

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 8, 2007

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Kris Wang in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Margaret Abe-Koga
Louis Becker (Alternate)
Dominic Caserta
Steve Glickman
Kathleen King
Marby Lee
Evan Low
Pete McHugh
Pierluigi Oliverio
Al Pinheiro
Kris Wang, Vice Chairperson

Representative Cities

Mountain View
Los Altos
Santa Clara
Los Gatos
Saratoga
Morgan Hill
Campbell
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
San Jose
Gilroy
Cupertino

Members Absent

Jose Esteves (Alternate)
Yoriko Kishimoto
Christopher Moylan, Chairperson
Vacant
Curtis Wright

Representative Cities

Milpitas
Palo Alto
Sunnyvale
Los Altos Hills
Monte Sereno

A quorum was present.

2. Orders of the Day

Vice Chairperson Wang requested that the following Agenda Item be moved to the Consent Agenda: **Agenda Item #13.**, Appoint a Nominating Subcommittee to identify Committee members interested in serving as the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson for 2008.

Vice Chairperson Wang requested that the following Agenda Item be moved before Agenda Item #13 on the Regular Agenda: **Agenda Item #18.**, Receive a presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Campbell.

M/S/C (McHugh/Pinheiro) to Accept the Orders of the Day.

3. Public Presentations

There were no Public Presentations.

4. Committee Staff Report

Scott Haywood, Policy & Communications Manager, provided a brief report highlighting: 1) VTA Board of Directors approved an additional expenditure of \$3.4 million for the Mary Avenue Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge in Sunnyvale that will better connect the communities of Cupertino and Sunnyvale; 2) Board authorized the General Manager to execute a purchase agreement for the Mitchell Block property located in Downtown San Jose; 3) Board approved revisions to an agreement with Santa Clara County that will provide passes for clients in the Social Services Program with strong needs for transportation assistance; 4) Preparation of VTA to prepare for upcoming changes to bus services and light rail services that will commence January 14, 2008; and 5) Caltrain recently successfully sold \$29 million in bonds to purchase 8 new rail cars to supplement and upgrade their equipment.

5. Chairperson's Report

Vice Chairperson Wang announced that Chairperson Moylan was unable to attend the PAC meeting due to a commitment with the City of Sunnyvale regarding the annual review of the Sunnyvale City Manager.

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 October 11, 2007

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to approve the Minutes of October 11, 2007.

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

8. Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for July-September 2007

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to review the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for July-September 2007.

9. FY07/08 Local Streets & County Roads (LS & CR) Program

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to approve project priorities for the FY07/08 Local Streets & County Roads (LS & CR) Program.

10. Programming of Local Program Reserve (LPR) Funds

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to approve the return of \$1,913,357 in unspent funds to the Local Program Reserve; approve the programming of \$2,815,000 in Local Program Reserve funds to projects discussed in this memorandum; and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate funding.

11. 2007 Congestion Management Program

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors approve the 2007 Santa Clara County Congestion Management Program (CMP).

12. FY 2007 Preliminary Annual Transit Operations Performance Report (July 1, 2006 – June30, 2007)

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to review the FY 2007 Preliminary Annual Transit Operations Performance Report (July 1, 2006 – June30, 2007).

13. Election Process for Advisory Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

M/S/C (McHugh/Abe-Koga) to appoint a nominating subcommittee to identify Committee members interested in serving as the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson for 2008.

REGULAR

The Agenda was taken out of order.

18. Presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Campbell

Member Evan Low introduced Matthew Jue, City of Campbell Public Works. Mr. Jue provided a Powerpoint presentation entitled, "City of Campbell Transportation Issues" highlighting: 1) City Profile; 2) City Vision that includes safe, clean, comfortable environment, physically connected with strong sense of identity, attractive residential and business districts, friendly small town atmosphere and fiscally self-reliant city government with effective basic municipal services; 3) Land use Challenges; 4) Existing Transportation System; 5) Transportation Trends; 6) Current Projects; 7) Potential Future Projects; and 8) Conclusions.

Member King inquired how the City of Campbell intends to meet its affordable housing goals. Member Low commented that the City of Campbell faces a challenge to meet the affordable housing goals and requirements for the City.

Member Low commented that trends in transportation include: 1) Collaborative multi-jurisdictional projects along the Silicon Valley Smart Corridor; 2) Measure B projects on Highway 17; 3) County Expressways Planning Study; 4) Traffic Safe communities Network; 5) Regional Signal Timing; 6) Vasona Light Rail construction and operations; and 7) Smart Growth that includes transportation choices, General Plan choices, and zoning ordinances.

Member Low noted that current projects include; 1) East Campbell Avenue Master Plan Project; 2) San Tomas/Hamilton Improvements; 3) San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail; 4) Hamilton Avenue/Phoenix Drive Signalization Project; and 5) Hamilton/Highway 17 Southbound off-ramp widening.

Member Glickman inquired if the City of Campbell has a program to promote public transportation. Member Low responded that the City of Campbell promotes public transportation for its residents.

Member Mc Hugh referenced Agenda Item #12., FY 2007 Preliminary Annual Transit Operations Performance Report (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) and commented that the report indicates that Light Rail ridership has increased by 25 percent over last year. He added that with the increase of gasoline prices, a greater number of residents would use public transportation.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Wang, there being no objection, the Committee received the Presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Campbell.

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

Appoint a Nominating Subcommittee to identify Committee members interested in serving as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2008.

Member Oliverio took his seat at 4:25 p.m.
Alternate Member Becker took his seat at 4:30 p.m.

14. 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Related Actions

Marcella Rensi, Manager, Programming and Grants provided a report regarding the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Related Actions highlighting: 1) VTA serves as the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for Santa Clara County and has the responsibility for prioritizing and programming discretionary Federal, State, regional and certain local funds for transportation projects in Santa Clara County; 2) Santa Clara County Regional Improvement (RIP) and State Transportation improvement Program (STIP); and 3) STIP is updated every two years.

Ms. Rensi commented that VTA staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the following programming actions: 1) De-program \$25.37 million from currently programmed STIP projects; 2) Program \$2.133 million in STIP funds to planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM) activities for VTA and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); 3) Program \$50.44 million in STIP funds to a Measure A Transit project (Airport People Mover Project); and 4) Authorize allocation of \$50.44 million of 2000 Measure funds to the projects shown in Attachment A of the memorandum.

Ms. Rensi clarified that the de-programming of six current STIP projects had been originally programmed into the STIP between 1994 and 2002. She noted that alternative funding has been allocated for several of these projects and indicated that re-evaluation of the funding for the remainder projects will occur at a later date.

Member Glickman expressed concern and opposition with the concept of High Occupancy Lanes (HOV).

M/S/C (McHugh/Pinheiro) to review and approve the recommendation for programming of 2008 STIP funds.

15. Briefing on MTC October 26, 2007 General Assembly/Transportation Summit

Chris Augenstein, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a brief overview of the MTC October 26, 2007 General Assembly/Transportation Summit titled, "Bay Area on the Move: Connecting Transportation, Land Use and Climate Protection" highlighting: 1) Purpose of the Summit to preview some of the major decisions anticipated as components of an update to MTC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) also known as transportation 2035; and 2) Results of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) FOCUS effort to identify Priority Development Areas (PDA's).

Mr. Augenstein commented that MTC has focused their efforts on economy, equity and the environment. The targeted goal is to reduce congestion and maintain emissions at 2006 levels to the year 2035, reduce particulates and greenhouse gas emissions, reduce vehicle miles traveled at 2006 levels, and to improve access to affordable housing.

Member Glickman expressed concern regarding the use of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes in the Regional Plan.

Member King suggested that staff provide presentations without hard copies to Committee members.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Wang, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Briefing on MTC October 26, 2007 General Assembly/Transportation Summit.

Member Caserta took his seat at 4:54 p.m.

16. Update on Development and Preliminary Engineering of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project

Murali Ramanujam, Senior Transportation Engineer, provided a Powerpoint presentation regarding the Update on Development and Preliminary Engineering of (HOT) Lanes Project highlighting: 1) Santa Clara County HOT Lanes Vision; 2) US 101 and SR 85 Hot Lanes Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Environmental Study; 3) Santa Clara County HOT Lanes Operational Concept; 4) Other HOT Lanes Projects; 5) Santa Clara County High occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes Network; 6) Steps Toward HOT Lane Implementation; 6) Why Hot Lanes; 7) Conceptual Configuration of HOT Lanes; 8) US 101 & SR 85 Study Limits; 9) Stakeholder Coordination; 10) US 101 & SR 85 PE Study Process 11) Conceptual Alternatives Process; 12) Technical Considerations; 13) Equity Implications; 14) Policy Challenges; and 15) Next Steps.

Member McHugh commented that the HOT Lanes concept removes available lanes of traffic for vehicles that are not eligible for HOT Lane use.

Mr. Ramanujam commented that the operational concept for HOT Lanes is to re-stripe existing lanes to create the HOT Lanes.

Mr. Ramanujam commented that the steps toward HOT Lane Implementation commenced with a recommendation from the VTA Ad Hoc Financial Stability Committee in 2004 and followed with a VTA Feasibility Study in 2005 to consider the recommendation. Mr. Ramanujam noted that the HOT Lane implementation timeline includes the passage of Assembly Bill 2032 allowing VTA to implement two HOT Lane corridors within Santa Clara County; and Assembly Bill 574, which allows VTA to implement HOT Lanes permanently (not as a demonstration project as initially identified in AB2032) and allowing VTA to bond the HOT Lane project.

Mr. Ramanujam commented that HOT Lanes would provide the opportunity to use existing HOV lanes more effectively. Toll revenues can fund additional transportation improvements and public transit in the HOT Lane corridors and provide another option for travelers.

Member Glickman commented that HOV Lanes were intended to encourage travelers to carpool but the concept has not been successful in the County. He expressed concern that HOT Lanes will become as congested as the other regular lanes with privileged drivers who have paid to use the lane and HOT Lanes will not alleviate congestion.

Alternate Member Becker recommended that the HOT Lanes issue return to the PAC for further discussion.

Member McHugh commented that the PAC expresses concern with the social equity aspects of the HOT Lanes and the ability to implement the concept.

Member Glickman commented that in conjunction with the equity issue he is concerned with fiscal, practicality, implementation, and political reservations.

The Committee strongly recommended that the HOT Lanes project be agendized as an action item for discussion for a future PAC meeting.

The Committee recommended that during the PAC Committee Report at the Board of Directors December 13, 2007 meeting the PAC Chairperson or Vice Chairperson convey the concerns expressed by the Committee regarding this item.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Wang, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Update on Development and Preliminary Engineering of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project.

17. Review of September 13th Joint PAC/CAAC workshop Topics and Participant's Comments, Concerns and Suggested Potential Recommendations

Scott Haywood, Community Relations Manager, provided a brief overview of the Joint PAC/CAC Workshop that included: 1) Discussion of the recommendations of the Hay Group; and 2) Review and discussion of the recommendation of Assembly member Sally Leiber to have the State Auditor perform an audit of VTA, with the main thrusts of the audit focusing on governance, structure, strategic planning, and financial oversight.

Mr. Haywood commented that concerns and comments raised by members of the PAC and CAC at the workshop are attached to the staff report and this item will be agendized for further discussion at a future meeting.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Wang, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the September 13th Joint PAC/CAC workshop Topics and Participant's Comments, Concerns and Suggested Potential Recommendations.

18. (Moved up on the Agenda)

Receive a presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Campbell.

OTHER

19. Committee Work Plan

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

20. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

21. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline F. Golzio, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors