

Policy Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 14, 2010

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 Vice Chairperson Joe Pirzynski in Conference Room B-104 Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jim Griffith	City of Sunnyvale	Present
David Whittum (Alternate)	City of Sunnyvale	NA
Howard Miller	City of Saratoga	Present
Kathleen King (Alt)	City of Saratoga	NA
Dave Cortese	SCC Board of Supervisors	Absent
Michael F. Kotowski	City of Campbell	Present
Jason Baker (Alt)	City of Campbell	NA
Gilbert Wong	City of Cupertino	Absent
Barry Chang(Alt)	City of Cupertino	Absent
Cat Tucker	City of Gilroy	Present
Dion Bracco(Alt)	City of Gilroy	NA
Megan Satterlee	City of Los Altos	Present
Val Carpenter (Alt)	City of Los Altos	NA
Joe Pirzynski	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Diane McNutt (Alt)	Town of Los Gatos	NA
Vacant	City of Milpitas	NA
TBD (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	Present
Steve Tate (Alt)	City of Morgan Hill	NA
John Inks	City of Mountain View	Present
Jac Siegel (Alt)	City of Mountain View	NA
Gail Price	City of Palo Alto	Present
Larry Klein (Alt)	City of Palo Alto	NA
Kansen Chu	City of San Jose	Absent
Jamie Matthews	City of Santa Clara	Absent
Jamie McLeod (Alt)	City of Santa Clara	Absent
TBD	Town of Los Altos Hills	NA

A quorum was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

4. Committee Staff Report

Member Price took her seat at 4:05 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Jim Lawson, Executive Policy Advisor and Staff Liaison, provided a report, highlighting: 1) Implementation of VTA's Light Rail Commuter Express Service on October 4, 2010, with six newly added, peak-hour commute trips from south San Jose, through downtown, to North San Jose, and featuring free WIFI; 2) Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) approved Caltrain service reductions and fare increases to take place in January 2011, to close a \$12 million budget gap for this fiscal year; 3) Status of VTA's budget, noting there was an increase in sales tax, which enabled VTA to end the year with a positive balance of \$16 million. The balance will be applied to the FY 2011; 4) VTA hosted a Design Build Forum at the San Jose Convention Center on September 30, 2010, attended by over 400 contractors interested in submitting bids on the BART Silicon Valley Project; 5) VTA's Employee Advisory Committee hosted a Family Day on October 2, 2010 for employees; and 6) VTA Board of Directors received a presentation on the Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee recommendations at their October 7, 2010 meeting. A Board Workshop/Special Meeting will be held on Friday, October 22, 2010, to discuss recommendations in depth. Also, reported on items approved at the Board meeting.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received the Committee Staff Report.

5. Chairperson's Report

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski provided a report, highlighting: 1) December 8, 2010, Joint Advisory Committee Workshop meeting at 3:00 p.m. to discuss VTA's Budget; and 2) Referenced copies of amended PAC bylaws distributed to the Committee, which highlighted changes made to Section 5.5 –Alternates.

Members of the Committee queried about the timeframe of the December 8, 2010, Joint Advisory Committee Workshop meeting. Mr. Lawson noted meeting timeframe would be provided.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

6. **Minutes of September 9, 2010**

M/S/C (Griffith/Inks) to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2010.

7. **FY 2010 Annual Transit Operations Performance Report**

Upon query of Members of the Committee, Mr. Lawson clarified why the performance against goals data was not contained in the Executive Summary, noting that the information was contained in the actual Report.

M/S/C (Griffith/Inks) to receive the Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Transit Operations Performance Report.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. **Appoint Nomination Subcommittee**

Member Lee took her seat at 4:17 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski provided a report on the responsibilities of the Nomination Subcommittee. He noted the Nomination Subcommittee report would be provided at the November 2010 PAC meeting.

Members Gail Price and Howard Miller volunteered to serve on the Nomination Subcommittee.

Member Miller noted if any Members were interested in serving as Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson for 2011 to inform the Nomination Subcommittee.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee appointed Members Howard Miller and Gail Price to serve on a nomination subcommittee to identify Committee members interested in serving as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2011.

9. **Cooperative Agreement with City of Morgan Hill for Planning Study**

Timothy Nieuwsma, Senior Real Estate Agent, provided an overview of the staff report.

Members of the Committee questioned the location of the ParkNRide lot in relation to downtown Morgan Hill and other services that could be included.

Members of the Committee referenced Area D shown on Exhibit A: Plan Study Area, and commented it does not recommend the area as an option for a major parking structure. Members of the Committee expressed concern regarding the traffic impacts.

M/S/C (Miller/Price) to recommend the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Morgan Hill to engage in a site planning process to determine the optimal replacement parking solution for the Morgan Hill Caltrain ParkNRide Lot.

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

10. Update VTA's California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

Upon query of Members of the Committee, Tom Fitzwater, Environmental Planning Manager, indicated adoption of the Guidelines was not a requirement, but noted the Guidelines were commonly used by public agencies throughout the State of California.

M/S/C (Kotowski/Tucker) to recommend that the Board of Directors: 1) Rescind VTA's adoption of the 2001 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and 2) adopt the Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA effective January 1, 2010 with the following addition: revise Article 19 Categorical Exemptions, Section 15301, Existing Facilities, by adding the word "purchasing" to the first sentence between the words "permitting" and "leasing" that describes Class 1 activities.

11. SB 375 – Sustainable Communities Strategy Update

John Sighamony, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the staff report.

Members of the Committee expressed concern that some Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)/Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Performance Targets were not feasible.

Members of the Committee expressed concern regarding the timeframe for the SCS and RTP and questioned the steps Agencies could take to prepare for the update of the RTP.

Members of the Committee expressed concern regarding the housing allocation process and if the process would affect what was currently in City General Plans as well as the General Plans that were in the process of being updated.

Members of the Committee expressed concern regarding the three-tiered SCS/RTP Participation Process and questioned whether the accelerated process would be effective. Scott Haywood, Policy and Communications Manager, reported the process was intended to be inclusive, did not require additional meetings, and uses the existing meeting structures of various local agencies.

Mr. Sighamony noted a Cities Association meeting would be held tonight and would be attended by VTA staff and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Mr. Sighamony noted that a SB 375 Summit is anticipated to be held on November 8, 2010. City Council Members, County Board of Supervisors, and senior level planning staff from the local agencies would be attendance to discuss how the County of Santa Clara should address the next RTP update. He recommended PAC's attendance to provide input.

Mr. Lawson recommended that the SB 375 item be agendized at the November PAC meeting, so that PAC could have a more in depth discussion about the process and actions to be taken in addressing the update of the SCS/RTP.

Members of the Committee recommended PAC involve their planning staff and to report back to VTA staff with issues pertaining to the SCS/RTP.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received an update on the Sustainable Communities Strategy activities as part of the implementation of SB 375.

12. Ramp Metering Program “After” Studies Southbound SR 85 & SR87

David Kobayashi, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the staff report.

Members of the Committee recommended that PAC monitor ramps in their own communities and inform VTA staff of any traffic back-up issues.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received a presentation on the results of implementing ramp metering on northbound and southbound SR 87 and southbound SR 85.

13. Update on the Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee

Mr. Lawson provided an update on the Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee, highlighting: 1) Report on why Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee was established; 2) Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) 10-Year Operating Projection used to identify budget deficit; 3) Key operating revenue & cost trends affecting VTA’s financial projections; 4) December 2009 formation of Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee and its membership, noting number of meetings held between January and September 2010; 5) Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee established goals and priorities; and 6) Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee recommendations.

Mr. Lawson noted a VTA Board of Directors Workshop/Special meeting will be held on Friday, October 22, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., Board of Supervisors’ Chambers, County Government Center, to discuss the Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee’s recommendations in depth.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, a stakeholder on the Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee, commented on the process and recommended PAC attend the October 22, 2010, Board of Directors Workshop/Special meeting.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received an update on the Ad Hoc Financial Recovery Committee.

14. Update on VTA/High Speed Rail

Steve Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on VTA/High Speed Rail, highlighting: 1) VTA’s three roles pertaining to the High Speed Rail (HSR) Project; 2) Milestones of HSR Project, noting that Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for the Diridon to San Francisco and Diridon Station to Gilroy segments are anticipated to be released in 2011; and 3) Status of statewide project.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received an update on VTA/High Speed Rail.

OTHER

15. Committee Work Plan

Mr. Lawson noted the SB 375 – Sustainable Communities Strategy item would be agendaized at the November 2010 PAC meeting.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Work Plan.

16. Announcements

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski announced the passing of former PAC Member Don Burnett. He indicated Mr. Burnett was a long-time member of the Cupertino City Council, an extreme bicycle advocate, noting Mr. Burnett's exemplary service to VTA.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski announced the passing of Chief Don Burr, a long-time member of the Campbell City Council, Mayor and Police Chief.

17. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in memory of former Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Member Don Burnett at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary