Policy Development | Fall 2007 |
| Formalize VTP programs and project lists (financially-constrained and unconstrained lists) | Winter/Spring 2008 |
| Public review of VTA programs and project lists | Spring 2008 |
| Community Outreach | Spring/Summer 2008 |
| Submit final project lists to MTC | April 2008 |
| VTA develops draft VTP 2035 | Spring/Summer 2008 |
| Public review of Draft VTP 2030 | Summer/Fall 2008 |
| Adopt VTP 2035 | Winter 2008 |
| MTC adopts the RTP | Early 2009 |

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