

Policy Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 13, 2009

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Abe-Koga in Conference Room B-104 Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Chris Moylan	City of Sunnyvale	Present
David Whittum (Alternate)	City of Sunnyvale	NA
Chuck Page	City of Saratoga	Absent
Kathleen King (Alt)	City of Saratoga	Absent
Dave Cortese	SCC Board of Supervisors	Absent
Michael F. Kotowski	City of Campbell	Present
Jason Baker (Alt)	City of Campbell	NA
Kris Wang	City of Cupertino	Absent
Gilbert Wong (Alt)	City of Cupertino	Absent
Perry Woodward	City of Gilroy	Present
Cat Tucker (Alt)	City of Gilroy	NA
Megan Satterlee	City of Los Altos	NA
Val Carpenter (Alt)	City of Los Altos	Present
Joe Pirzynski	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Diane McNutt (Alt)	Town of Los Gatos	NA
Pete McHugh	City of Milpitas	Present
Vacant (Alt)	City of Milpitas	NA
Marshall Anstandig	City of Monte Sereno	Present
Curtis Wright (Alt)	City of Monte Sereno	NA
Marby Lee	City of Morgan Hill	NA
Steve Tate (Alt)	City of Morgan Hill	Present
Margaret Abe-Koga	City of Mountain View	Present
Laura Macias (Alt)	City of Mountain View	NA
Pat Burt	City of Palo Alto	Present
Larry Klein (Alt)	City of Palo Alto	NA
Kansen Chu	City of San Jose	Present
Jamie Matthews	City of Santa Clara	Present
Jamie McLeod (Alt)	City of Santa Clara	NA
Rich Larsen	Town of Los Altos Hills	Absent

A quorum was present.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

There was no Public Presentations.

4. Committee Staff Report

Jim Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor, reported 1) Board approval of three of the five VTA labor organizations: SEIU, TAEA and AFCSME. Negotiations with ATU are ongoing; 2) Employees enjoyed the Filipino American Fiesta at River Oaks. VTA Chairperson Dolly Sandoval attended the festivities; 3) Chairperson Sandoval and Vice Chairperson attended the San Jose Jazz Festival with VTA's mascot Terry Firma attended to promote transit' role in providing a sustainable, and accessible and environmentally responsible travel option; 4) VTA General Manager announced the process to reduce VTA Bus and Light Rail Service in order to deal with current financial challenges; 5) At the recommendation of the PAC the Board voted to advance the fare increase from January to October 2009; 6) Board approved the purchase of up to 107 forty foot, low floor, hybrid buses from the Gillig Corporation. The initial purchase of 70 vehicles is funded by Federal Stimulus American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds (ARRA) at \$42 million with the balance of \$4 million coming from VTA Transit funds. These buses will replace the oldest vehicles in the fleet with low emission diesel electric hybrids; and 7) A series of public meeting are being held along the BART right of way to bring residents up to date on the progress of the project.

Mr. Lawson provided an update regarding the State Budget highlighting: 1) Largest impact for public transportation is the elimination of State funding for transit operations in FY 2009/10; 2) Use of \$562 million in unanticipated Public transportation "spillover" revenues are projected to accrue in FY 2010 to pay debt service on transportation bonds; 3) Redirection of \$225 million in Public Transportation Account revenues to the General Fund for transportation bond debt service; 4) Appropriates to cities and counties the remaining amount of bond funds authorized in Proposition 1B for local streets and roads; 5) Delays the first and second quarter payments under Proposition 42 for local streets/roads to the third quarter (March 2010) of the fiscal year; 6) Provides for a loan of \$135 million from the State Highway Account to the General Fund to be repaid by June 30, 2013; and 7) Appropriates \$134 million in Proposition 1A bond funds to the California High – Speed Rail Authority.

Member Moylan commented that VTA Board Chairperson mentioned at the Regular Board Meeting August 6, 2009 the PAC Committee recommended accelerating the fare increases from January 2010 to October 2009.

5. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

6. City Grouping Report

There was no City Grouping Report.

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

Member Chu arrived at the meeting and took his seat at 4:10 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. **Minutes of May 14, 2009**

M/S/C (Mc Hugh/Pirzynski) to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2009. Alternate Member Carpenter abstained.

8. **VTP Highway Program Semi – Annual Report**

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the VTP Highway Program Semi – Annual Report.

9. **Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April – June 2009**

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April – June 2009.

Member Burt arrived at the meeting and took his seat at 4:25 pm.

REGULAR AGENDA

10. **January 2010 Service Changes**

Jim Unites, Deputy Director, Operations Service & Operations Planning, provided a report regarding the Transit Service Reduction Plan highlighting: 1) Financial Overview; 2) Public Outreach; 3) Schedule; 4) Service Reductions and major changes; and 5) Environmental Review.

Mr. Unites reported there will be an 8 percent decrease in bus service hours. He noted changes to 62 of VTA's 73 bus routes and cancellation of 6 routes. He commented 47 major route /schedule changes and weekend changes are proposed.

Mr. Unites reported Light Rail service changes will experience 6.5 percent decrease in car hours with the discontinuation of Mountain View service after 10:30 pm and the reduction of train consist sizes.

Mr. Unites provided an update of impacts including: 1) Operating Expenses; 2) Ridership; and 3) Paratransit. He noted the Environmental review is scheduled with the CEQA requirement, initial study, negative declaration Public Hearing and Comments, and VTA Board Adoption.

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

Committee Member Chu commented he has received constituent complaints on the proposed deletion of the River Oaks Shuttle as residents in the area assist in paying for this service. Staff explained the shuttle was a City of San Jose development condition of the housing developers of the area. VTA entered into partnership with the developers (reviewed annually) to operate the shuttle as a public service. The developer pays about \$60, 000 annually. They pass those fees to the homeowners as a component of rent or homeowner's association fees. VTA contributes approximately \$246, 000 annually and the air district provides \$9,500.

Mr. Unites reported shuttle ridership is low averaging about 4 passengers per trip and is scheduled for deletion. Staff indicated the developer must provide shuttle service under the terms of the development condition. He noted it is a City of San Jose issue to address.

Member Chu commented service reductions can impact the general public's support of the BART project.

Member Kotowski indicated he attended the public meeting in the City of Campbell and it was well attended. He commended VTA staff for their good work.

Chairperson Abe-Koga expressed concern regarding the deletion of Line 34 which serves seniors in Mountain View. She noted VTA staff had started meeting with stakeholders in Mountain View to develop improvements to this community bus before the need for service reductions. She asked the process to continue even if the route is discontinued. She mentioned seniors commented they are willing to pay a higher fare to keep the service.

Member Burt questioned whether structural changes to VTA's sales tax revenue stream were occurring especially in a shift in the business to business sales tax. He inquired regarding employee retirement contributions and indicated the San Mateo County Grand Jury has recommended in that County public agencies implement a two-tiered system to save expenses.

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the January 2010 Service changes.

11. Implementing the Regional Transportation Plan: MTC's Proposed Policies

John Ristow, Chief Congestion Management Officer, provided a report indicating Staff's recommendations with regards to MTC's proposed programs. He reported the core programs proposed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) include: 1) Freeway Performance Initiative (FPI); 2) Transit Capital & Regional Streets and Road Rehabilitation ("Fix It First"); 3) Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC); 4) Regional Bike Program; and 5) Climate Initiatives.

Mr. Ristow indicated the MTC adopted a Regional Transportation Plan for the Bay Area on April 22, 2009. The plan follows 3 main themes to establish transportation policy, economy, equity, and environment. He further outlined the goals to carry out the plan from the policy themes include: 1) Maintenance and Safety; 2) Reliability Efficient

Freight Travel; 3) Security and Emergency Management; 4) Clean Air; 5) Climate Protection; 6) Equitable Access; and 7) Livable Communities.

Mr. Ristow indicated VTA staff recommends a portion of the funds allocated for the Freeway Performance Initiative (FPI) shift to the Transit Capital & Regional Streets and Road Rehabilitation (Fix It First). He further noted staff recommends regional policy making should occur on the regional level and more implementation and funding decisions should occur on the local level.

Member Moylan expressed concern with MTC's proposal of allocating 2/3's of the funding be programmed at the regional level. This would require Santa Clara County projects to compete with the eight other Bay Area Counties for the funds. He recommended land use decisions should be made locally. He further supported staff's recommendation the Freeway Performance Initiative should not be aggressively funded rather move to "Fix It First."

Member Pirzynski proposed aggressively lobbying MTC representatives to take a leadership role and encourage support of PAC's recommendation.

The Committee discussed incorporating the "Fix It First," "Regional Policy/Local Implementation" and "Simplification" aspects of the VTA staff proposal. The Committee also discussed whether to recommend that MTC and Caltrans consider total travel time on both the freeways and the local street system before the determination of installing or activating ramp meters.

M/S/C (Pirzynski/McHugh) to adopt VTA staff recommendations with regards to MTC's proposed programs. The Committee unanimously recommended: 1) Specify that two-thirds of Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) programming of the Congestion Management Agency's (CMA) be the minimum desirable level; and 2) Recommend the VTA Board of Directors and other elected officials in Santa Clara County individually and collaboratively advocate VTA's policy positions to the MTC Commission.

12. Joint Development Portfolio & Priority Schedule

Bijal Patel, Deputy Director Property Development and Management, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Joint Development Program Update highlighting: 1) Compilation of Real Estate Inventory; 2) The Joint Development Portfolio including the categorization of assets and research; 3) The Priority Schedule; and 4) The Next Steps.

Ms. Patel provided a comprehensive summary of the basic data on all VTA controlled real estate assets suitable for revenue generation. She indicated assets must first meet the following criteria: 1) Property is owned, leased or otherwise controlled by VTA; and 2) Property offers potential for revenue generation through leasing, joint development, sale, licensing or other asset disposition.

There are over 40 real estate sites with potential to generate revenue. The sites range in size from less than an acre to over 120 acres. Ms. Patel noted the sites are located throughout Santa Clara County. She further indicated the real estate inventory is to be

segregated into 4 categories: 1) Joint Development; 2) Interim Leasing; 3) Permanent Disposition; and 4) Land Banking.

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Joint Development Portfolio & Priority Schedule.

Member Burt left the meeting at 5:37 pm.

13. Grand Boulevard Initiative – Status Report

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Grand Boulevard Initiative – Status Report highlighting: 1) Initiative Overview; 2) Imitative Vision; 3) El Camino Real – State Route 82; 4) Background of the Boulevard Task Force; 5) Guiding Principles; 6) Progress to Date; 7) Benefits to VTA and Member Agencies; and 8) Moving Forward.

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Grand Boulevard Initiative – Status Report.

14. Development Program Enhancements & Proactive CMP Report April – June 2009

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Development Review Program Enhancement highlighting: 1) VTA's Development Review Program; 2) Review Process; 3) Enhancements; 4) Enhancement Approach; 5) Improve Process & Reporting; 6) Expand Outreach & Influence; 7) Conduct Targeted Research; 8) Proactive CMP Report; 9) Proactive CMP Report Enhancements; and 10) Schedule.

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Development Program Enhancements & Proactive CMP Report April – June 2009.

15. Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: August

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, and Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, provided a report regarding the Advisory Committee Enhancement Update for August.

Ms. Loft stated at the July 22, 2009 meeting a consensus was not reached to modify advisory committees structure. Ms. Loft provided an overview of the goals and accomplishments of the Task Force. She stated the report will be forwarded to the September 2009 Administration and Finance Committee for consideration.

Ms. Loft thanked Chairperson Abe-Koga, Vice Chairperson Page, and Member Moylan for their diligence and hard work on the Task Force.

Member Moylan stated the Chairperson for the Committee for Transit Accessibility recommended a meeting should be held periodically with all Chairpersons of the Advisory Committees to discuss pertinent issues to place on the work plan.

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee received the Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: August.

16. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report.

OTHER

17. Committee Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the Work Plan.

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Work Plan.

18. Announcements

There were no Announcements

19. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Abe-Koga and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Golzio, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors