

Date: _____ March 6, 2008

Committee Meeting Date: _____ March 13, 2008

Board Meeting Date: _____ N/A

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: Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct VTA staff to begin work on drafting a work plan, schedule, and budget for the development of a transportation system monitoring program for Santa Clara County.

BACKGROUND:

Significant investments have been made and continue to be made in Santa Clara County's transportation system network to support its growing population and businesses. Recently, local jurisdictions, through the TAC and TAC Subcommittee, have identified a need for more comprehensive monitoring of how these investments are translating to better transportation for the residents and communities of Santa Clara County.

Although there are transportation system monitoring programs in place that provide performance assessments such as VTA's Congestion Management Program Monitoring and Conformance Report and VTA's quarterly Transit Operations Report, a countywide transportation monitoring mechanism that provides a comprehensive assessment of the county's transportation system in a single, easy to understand format does not exist.

The purpose of the Santa Clara County Transportation System Monitoring Program would be to provide the VTA Advisory Committees and the VTA Board of Directors with a comprehensive status on the current "health" and performance of the transportation systems in Santa Clara County in a public user friendly format.

DISCUSSION:

At the February 14, 2008 TAC Subcommittee meeting, the committee members discussed the pros and cons of introducing a countywide transportation system monitoring program. The key benefit of developing and implementing a comprehensive transportation system monitoring program for Santa Clara County would be the ability to provide to local jurisdictions, VTA Advisory Committees, and the VTA Board with up-to-date information on the “health” and performance of transportation systems in Santa Clara County in a single, report format. The data collected could be used for transportation planning purposes, to identify specific areas in the transportation system needing improvements, and to build cases for allocating resources to make improvements or correct deficiencies.

Some of the challenges mentioned during the discussion were the availability of data that could be used for monitoring, the development of standards, and the potential draw of public criticism and high visibility from the media.

At the end of the discussion, the Subcommittee members agreed that VTA, in its capacity as both a Congestion Management Agency and Transit Agency for Santa Clara County, would be the appropriate agency to lead this effort. The Subcommittee also agreed to present the transportation system monitoring program concept, along with a rough draft (Attachment A), to the TAC and PAC for their feedback. The memorandum to the TAC and PAC would direct VTA staff to investigate the work scope and resources needed to develop the Santa Clara County Transportation System Monitoring Program, and report back with a draft work plan, schedule and budget at the next scheduled Committee meetings in April 2008.

Based on preliminary investigation, there should be no impacts to VTA’s existing budget to develop and implement the proposed Santa Clara County Transportation System Monitoring Program as funds can be reallocated from existing sources within the current CMP Budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

The PAC may suggest other alternatives.

Attachments: Attachment A – Discussion Item from TAC Subcommittee Meeting on February 14, 2008

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