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 ACTION DISCUSSION INFO X

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Policy Advisory Committee
 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
 Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
 General Manager

FROM: Carolyn M. Gonot
 Chief Development Officer

SUBJECT: Caltrain Capital Priorities Study

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

VTA, as one of the three member agencies of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain JPB), is responsible for contributing to the Caltrain capital program. VTA's capital contribution comes from three sources; funds identified in the Measure A Revenue and Expenditure Plan, capital funds in the VTA annual capital budget, and state and federal funds that come to the San Jose Urbanized Area that can be used for transit capital projects.

The purpose of the Caltrain Capital Priorities Study is to develop a prioritized list of capital improvements to the Caltrain system, which will meet operational needs, improve passenger accessibility, and improve system ridership over a 30-year time horizon. The study will guide VTA capital investments in the Caltrain system for federal, state and local funds (including 2000 Measure A sales tax revenues) allocated to Santa Clara County for transit purposes.

Study Methodology

A subcommittee of the VTA Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed to provide policy guidance, score individual Caltrain projects, and make recommendations to the VTA Board of Directors. Cities along the Caltrain line within Santa Clara County contributed projects to be evaluated.

VTA staff, assisted by consultant Kimley-Horn Associates, developed a methodology to first establish a 30-year list of Caltrain capital projects and then evaluate and prioritize projects for investment. VTA staff worked closely with staff from the Caltrain JPB throughout this process. The results of an initial VTA staff/consultant scoring exercise were presented to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee modified the initial set of criteria and applied weights to each criterion. The Subcommittee decided to exclude Caltrain capital projects that were specifically funded in the VTA Expenditure Plan (i.e. electrification, Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center) from the scoring exercise. The Subcommittee then scored the projects.

Study Results

The results of study will allow VTA to prioritize its investment in Caltrain capital projects. The methodology developed by the Subcommittee using weighted criteria can be used periodically to update evaluation of Caltrain investments.

The Subcommittee will complete its work on November 30, 2006 and a report will be issued and shared with the PAC. The VTA Board of Directors is scheduled to review and consider the report in January 2007.

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