

Date: October 3, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: October 11, 2007

Board Meeting Date: November 1, 2007

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION DISCUSSION INFO X

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

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief Development Officer

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

FOR INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION:

At the meeting, staff will provide a 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 2030 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 2030, provide county-level vision and input into the RTP.

DISCUSSION:

The current RTP process essentially involves 5 steps: 1) defining a regional vision; 2) assess the performance of the vision; 3) develop 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 Congestion Management Agency (CMA) 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; that is, projects that are fully funded for capital, operations and maintenance for the life of the plan. 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 12-18 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 September committee meeting, staff will provide a brief presentation about the VTP and RTP updates, including an outline of issues and key events. Over the next 18-months additional items will be periodically brought through committees and to the Board for information and action. Table 1 below provides an overview of key events.

Table 1. VTP 2030 – 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	Winter/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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