

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 14, 2008

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Christopher Moylan in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Margaret Abe-Koga
Lou Becker
Steve Glickman
Joe Kornder
Marby Lee
Evan Low
Christopher Moylan, Chairperson
Pierluigi Oliverio
Chuck Page
Gilbert Wong (Alternate)
Cat Tucker (Alternate)

Members Absent

Sid Espinosa
Armando Gomez
Pete McHugh
Vacant
Wright, Curtis

Representative Cities

Mountain View
Los Altos
Los Gatos
Santa Clara
Morgan Hill
Campbell
Sunnyvale
San Jose
Saratoga
Cupertino
Gilroy

Representative Cities

Palo Alto
Milpitas
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Los Altos Hills
Monte Sereno

A quorum was present.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

Member Page took his seat at 4:13 p.m.,

Member Lee took her seat at 4:14 p.m.

4. Committee Staff Report

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, provided a report highlighting: 1) The State Audit; and 2) The VTA Board of Directors approved placing a 1/8 cent sales tax measure for the November ballot.

Mr. Burns commented that the proposed sales tax increase to fund the operating and maintenance expenses for the BART Extension to Santa Clara County. Mr. Burns noted that the measure is supported by business, labor, environmental, academic and labor leaders.

Mr. Burns further commented that VTA must demonstrate to the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) that it has a dedicated source of funds to operate the extension without eroding existing bus and light rail service in order to receive federal funds to build the BART Extension in Santa Clara County. He stated that the 1/8 cent sales tax would be dedicated to the BART project and would not be levied until VTA secures federal and state funds to match the local funds coming from the Measure A Program. This is the first step to reentering into the federal New Starts Program.

Mr. Burns commented that on July 31, 2008 the California Bureau of State Audits (BSA) released its report on VTA. He stated that the report validates the recommendations contained in the Organizational and Financial Assessment that was completed last year. Mr. Burns stated that the Audit did not recommend significant changes to VTA's governance, but endorsed the incremental changes that are already being pursued by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Burns noted that the BSA found that VTA's financial reporting and planning generally meet best practices in government finance and commented that BSA's project planning practices generally conform to best practices, but further noted that there is room for improving procedures for estimating project costs and revenues, as well as project monitoring.

In accordance with the findings of the BSA, VTA plans to involve the advisory committees in a process to refine each committee's purpose and role. Mr. Jim Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor, introduced Jennie Loft, the newly appointed Public Information Officer, who will work with each of the advisory committees and staff to refine and focus their goals, purpose, minimize overlap, and maximize the contribution each committee can make to the decision-making process.

Chairperson Moylan expressed his support of VTA's plans to refine each committee's role and purpose.

Mr. Lawson provided a brief overview of the August 7, 2008 Board of Directors meeting highlighting: 1) The Board considered the governance issue and unanimously referred it to the Administration and Finance Committee for review; 2) The Board adopted a resolution calling for a special election on November 4, 2008 to submit to the voters an Advisory Measure regarding the comprehensive transportation program identified in the Valley Transportation Plan 2035 (VTP 2035) scheduled for adoption by the Board of Directors by December 2008; 3) The Board adopted a separate resolution calling for an additional measure on the November 4, 2008 ballot delegating this responsibility in future years to the 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee; 4) The Board expressed their support regarding the Downtown East Valley Light Rail Extension; and 5) Provided a brief overview of the Weekly Legislative Report.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Moylan commented that he provided a brief overview of the July 2008 PAC Workshop meeting to the Board of Directors.

Chairperson Moylan provided a brief overview of the recommendations from the Governance Subcommittee.

Member Glickman, who also sits on the Governance Subcommittee, provided clarification to the PAC regarding the selection process for new board members with the proposed PAC Alternative.

Mr. Lawson commented that he would invite Acting General Counsel Kevin Allmand to the September PAC to discuss the legalities of the Governance issue.

Member Page and Alternate Member Wong volunteered to present Transportation Needs and Priorities for the Cities of Cupertino and Saratoga at a future PAC meeting.

On General consensus, the Committee agreed to revisit the Governance issue and place the item on the September Agenda.

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 June 12, 2008**

M/S/C (Wong/Page) to approve the Minutes of June 12, 2008.

8. **Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April – June 2008**

M/S/C (Wong/Page) to review the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April – June 2008.

REGULAR

9. **State Audit**

Jim Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor, provided a brief overview of the State Audit and commented that the outcome of the Audit was extremely positive and reaffirmed what the Hay Group assessment identified.

Member Becker requested more information regarding the BART project. Mr. Lawson commented that staff will provide Member Becker the information.

Member Glickman requested staff provide each cities information regarding the proposed tax measures and how it would affect those jurisdictions.

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the State Audit.

10. **State Route 85 and U.S. 101 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Preliminary Engineering Update**

Murali Ramanujam, Senior Transportation Engineer, provided a brief overview and update regarding the SR and US 101 HOT Lanes project highlighting: 1) Project Update and Alternatives; 2) Public Outreach; and 3) Regional HOT Lane Update.

Mr. Ramanujam commented that immediate focus of the project at this time involves State Route 85 due to fewer geometric constraints and more unused capacity in carpool lanes.

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

Mr. Ramanujam stated that public opinion research is obtained through focus groups and a telephone survey. Stakeholder outreach will be achieved through meetings and presentations. He further stated that more detailed information will be provided to the PAC in October.

Mr. Ramanujam noted that on July 23, 2008 the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved a \$223 billion Bay Area transportation plan that includes implementation of 800 miles of HOT lanes that includes highways within Santa Clara County.

Mr. Ramanujam noted that on July 31, 2008 US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters unveiled a new plan to refocus, reform, and renew the national approach to highway and transit systems. As part of the Metropolitan Innovation Fund would be created to reward cities willing to combine a mix of effective transit investments, dynamic pricing of highways and use of new traffic technology.

Member Glickman requested information if the physical barrier between the general purpose lanes and the HOT Lane would impact the traffic operations. Mr. Ramanujam clarified that there will be no physical barrier but instead there will be a painted buffer between the general purpose lane and the HOT lane. This would be similar to what is currently found in Southern California as part of their carpool lane system. He further commented that the challenge would be to educate the public regarding how the HOT lane works including the limited access points between the HOT lane and the adjacent lanes. Mr. Ramanujam further highlighted the key benefits of HOT lane implementation that include the option for drivers to have trip reliability and travel time savings in addition to it being a source of revenue generation.

Member Oliverio took his seat at 5:06 p.m.

In response to the question of Member Kordner, Mr. Ramanujam commented that all eligible vehicles to use carpool lane now will still be eligible to use the HOT lane in the future for free. This includes carpoolers, motorcyclists and hybrid vehicles with decals.

Member Becker expressed his opposition to the HOT Lanes concept.

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the State Route 85 and U.S. 101 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Preliminary Engineering Update.

11. **VTP 2035 Program Area Review: Bicycle, TSOM, and Livable Communities and Pedestrian Program**
12. **VTP 2035 Program Area Review: Pavement Management, sound Mitigation, and Landscape Restoration & Graffiti Removal**

John Sighamony, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview and report highlighting: 1) The bicycle Program; 2) Transportation System Operations and Management (TSOM) Program; 3) Community Design and Transportation (CDT)

Program; 4) Bicycle Projects; and 5) VTP 2035 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Project List.

Mr. Sighamony reported that within the VTP 2035 Program Area Review: Pavement Management, Sound Mitigation, and Landscape Restoration & Graffiti Removal includes: 1) The Pavement Management Program; and 2) The Landscape Restoration and Graffiti Removal.

Mr. Sighamony commented that the Bicycle Program is dedicated to improving bicycle infrastructure to ensure that bicycling remains a viable and safe mode of transportation in Santa Clara County. A major component of the Bicycle Program is the Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) which serves as a funding mechanism for countywide bicycle projects.

Mr. Sighamony commented that VTA highlighted the importance of real-time operations by defining the Transportation Systems Operations and Management Program within VTP 2030. Mr. Sighamony stated that MTC is supportive of improved measures for real-time transportation operations.

Mr. Sighamony commented that the Livable Communities and Pedestrian Program (LCPP) was designed to support the goals of the Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Program by providing capital funds for transportation related projects that improve community access to transit, provide multimodal transportation facilities, and enhance the pedestrian environment along transportation corridors, core areas, and in proximity to transit stations.

Mr. Sighamony commented that are 3 VTP 2035 roadway program areas presented under the VTP 2035 Program Area Review: Pavement Management, Sound Mitigation, and landscape Restoration and Graffiti Removal. He noted that project lists have not been developed for these programs but that VTA will work in partnership with its member agencies to identify projects that would be eligible to fund through these programs.

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the Committee received the VTP 2035 Program Area Review: Bicycle, TSOM, and Livable Communities and Pedestrian Program and VTP 2035 Program Area Review: Pavement Management, Sound Mitigation, and Landscape Restoration & Graffiti Removal.

OTHER

13. Committee Work Plan

Chairperson Moylan commented that the VTA Governance issue, Improving the effectiveness of the PAC and transportation presentations from the Cities of Cupertino and Saratoga should appear on future agendas.

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

14. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Moylan, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline F. Golzio, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors