

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 13, 2007

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Chris 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
Jose Esteves (Alternate)
Steve Glickman
Kathleen King
Yoriko Kishimoto
Pete McHugh
Christopher Moylan, Chairperson
Pierluigi Oliverio
Kris Wang, Vice Chairperson
Curtis Wright

Representative Cities

Mountain View
Los Altos
Milpitas
Los Gatos
Saratoga
Palo Alto
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Sunnyvale
San Jose
Cupertino
Monte Sereno

Members Absent

Dominic Caserta
Marby Lee
Evan Low
Al Pinheiro
Vacant

Representative Cities

Santa Clara
Morgan Hill
Campbell
Gilroy
Los Altos Hills

A quorum was present.

2. Orders of the Day

Chairperson Moylan requested that the following Agenda Items be moved to the Consent Agenda: **Agenda Item #14.**, Receive the VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007, and **Agenda Item #16.**, Receive the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035 Project List Development Reminder.

Chairperson Moylan requested that the following Agenda Item be moved before Agenda Item #10 on the Regular Agenda: **Agenda Item #18.**, Receive a presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Mountain View.

Chairperson Moylan requested that the following Agenda Item be moved before Agenda Item #11 on the Regular Agenda: **Agenda Item #17.**, Review and discuss the September 13, 2007 Joint Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)/Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Workshop Topics and Participant's Comments, Concerns, and Suggested Potential Recommendations.

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

Members Abe-Koga and Vice Chairperson Wang took their seats at 4:08 p.m.

Members Oliverio and King took their seats at 4:09 p.m.

3. Public Presentations

There were no Public Presentations.

Member Wright took his seat at 4:12 p.m.

4. Committee Staff Report

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager, provided a report highlighting: 1) VTA participated in the Downtown San Jose Holiday Parade; 2) Partnered with the United States Marines in the "Toys for Tots" Drive; 3) The Historic Trolley is running in Downtown San Jose until December 29, 2007; 4) The Mitchell Block transaction is officially closed; 5) The Coyote Creek Alignment has been decided by the San Jose City Council; 6) The New Service Plan commences on January 14, 2008; 7) Introduction of new Board Assistant Menominee McCarter, and Greta Helm, Chief External Affairs Officer; 8) Correspondence sent to Michael T. Burns, General Manager, from the State Auditor indicating that a preliminary meeting is scheduled for a future date to commence audit proceedings; 9) The Downtown Platform Retrofit Project on the Guadalupe Line was approved by the Board of Directors and is expected to be completed by March 2009.

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

Member Glickman expressed concern about the wrapping on Community Buses that obscures the view of the interior of the buses and added that some riders prefer a clear window view.

Member Casas inquired if there has been an increase of vandalism on wrapped Community Buses. Mr. Lawson answered “no.”

5. Chairperson’s Report

There was no Chairperson’s Report.

6. City Grouping Report.

There was no City Grouping Report.

Member McHugh took his seat at 4:25 p.m.

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

CONSENT

7. Minutes of November 8, 2007

M/S/C (Kishimoto/King) to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2007.

8. Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report July through September 2007.

M/S/C (Kishimoto/King) to review the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report July through September 2007.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

14. VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007.

M/S/C (Kishimoto/King) to receive the VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007.

16. VTP 2035 Project List Development Reminder

M/S/C (Kishimoto/King) to receive the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035 Project List Development Reminder.

REGULAR

9. Election Process for Advisory Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Member Glickman reported that the Nominating Subcommittee received nominations for Member Wang as Chairperson and Member Abe-Koga as Vice Chairperson.

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee received the Election Process for Advisory Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Alternate Member Esteves took his seat at 4:55 p.m.

18. Presentation on the Local Transportation Needs & Priorities: Mountain View

Member Margaret Abe-Koga introduced Peter Skinner, City of Mountain View Senior Administrative Analyst. Mr. Skinner provided a Powerpoint presentation entitled, "City of Mountain View Transportation Priorities" highlighting: 1) City Profile; 2) Commute Patterns; 3) Major Accomplishments that include Highway Improvements, Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements, Transit Center, Transit Oriented Development (TOD), Neighborhood Traffic Calming and Annual Infrastructure Investments; 3) Future Projects; 4) Highway Projects; 5) Future TOD Development; and 6) Environmental Sustainability.

Mr. Skinner commented that transit modes in Mountain View include: VTA Bus service; Light Rail; and Caltrain Commuter Rail. He commented that major roadways serving the area include: Central Expressway, El Camino Real, and Shoreline Boulevard. He stated that major highways in the vicinity include: US 101, State Route 85, and State Route 237. Highway improvements include: State Route 85/US 101 Interchange.

Mr. Skinner reported that Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements include the Stevens Creek Trail, the new Bike Boulevard, the Hetch Hetchy Trail, and Safe Routes to School.

Mr. Skinner commented that future projects for Mountain View include:

- Rengstorff Avenue Grade Separation
- Extension of Stevens Creek Trail
- Trail Overcrossings
- Highway Projects
- Transit Center parking Structure
- Future TOD Development
- Environmental Sustainability

Member Abe-Koga commented that the traffic calming implementation in Mountain View serves as a model for other communities.

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

10. Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Reduction Projects

In response to an inquiry of Chairperson Moylan regarding the revised memorandum, Christina Jaworski, Environmental Planner, clarified that the revision indicates an adjustment to the calculated cost of the program from \$395,000 to \$375,000.

Marcella Rensi, Manager, Programming and Grants, reported that as a Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for Santa Clara County, is responsible for setting State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) priorities in Santa Clara County, subject to Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approval.

Ms. Rensi stated that Valley Transportation Plan 2030 (VTP 2030) established a Sound Barrier Program intended to provide grant funding for noise mitigation projects on freeways and expressways. The VTA Board of Directors adopted a noise mitigation standard at their November 6, 2003 meeting. The VTA Sound Barrier program requires that projects be submitted by the cities, County, and Caltrans. The project requests must be supported by noise studies that verify that the location meets the VTA Board adopted standards and also supported by a preliminary engineering study called a Noise Barrier Summary Scope Report (NBSSR) that is in compliance with Caltrans methodology.

Chairperson Moylan queried if the recommendation allows the funds availability to determine the list of candidate locations and not to perform the actual noise study. Ms. Rensi responded that the recommendation will provide funds to perform the initial readings which will record decibel levels and indicate preliminary estimates and evaluation of an area.

Member Wright expressed concern with the screening of candidate location criteria.

M/S/C (King/Abe-Koga) on a vote of 9 Ayes to 2 Noes, to 0 Abstentions, to 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. Members Moylan and Wright opposed.

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

Member Glickman commented on the Hay Group recommendation that the City Manager of each city hold the position of alternate PAC members.

Member McHugh expressed concern with the concept of combining the PAC and TAC committees.

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager, suggested that this review become an agenda item that would be visited periodically for future review and comment.

M/S/C (McHugh/Glickman) to approve that the VTA Board of Directors not combine the Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee nor have the city managers serve as the alternates to PAC as recommended in the VTA Organization and Financial Audit.

Member Oliverio left his seat at 5:08 p.m.

12. Development of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, provided a Powerpoint presentation regarding the development of the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Project highlighting: 1) What are HOT Lanes; 2) HOT Lanes Characteristics; 3) Concepts for Santa Clara County HOT Lanes; 4) HOT Lane Project Examples; 5) Santa Clara County Freeway HOV Lanes Network; 6) Why should we consider HOT Lanes; 7) Congestion management Tool; 8) Pricing Lanes Used as Efficient Tool to Manage Traffic Flow on State Route 91; 9) New Potential Source of Revenue for Transportation; 10) HOT Lanes Related Issues; 10) Equity Implications; 11) Annual household Incomes of SR 91 Travelers; 12) MN Pass Acceptance; 13) I-680 HOT Lane Survey Results with and without use of a toll lane; 14) Technical Feasibility; 15) Policy Initiatives; 16) US Department of Transportation Urban Partnership Agreements; 17) MTC/Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Policy Direction; 18) Bay Area Funding Shortfalls; 19) Widening Gap Between Traffic Growth & Roadway Capacity Expansion; 20) Vehicles Miles Driven Per Year; 21) Declining Buying Power of Existing Gasoline Tax; 22) Increasing Efficiency of Vehicles (Average fleet miles per gallon; 23) Summary; and 24) Next Steps.

Member Glickman requested clarification regarding toll fees in the HOT Lanes. Mr. Ristow clarified that toll fees are imposed at the beginning of the toll lane area entry point and are effective until you exit the toll area.

Member McHugh inquired if additional lanes must be constructed for HOT Lanes. Mr. Ristow commented that the majority of HOT Lanes are conversions of carpool lanes.

Member Glickman expressed concern regarding the data regarding the annual household incomes illustrated in the slide regarding SR 91 travelers. Member Glickman expressed concern with the social inequity of HOT Lanes and stated he suggests that VTA consider more public transportation options rather than endorse HOT Lanes. He noted his preference of an “all toll lanes” concept. Mr. Ristow commented that MTC, the Federal Government as well as the Sierra Club advocate for HOT Lanes.

Member Casas expressed concern with the concept of converting all lanes to toll lanes.

Member Kishimoto expressed support of HOT lanes and inquired if eventually a system of HOV Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Express would be considered. She commented that the HOT Lanes system in London, England realizes \$2 billion a year.

M/S/C (Kishimoto/Casas) on a vote of 6 Ayes * to 4 Noes to 0 Abstentions to review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors direct VTA staff to continue the current preliminary engineering and environmental documentation phase in the development of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane projects on US Route 101 and State Route 85. Members Esteves, Glickman, McHugh, and Wright opposed. (* **Note: This item was approved by less than a majority of total appointed PAC membership.**)

13. Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements

Mark Robinson, Acting Chief Engineering and Construction Officer, provided a brief overview of the Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements highlighting: 1) Safety Assessment Program of the Caltrain Corridor in Santa Clara County; 2) Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) Caltrain safety Program for Corridor in San Mateo County; and 3) Identified Projects for future implementation for FY 2008-09.

Member Kishimoto suggested that the study involve a shorter amount of time.

Member Glickman requested clarification regarding the criterion used to determine safety issues at particular locations. Mr. Robinson responded that an inventory was taken of the entire corridor and specifically focused on station areas, pedestrian frequented areas, school zones and crossings, and historical data of past incidents.

M/S/C (Kishimoto/Casas) to review and recommend that the Board of Directors approve the list of projects for the Caltrain Service Upgrades – Safety Improvements Project and deliver the projects in a shorter amount of time, share more information with the local agencies and look into crossing improvements in the context of quiet zone improvements.

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

VTP Highway Program Semi-Annual Progress Report – October 2007

15. Update on New Bus Service for January 14, 2008

Jim Unites, Information Program Planning Manager, provided a brief overview of the Update on New Bus Service for January 14, 2008 highlighting: 1) Operational Planning Process; 2) Schedule of Routes are available on the VTA website; 3) Board approval of transfer agreement between VTA and SamTrans; 4) Delivery of 11 Community buses to add to the fleet; 5) Bus stop notifications are going up at 2,000 bus stop locations in the County; 6) Implementation of 200 VTA employees to assume the role of ambassadors to man 25 transit centers before and after the New Bus Service commences, to assist riders with route changes.

Bernice Alaniz, Deputy Director Marketing, commented that two main components of the public outreach involve: 1) Community notification of service changes; 2) Mailing and email blasts to various community groups; 3) Marketing efforts to advertise the service changes that include car cards at bus shelter stations, multilingual information brochures.

Upon the inquiry of Member Glickman, Ms. Alaniz responded that the public should contact the customer service department at 408. 321.2300 or through the VTA website at vta.org regarding their concerns.

On Order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Update on New Bus Service for January 14, 2008.

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

VTP 2035 Project List Development Reminder

17. (Moved up on the Agenda)

Review of September 13th Joint PAC/CAAC 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: Mountain View.

11. Revised Scoring Criteria for the Local Streets & County Roads (LS&CR) Program

Amin Surani, Principal Transportation Planner, presented a brief overview of the Revised Scoring Criteria for the Local Streets & County (LS & CR) Program highlighting: 1) Origin of the program; 2) Goals; 3) Project Development Strategies; 4) Updates of the Planning and Programming Phases; and 5) Planning and Programming Phase Recommendations.

Mr. Surani commented that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved the Revised Scoring Criteria for the Local Streets & County Roads (LS & CR) Program recommendation with the slight modifications of increasing local match to 25 points and reducing the Planning Phase Score to 25.

M/S/C (Glickman/Wright) to review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors modify the criteria used to evaluate and select projects for the Local Streets & County Roads (LS&CR) Program.

OTHER

19. Committee Work Plan

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

20. Announcements

The Committee expressed their appreciation and thanked Chairperson Moylan for his diligent work and outstanding efforts with the PAC.

21. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline F. Golzio, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors