

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 11, 2007

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson Moylan in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Margaret Abe-Koga
David Casas
Dominic Caserta
Steve Glickman
Kathleen King
Yoriko Kishimoto
Marby Lee
Pete McHugh
Christopher Moylan, Chairperson
Pierluigi Oliverio
Kris Wang, Vice Chairperson

Representative Cities

Mountain View
Los Altos
Santa Clara
Los Gatos
Saratoga
Palo Alto
Morgan Hill
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Sunnyvale
San Jose
Cupertino

Members Absent

Evan Low
Al Pinheiro
Vacant
Curtis Wright

Representative Cities

Campbell
Gilroy
Los Altos Hills
Monte Sereno

A quorum was present.

2. **Orders of the Day**

Chairperson Moylan requested that the following Agenda Item be moved to the Consent Agenda: **Agenda Item #9.**, Approve the following amendments to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) bylaws requested by the PAC and incorporate modifications approved in concept by the Board of Directors: 1) Section 5.4 to change the quorum requirement from majority of total authorized membership to majority of total appointed members or seven, whichever is greater; 2) Section 5.4 to change the voting requirement to permit a majority of the quorum to pass an item, provided that if the number of votes approving any recommendation is less than the quorum, then the minutes of the meeting shall contain a notation that the item was passed by less than a majority of the total appointed membership; and 3) Section 4.1 to require that the PAC Chairperson shall indicate during his/her verbal report to the Board when the number of votes approving any recommendation is less than a quorum.

Chairperson Moylan requested that the following Agenda Item be placed before Agenda Item #10: **Agenda Item #12.**, Receive a presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities.

M/S/C (Kishimoto/Caserta) to accept the Orders of the Day.

3. **Public Presentations**

There were no Public Presentations.

4. **Committee Staff Report**

There was no Committee Staff Report

- **VTA Board Chairperson's Report**

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager, introduced and welcomed Dean J. Chu, VTA Board of Directors Chairperson.

Chairperson Chu greeted the Committee and provided an update on several of the major activities occurring at VTA highlighting: 1) Financial update and commented that VTA is making great strides on strengthening its financial outlook, the Biennial budget remains healthy, and VTA has begun charging lower passenger fares for selected fare categories; 2) Update on the countywide long range transportation plan for Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035, which will provide a planning framework for developing and delivering transportation projects and programs over the next 25 years; 3) Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is set to update the long-range transportation plan for the region, known as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2035 and that public forums are planned by MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG);

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4) The Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) was unanimously approved by the VTA Board of Directors at their August 30, 2007 meeting, and VTA has continued meeting with the City of Palo Alto to conduct further analysis of the City and VTA will hold the first of three workshops on October 23, 2007 to receive input from the community; 5) Announced that the Board of Directors considered the PAC's proposed bylaw amendments and they are scheduled to take formal action in November 2007; 6) Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law two VTA sponsored bills; AB 1492 (Laird), which authorizes VTA and the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transportation District to once again use the yield to buses sign that were installed on the vehicle that will require motorists to yield to buses attempting to re-enter a traffic lane after having served a bus stop, and SB264 (Alquist) that allows VTA to impose a local sales tax for transportation purposes at a rate of 1/8 percent, subject to a 2/3 vote of the electorate; 7) Review of two additional VTA sponsored bills awaiting the Governor's signature: AB 574 (Torrico), that would provide VTA the authority to bond against High Occupancy Toll lane (HOT) revenues, and SB 184 (Alquist) that is a technical bill that would allow entities to advance its own funds for any component of a project prior to the allocation of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), provided that the project is programmed in the current year of the STIP; 8) Appropriation of two federal grants totaling \$8.85 million by Congress under the New Starts Program. VTA submitted applications in early 2007 and worked cooperatively with the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) to obtain the release of the funds, which will be used to reimburse VTA for preliminary engineering work related to the BART Extension; and 9) Public Scoping meetings for the BART Extension will be held during the month of October. The meetings will provide the public with information on the project's purpose and need, alternatives, environmental and community impacts and evaluation methodologies. The input received will help define the environmental studies to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), expected to be released in the summer of 2008.

Member Glickman asked if a Regional High Speed Rail route had been determined for Northern California. Chairperson Chu responded that MTC has two items that it is now working with the Regional Rail Program that looks at the commuter rail needs of the Bay Area for the next 45 years, and MTC will shortly select the High Speed Rail route that would best suit the region. Chairperson Chu commented that MTC may select the Pacheco Pass Route as the primary route between Northern and Southern California and the first route constructed. Member Glickman commented that he supports the Pacheco Pass Route.

Member Glickman commented that he supports the Trip Planner and suggests VTA heavily promote the Trip Planner Program to the public. Chairperson Chu stated that it is his vision to equip all buses with Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Member Kishimoto commented that Caltrain should be fully integrated with GPS technology. Member Kishimoto asked if MTC has set climate control goals for the MTC Transportation 2035 Plan. Chairperson Chu responded in the affirmative.

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, commented that there is a requirement in the Regional Transportation Plan to meet requirements regarding greenhouse gases with an attempt to reduce levels to 1990 standards.

Chairperson Chu commented that the City of Sunnyvale Operations has completed an energy audit and City Operations are 17 percent below 1990 emission levels.

Member Casas asked about the 1/8 cent sales tax. Chairperson Chu responded that there has been no determination at this time regarding the sales tax.

Chairperson Chu commented that the Board proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Alum Rock Avenue in place of single car light rail. Chairperson Chu noted that this decision pushes out \$400 million in projects. Member Casas commented that public outreach would be very important regarding progression of Measure A projects.

Mr. Lawson commented that an agreement between San Mateo County and VTA has been completed to help support San Mateo's operation of a hydrogen shuttle bus. Mr. Lawson continued that the vehicle is manufactured by Ford Motor Company and that VTA may consider this type of vehicle for future use in its fleet.

Mr. Lawson reported that the Google Trip Planner will be aggressively advertised and marketed as soon as the errors and omissions within the system have been resolved.

Chairperson Moylan expressed concern that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had an agenda item that was concerned with VTA policy and he inquired why that item was not presented to the PAC. Mr. Lawson answered that the item concerned a bicycle and pedestrian project and therefore under the purview of the TAC and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (BPAC). He commented that the item was considered by the BPAC and received a positive recommendation to forward to the VTA Board of Directors, and TAC voted 8-2 on the item and now the item will now move forward to the Congestion Management and Planning Committee (CMP) before proceeding to the Board for consideration. Chairperson Moylan expressed concern with the premise of waiver of policy.

Chairperson Moylan thanked Chairperson Chu for visiting PAC and for his informative report.

5. **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Moylan indicated that Members Glickman, Kishimoto, and McHugh have agreed to serve on the PAC Nominating Subcommittee. Chairperson Moylan encouraged the PAC to submit names of candidates for the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2008 Subcommittee.

Chairperson Moylan distributed a document from the PAC and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Workshop indicating, "Concerns & Comments Raised by Members." Chairperson Moylan indicated this item will be agendaized for a future PAC meeting.

Member Casas commented that Chairperson Moylan's attendance handout should reflect the CAC/PAC Workshop meeting as an optional meeting.

Members Abe-Koga from the City of Mountain View and Member Lee from the City of Morgan Hill volunteered to present their Local Transportation Needs and Priorities at future PAC meetings.

6. **City Grouping Report.**

There was no City Grouping Report.

**BUSINESS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/
GENERAL MANAGER**

CONSENT

7. **Minutes of August 9, 2007**

M/S/C (Glickman/King) to approve the Minutes of August 9, 2007.

The Agenda was taken out of Order.

9. **Amendments to the Policy Advisory Committee Bylaws Modifying the Quorum and Voting Requirements**

M/S/C (Glickman/King) to approve the following amendments to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) bylaws requested by the PAC and incorporate modifications approved in concept by the Board of Directors: 1) Section 5.4 to change the quorum requirement from majority of total authorized membership to majority of total appointed members or seven, whichever is greater; 2) Section 5.4 to change the voting requirement to permit a majority of the quorum to pass an item, provided that if the number of votes approving any recommendation is less than the quorum, then the minutes of the meeting shall contain a notation that the item was passed by less than a majority of the total appointed membership; and 3) Section 4.1 to require that the PAC Chairperson shall indicate during his/her verbal report to the Board when the number of votes approving any recommendation is less than a quorum.

REGULAR

8. VTA's Financial Update

Jerry Mikolajczyk, Chief Financial Officer, reported that VTA is financially secure and a going concern. He provided an update on VTA's Financial Management, highlighting the accomplishments and benefits to VTA, including: 1) Improvement of cash management with an increased cash balance by \$200 million over the last six months that will yield interest earnings; 2) Reduction of 2000 Measure A outstanding debt by \$54.7 million that will yield interest savings of \$35 million over the life of the bond; 3) The refinancing of Series F & G bonds to a fixed rate, that will result in additional reduction of Measure A debt by \$17.2 million for a total of \$71.9 million in reductions; 4) Implementation of cash management procedure improvements such as an acceleration of grant billings that have resulted in receipts of \$150 million in less than 90 days and payment of accounts payable based on contract terms; 5) Portion of the long-term debt refunded with savings of \$1.6 million; 6) Reduction of the variable interest rate risk on a portion of the outstanding debt; 7) VTA's credit rating has been upgraded by two of the national credit rating agencies; and 8) The FY 08 and FY 09 Biennial Budget adopted by the VTA Board of Directors retains healthy operating reserves while incorporating reduction of passenger fares for selected fare categories.

Mr. Mikolajczyk commented that the deferment of the Single Car Light Rail Alum Rock \$400 million project has been moved to the latter part of the Expenditure Plan and this action will enable funding the project with Measure A tax. This action would generate savings of \$200 to 300 million for Measure A proceeds and will also defer the operating costs. Mr. Mikolajczyk stated he is evaluating Measure A expenditures and considering various cash flow scenarios.

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed VTA's Financial Update.

9. **(Removed from the Regular Agenda and placed on the Consent Agenda.)**

Approve the following amendments to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) bylaws requested by the PAC and incorporate modifications approved in concept by the Board of Directors: 1) Section 5.4 to change the quorum requirement from majority of total authorized membership to majority of total appointed members or seven, whichever is greater; 2) Section 5.4 to change the voting requirement to permit a majority of the quorum to pass an item, provided that if the number of votes approving any recommendation is less than the quorum, then the minutes of the meeting shall contain a notation that the item was passed by less than a majority of the total appointed membership; and 3) Section 4.1 to require that the PAC Chairperson shall indicate during his/her verbal report to the Board when the number of votes approving any recommendation is less than a quorum.

12. Presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Los Gatos

Member Glickman introduced Kevin Rohani, Interim Parks & Public Works Director, provided a Powerpoint presentation entitled, the Town of Los Gatos' Transportation System, Related Needs and Priorities highlighting: 1) Town's Profile; 2) Transportation Goals that include providing an integrated transportation system that meets the Town's character and includes functional and safe streets, continuous sidewalks, trails and bikeways to serve as alternative transportation systems; 3) Needs and priorities; and 4) Transportation Accomplishments.

Mr. Rohani commented that the Los Gatos Community Bus Program has been very successful and reported transportation accomplishments include: 1) Highway 9 Safety Improvements; 2) Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements; 3) Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program; 4) Intersection Improvements; and 5) Street Resurfacing.

Upon inquiry of Member Casas, Mr. Rohani commented that the Town of Los Gatos has applied for State Safe Routes to School Programs and has been very successful in obtaining funds from that source which resulted in the construction of sidewalks along Winchester Boulevard in Los Gatos in addition to installing traffic signals at the intersection of Winchester Boulevard and Daves Avenue.

Member King commented that the City of Saratoga, through the Safe Routes to School Program, was able to install blinking solar lights on the sidewalk. She commented that the DeAnza Trail has been approved at the last Saratoga City Council meeting.

Member Oliverio commented that he supports slower posted speed limits for vehicles in central business districts.

Member Kishimoto inquired when riders commenced paying fares for the Los Gatos Community Bus Program. Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager, and Staff Liaison, responded that fares were introduced into the service July 2007. VTA has noted a slight increase of riders after the introduction of fares.

Member Glickman commented that familiarity and convenience of service are a great incentive in promoting ridership.

Jerry Grace, Interested Citizen, commented that he enjoyed the Los Gatos Transportation presentation.

On order of Chairperson Moylan there being no objection, the Committee received the Presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Los Gatos.

10. Regional Transportation Plan/Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030 Briefing

Chris Augenstein, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a handout entitled, "VTP/RTP Timelines." He stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and VTA's Valley Transportation Plan (VTP 2035) are dynamic long-range regional planning documents.

Mr. Augenstein discussed the timelines and noted that the VTP and RTP run in a parallel schedule. He noted the VTP provides input to the RTP through the project list and the VTP project list is developed through planning studies as well as the review by principal stakeholders. He reviewed the current schedule and noted that VTA is working on updates to VTP 2030 that was adopted by the Board in 2005. He noted that the updated VTP 2035 may contain carry-over projects that were listed in the original VTP 2030.

Upon inquiry by Member Kishimoto regarding when will VTA conduct a public visioning process and obtain public input, Mr. Augenstein stated that there are numerous projects in the pipeline. He commented that new proposals exist for VTP 2035 that address new opportunities and concepts. He stated that the visioning process is a component of the planning process but not the same sequence as MTC's. He stated that currently, MTC is asking for projects very early in the process, before estimates are obtained.

Member Kishimoto expressed concern that climate protection is of great significance and primary goal. Mr. Augenstein commented that the Governor has set goals such as reduction of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels. The current challenge is to identify methodologies to achieve that goal through a regional transportation plan, how to adopt a meaningful role, and determine a practical vision to meet the goal.

Member Glickman inquired how projects will be selected to implement the visionary goals. Mr. Augenstein responded that the process has not yet been defined and is a component of the visionary exercise.

Member Casas recommended that as goals are put forth, VTA staff would summarize those recommendations and would provide that information to the Board and the PAC periodically for review and comment.

Member Kishimoto recommended scheduling a brainstorming workshop of the PAC in the near future to formulate a plan for all the cities to explore options to bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

Member Kishimoto commented that she has just returned from London, England and a mayoral conference regarding climate protection.

Mr. Grace, Interested Citizen, expressed concern regarding the VTP 2030.

On order of Chairperson Moylan there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Regional Transportation Plan/Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030 Briefing.

11. ABAG Focus Our Vision Priority Development Areas (PDA)

Pamela Vasudeva, Transportation Planner III, provided a report regarding the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Focus Our Vision Priority Development Areas (PDA).

Ms. Vasudeva commented that the ABAG and MTC are leading an effort, known as FOCUS, to identify the regional blueprint for growth in the region. The purpose of the effort is two-fold: MTC and ABAG will use this as an opportunity for allocation of future yet undefined funding sources. Secondly, the effort will be an integral part in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, which is currently taking place.

VTA was encouraged to submit the Cores, Corridors, and Station areas-which were endorsed by each of the local jurisdictions as components of the Community Design and Transportation program – as a PDA. As a result all areas located within ¼ mile of the Cores, Corridor, and Station Areas are eligible for MTC planning grants and technical assistance programs associated with the FOCUS program. In addition, this provides each of the local jurisdictions the ability to apply for future capital program funding; however, it will require signing the MTC’s Priority Development Area Designation under the FOCUS Program Resolution.

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 Technical Advisory meetings. As new information including funding opportunities becomes more apparent, VTA will inform the committees of these opportunities. A second opportunity to apply for PDA status will occur in Spring 2008.

Member Glickman inquired about potential sites in Los Gatos that may be eligible for the program. Ms. Vasudeva commented that if the sites fall within the Cores, Corridor, and Station Areas it would be eligible.

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the ABAG Focus Our Vision Priority Development Areas (PDA).

OTHER

13. Committee Work Plan

Member Kishimoto recommended adding an agenda item to provide brainstorming strategies for countywide solutions to reduce transportation related greenhouse gases and other pollutions.

On Order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Committee Work Plan.

14. Announcements

Member Kishimoto thanked VTA for its co-sponsorship in the Palo Alto Walk and Bicycle Campaign.

Member Kishimoto commented that the “Tour of California” will be held in February 2008 and recommended discussing at PAC what could be done on a countywide basis to promote bicycling.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline F. Golzio, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors