

Date: August 1, 2007
Committee Meeting Date: August 9, 2007
Board Meeting Date: August 30, 2007
ACTION X DISCUSSION INFO

BOARD MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Acting Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: Community Design & Transportation Program Capital Grants

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors approve the programming of \$3,430,612 in Community Design & Transportation Program Capital Grants to projects as shown in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND:

The VTA Board of Directors approved the Community Design & Transportation (CDT) Program to provide information and tools, as well as planning, technical, and design assistance to Member Agencies to influence a proactive planning and development process linking land use decision making to transportation investments. During the development of the CDT Program, Member Agencies also expressed the need for VTA to provide financial resources to assist in implementing the CDT Program. Accordingly, VTA established two new Grant Fund Programs: CDT Planning Grants and CDT Capital Grants.

CDT Planning grants provide funding for Member Agencies to prepare projects for implementation and to amend agency development standards to allow for more pedestrian and bike friendly transportation facility design designs. In August 2004, VTA issued the first CDT Planning Grants call-for-projects. The VTA Board awarded planning grants totaling \$475,000 in February 2005. VTA anticipates conducting two additional cycles of \$475,000 each for CDT Planning Grants in 2007 and 2008.

The CDT Capital Grant program is intended to help Member Agencies design and build transit- and pedestrian-friendly projects and to include transit- and pedestrian-friendly elements in capital projects related to transit facilities, streets, and core areas such as downtowns. The funding for the CDT Capital Grant Program is identified in the 25-year long-range countywide transportation plan, Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030, adopted by the VTA Board in February 2005.

Funding for the CDT Capital Grant Program comes through the regional share of the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Program established by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). MTC provided \$8.8 million in federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds for this cycle. The use of these funds is limited to the CDT program and VTA cannot direct them for other purposes.

DISCUSSION:

VTA issued an initial Capital call-for-projects on July 18, 2006, and the VTA Board programmed \$5,843,440 to 5 projects on December 14, 2006. The remaining funds were held in abeyance pending clarification and revision of the evaluation criteria and project selection process.

At its February 1, 2007 meeting, the VTA Board of Directors approved the revised evaluation criteria and procedure clarification for selecting projects and awarding Community Design and Transportation Program Capital Grants. VTA issued a Call for Projects for the remaining \$2,900,000 on February 12, 2007 with submissions being due on April 6, 2007.

VTA received 10 project proposals under the second round of CDT Capital Grant Program grants totaling \$9 million. A scoring committee composed of city and County representatives of the VTA Technical Advisory Committee's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Working Group evaluated the projects. Following the Board adopted process and procedures; the scoring committee met to review the applications, conduct site visits and develop a project ranking recommendation. The results are summarized in Attachment A.

The initial cumulative grant requests of the five most highly ranked projects totaled approximately \$3.9 Million. Due to the excellent quality of these applications, there is very little difference between their final scores. In order to fund all five of the top projects, VTA staff first requested that the project sponsors refine their budget estimates to reduce the overall costs. The costs refinement reduced the total grant request to approximately \$3.4 million, approximately \$530,000 more than the \$2.9 million available for the program. VTA staff believes that any further reductions in scope and costs of the projects would seriously compromise the quality and/or deliverability of the projects.

VTA, in its capacity as the CMA, has the ability to request that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) advance future year Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) County Share. VTA is therefore

recommending that the Board advance an additional \$530,612 in 2009/10 TE funds in order to program all five projects as shown in Attachment A.

ALTERNATIVES:

The VTA Board may request other programming alternatives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No funding from the VTA Transit Enterprise Fund will be used for this work. The VTA Board will make \$3,430,612 in federal Transportation Enhancement and CMAQ funds available for projects in Santa Clara County. VTA's role is limited to approving project priorities. No funds will pass through VTA accounts and the program is therefore not reflected in the VTA Operating or Capital Budgets. Upon final approval, the member agencies receiving these grants will work through Caltrans Local Assistance Program to receive project costs reimbursement payments directly from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Prepared by: Bill Hough, Transportation Planner III
Reviewed by: Marcella Rensi, Manager, Programming & Grants

Attachment A

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	CDT PROJECT REQUEST	CUMULATIVE REQUEST	Score	Rank
Milpitas	S. Abel Street & S. Main Street Streetscape Improvements Phase I	\$850,500	\$850,500	74	1
San Jose	Jackson Street: LRT to Japantown Ped Corridor (1st to 4th)	\$1,300,000	\$2,150,500	74	1
Gilroy	Sixth Street Streetscape West	\$458,500	\$2,609,000	73	2
Saratoga	Saratoga Village Enhancement Project	\$425,000	\$3,034,000	73	2
Sunnyvale	Murphy Ave Streetscape Revitalization Project (Element #1)	\$396,612	\$3,430,612	73	2
Gilroy	Sixth Street Streetscape East	\$610,000	\$4,040,612	65	
Gilroy	Fourth Street Streetscape	\$508,000	\$4,548,612	59	
San Jose	Jackson Street: LRT to Japantown Ped Corridor (4th to 9th)	\$1,500,000	\$6,048,612	59	
Palo Alto	California Avenue Streetscape Improvements	\$1,227,500	\$7,276,112	57	
Sunnyvale	Downtown Streetscape Improvements	\$1,500,000	\$8,776,112	57	
TOTAL		\$8,776,112			

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$2,900,000
TOTAL #1 & #2 RANKED PROJECTS	\$3,430,612
UNDER (OVER)	(\$530,612)