

Date: October 3, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: October 11, 2007

Board Meeting Date: N/A

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
Acting Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: ABAG Focus Our Vision Priority Development Areas (PDA)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

BACKGROUND

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) are leading an effort to identify a blueprint for growth in the region – called Focus our Vision; or simply FOCUS. The Bay Area region is the only large urbanized area in the state that does not have a guiding regional blueprint. ABAG and MTC believe that a blueprint for growth in the region is necessary in order to be prepared for opportunities for funding from (as yet undefined) state or federal programs. In addition, the FOCUS effort is integral with the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

DISCUSSION

The cornerstones of the FOCUS effort are establishing Priority Development Areas (PDA) and Priority Conservation Areas (PCA). As currently defined, a PDA must be in an already developed area, be within ¼ mile radius of transit service with 15-minute or better frequency, include 100 continuous acres of area, and be an area where housing development is planned or will be planned in the future. The application process is voluntary with the upside being the incentive of positioning those areas to receive possible funding. The downside or repercussions for not applying have not been identified or discussed by ABAG and MTC.

Local jurisdictions, county agencies and congestion management agencies (CMA) may apply for PDA status. ABAG and MTC have accepted the first round of applications for cities, counties

and CMAs and are currently evaluating these applications. Per the request of ABAG and MTC, VTA submitted the cores, corridors and station areas framework of its Community Design & Transportation (CDT) Program since cities have formally endorsed this program. This action will allow jurisdictions and VTA to apply for future funding within ¼ mile of these areas. Incentives may include technical assistance and planning grants. As currently structured, if capital grant funding becomes available for PDAs jurisdictions would have to adopt MTC's resolution '*Priority Development Area Designation under the FOCUS Program*' through a formal council or Board action.

The FOCUS effort is still very dynamic, and changes will likely occur through 2008 as the RTP develops. VTA staff is working with ABAG and MTC staff on the development of this effort, and is participating in the FOCUS TAC meetings. At the September 2007 meeting, staff will provide additional information on the FOCUS effort, and will continue to keep the committee informed on the development of this effort. A second opportunity to apply for PDA status will occur in Spring 2008.

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