

Date: December 6, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: December 13, 2007

Board Meeting Date: January 3, 2008

**BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**ACTION ITEM**

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

**THROUGH:** Michael T. Burns  
General Manager

**FROM:** John H. Ristow  
Chief CMA Officer

**SUBJECT:** Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors approve a countywide review and screening of candidate locations for noise reduction projects on freeways and expressways, and approve the use of up to \$400,000 in Congestion Management Program budget to implement the screening program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The passage of Senate Bill 45 (SB-45) in 1997 delegated responsibility to the regional agencies for prioritizing 75% of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. VTA, in its capacity as Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for Santa Clara County, is responsible for setting STIP priorities in Santa Clara County, subject to Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approval. As a result of SB-45's funding delegation, Caltrans also passed the responsibility for prioritizing State funding for retrofit freeway and state highway noise mitigation projects to the regional agencies, including VTA.

Valley Transportation Plan 2020 (VTP 2020) and its successor, Valley Transportation Plan 2030 (VTP 2030), established a Sound Barrier Program intended to provide grant funding for noise mitigation projects on the freeways and expressways. The VTA Board of Directors adopted a noise mitigation standard, a process and criteria for the program on November 6, 2003. The VTA Sound Barrier program requires sound barrier projects to be submitted by the cities, the County and Caltrans. Each project request must be supported by noise studies that verify that the location meets the standard adopted by the VTA Board, and by a preliminary engineering study called a Noise Barrier Summary Scope Report (NBSSR) that conforms to Caltrans' methodology.

The screening program will also be used to develop a potential list of noise reduction projects to be included in the update of the countywide transportation plan, VTP 2030, which is underway now.

### **DISCUSSION:**

VTA and Caltrans receive numerous noise complaint calls from residents throughout the year. Per VTA procedure, these residents are referred back to the cities and County for a response. Very few of these citizen complaints appear to result in noise reduction projects due to the lack of resources to screen these complaints and to determine if they should be developed into projects that could be submitted for grant funding.

VTA recently issued a “Request for Candidate Locations” to potential project sponsors, including Caltrans, the cities and the County. The project sponsors were asked to collect and submit nominations for potential study locations. VTA received a total of 75 candidate locations from 9 member agencies. The list is included as Attachment A.

The next step will be for VTA to screen the nominations and evaluate each location. The project candidate screening effort will include the following three step process:

1. Perform an initial “Windshield Survey” to determine if the proposed candidate location qualifies based on location, land use, site characteristics, and age of development.
2. Conduct a second Level Preliminary Technical Study and determine if the candidate location has merit based on a general analysis of current traffic volume, distance from roadway, topography, noise-sensitive receptor characteristics, and projected noise barrier benefits.
3. Complete final Field Measurements and Detailed Analysis. Conduct noise measurements and perform a quantitative evaluation of noise reduction, cost-effectiveness, and construction feasibility.

A report of the screening analysis will be prepared on each location so that member agencies can decide whether to continue pursuing a noise reduction project by preparing a NBSSR and submitting it to VTA for fund programming. If approved for implementation, the Noise reduction Screening process and final report could be completed in 10-12 months.

VTA staff estimates the average cost per location screening to be approximately \$5,000. Therefore, if the consultant were to study all 75 locations, staff estimates the approximate cost would be \$395,000. VTA staff recommends approval of a budget amount not to exceed \$400,000. Funds would come from the VTA Congestion Management Program’s STIP Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds and Member Agency dues.

If the recommended Noise Reduction Screening Program is approved by the Board of Directors, VTA staff will select engineering and noise evaluation consultants from the existing highway-engineering list approved by the Board of Directors in 2006 and return to the Board at a future meeting for approval of contract authorization to perform the screening work.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The committee could elect not to recommend the noise reduction screening program for implementation. The result is that each individual city and County will be responsible to continue to respond to noise complaints from residents and perform the screening and analysis of potential noise reduction projects utilizing their own resources. The outcome is that there likely will be no new noise reduction projects included in the future update of VTP 2030 which is currently underway.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The funds to complete the screening program are included in the CMP Program budget as part of the VTP 2030 update and through cost savings due to a delay in implementing the Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Program update and staffing savings. Adequate budget appropriation for the proposed screening program is included within the CMP Work Program, which is included within the Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 Capital budget.

No funding from the VTA Transit Enterprise Fund will be used for this work.

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

**Attachment A**  
**Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Nearest Highway-Expressway</b>	<b>Notes</b>
San Tomas Expressway Budd Avenue to the Winchester south off-ramp	City of Campbell	Campbell	San Tomas Expressway	
San Tomas Expressway Campbell Avenue to Budd Avenue	City of Campbell	Campbell	San Tomas Expressway	
San Tomas Expressway Hamilton Avenue to Campbell Avenue	City of Campbell	Campbell	San Tomas Expressway	
SR 85 at Acacia near Homestead and Maxine	City of Cupertino	Cupertino	SR 85	New residential development
SR 85 at Elderwood near Stelling Avenue	City of Cupertino	Cupertino	SR 85	
I-680 between Calaveras Boulevard and city limits	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	I-680	Existing sound wall
I-680 between Milpitas/Fremont border and Calera Creek & Jacklin Off-Ramp	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	I-680	Existing soundwall
I-680 between Landess/Montague and Calaveras Boulevard	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	I-680, Montague Expressway	
I-880 SB ramp from EB SR 237 to Tasman Drive	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	I-880	
Montague Expressway between Great Mall Parkway and I-880	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	Montague Expressway, I-880	Existing soundwall
SR 237/I-880 Interchange to Dixon Landing Road	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	SR-237, I-880	Existing soundwalls, includes commercial
Central Expressway between Rengstorff Ave. and Mayfield Ave.	City of Mountain View	Mountain View	Central Expressway	Existing Fencing

<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Nearest Highway-Expressway</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Central Expressway between Shoreline Boulevard and Rengstorff Avenue	City of Mountain View	Mountain View	Central Expressway	Existing Fencing
Central Expressway NE of Moffett Boulevard	City of Mountain View	Mountain View	Central Expressway	
SR 237 along Ferguson Drive	City of Mountain View	Mountain View	SR 237	Developed after freeway
SR 85 between Central Ave and Middlefield Ave	City of Mountain View	Mountain View	SR 85	Concrete wall
SR 85 between El Camino Real and Sleeper Ave	City of Mountain View	Mountain View	SR 85	
Almaden Expressway NW and SE of Koch	City of San Jose	San Jose	Almaden Expressway	
Capitol Expressway between Story and Ocala	City of San Jose	San Jose	Capitol Expressway	
Capitol Expressway between I-680 and Capitol Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	Capitol Expressway, I-680	
I-280 northbound and southbound from Almaden Avenue to Coyote Creek	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	
I-280 northbound and southbound from Guadalupe River to Almaden Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	Commercial/industrial
I-280 northbound and southbound from Lincoln Avenue to Los Gatos Creek	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	Commercial/industrial
I-280 northbound and southbound from Los Gatos Creek to Bird Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	
I-280 northbound from McLaughlin Avenue to Route 101	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	

<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Nearest Highway-Expressway</b>	<b>Notes</b>
I-280 northbound, east of Lawrence Expressway from Loma Linda Dr. to the end of Lago Vista Circle	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	Existing soundwall
I-280 southbound from Meridian Way to Race Street adjacent to Paula Street	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	
I-280 southbound, from Leigh Avenue to Meridian Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280	
I-280 SB at Bird Avenue to Route 87 SB at Hull Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-280, SR 87	
I-680 northbound and southbound between Alum Rock Avenue and Mueller Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-680	
I-680 northbound and southbound between Capitol Expressway and Alum Rock Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-680	
I-680 northbound and southbound from Sunset Avenue east of the pedestrian overcrossing to Jackson Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-680	
I-680 northbound between McKee Avenue and Mabury Road	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-680	
I-680 southbound on-ramp from Hostetter Road	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-680	
I-680 northbound off-ramp between Jackson Avenue and Capitol Expressway	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-680, Capitol Expressway	
I-880 at Bascom Avenue	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-880	
I-880 between Rock and Montague	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-880	Commercial???

<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Nearest Highway-Expressway</b>	<b>Notes</b>
I-880 between Myrtle and The Alameda	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-880	
I-880 between Stevens Creek and I-280	City of San Jose	San Jose	I-880, I-280	
Capitol Expressway on-ramp to SB Route 87	City of San Jose	San Jose	Route 87	
Southwest Expressway between Stokes and DeRose	City of San Jose	San Jose	Southwest Expressway	Not a county expressway
US 101 SB between 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street and Coyote Creek	City of San Jose	San Jose	US 101	
I-880 near 723 Park Court	City of Santa Clara	Santa Clara	I-880	This location is several parcels removed from the highway.
SR 237 and Fair Oaks Way EB off-ramp near Persian Drive	City of Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale	SR 237	
SR 85 east side immediately north of the Fremont Avenue on-ramp	City of Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale	SR 85	
US 101 SB on-ramp from NB Fair Oaks Avenue	City of Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale	US 101	
Almaden Expressway East side between Winfield and Redmond	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Almaden Expressway	
Almaden Expressway NE of Foxchase	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Almaden Expressway	
Almaden Expressway NW of Cherry	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Almaden Expressway	
Almaden Expressway SW of Trinidad	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Almaden Expressway	
Capitol Expressway NE and SE of Senter	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Capitol Expressway	
Capitol Expressway NW and SE of Vista Park	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Capitol Expressway	
Capitol Expressway NW of Bluefield	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Capitol Expressway	

<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Nearest Highway-Expressway</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Capitol Expressway south side between Vista Park and Bluefield	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Capitol Expressway	
Capitol Expressway SW of Seven Trees	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	Capitol Expressway	
Central Expressway North side between SR 85 and Whisman	County of Santa Clara	Mountain View	Central Expressway, SR 85	
Foothill Expressway North side between El Monte and Springer	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway North side between San Antonio and El Monte	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway North side west and east of Grant	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway North side west of Moana Court and adjacent to residences along Blue Oak	County of Santa Clara	Palo Alto	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway North side west of Newcastle	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway South side between Magdalena and east of Loyola	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos Hills	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway South side between St Joseph and Vineyard	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos	Foothill Expressway	
Foothill Expressway South side west of Magdalena	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos Hills	Foothill Expressway	
I-280 near Eastbrook Drive at Magdalena	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos Hills	I-280	

<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Nearest Highway-Expressway</b>	<b>Notes</b>
I-280 near Eastbrook Drive between Putter Way and Loyola Drive	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos Hills	I-280	
I-280 near Loyola and Oak Hill	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos Hills	I-280	
I-280 near Quail Meadow Drive (at Mora)	County of Santa Clara	Los Altos Hills	I-280	
Oregon/Page Mill Expressway between US 101 and Alma	County of Santa Clara	Palo Alto	Oregon/Page Mill Expressway	
San Tomas Expressway east side near Sunnyhaven Drive	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	San Tomas Expressway	
San Tomas Expressway NW of Winchester ramp	County of Santa Clara	Campbell	San Tomas Expressway	
San Tomas Expressway west side between Williams to south of Payne	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	San Tomas Expressway	
San Tomas Expressway West side north and south of Bucknall	County of Santa Clara	San Jose	San Tomas Expressway	
I-280 near 26075, 26101, 26045, 26100 Duval Way	Town of Los Altos Hills	Los Altos Hills	I-280	
I-280 near 27400 Elena Road	Town of Los Altos Hills	Los Altos Hills	I-280	