

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 12, 2011

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Chairperson Pirzynski in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jeffrey Cristina	City of Campbell	Present
Michael Kotowski (Alternate)	City of Campbell	NA
Barry Chang	City of Cupertino	Absent
Orrin Mahoney (Alternate)	City of Cupertino	Absent
Cat Tucker	City of Gilroy	Absent
Dion Bracco (Alternate)	City of Gilroy	Absent
Megan Satterlee, Vice Chairperson	City of Los Altos	Absent
Jarrett Fishpaw (Alternate)	City of Los Altos	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Town of Los Altos Hills</i>	
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	<i>Town of Los Altos Hills</i>	
Joe Pirzynski, Chairperson	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Diane McNutt (Alternate)	Town of Los Gatos	NA
Armando Gomez	City of Milpitas	Absent
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	<i>City of Milpitas</i>	
Lana Malloy	City of Monte Sereno	Absent
Burton Craig (Alternate)	City of Monte Sereno	Absent
Larry Carr	City of Morgan Hill	Absent
Rich Constantine (Alternate)	City of Morgan Hill	Absent
John Inks	City of Mountain View	Present
Jac Siegel (Alternate)	City of Mountain View	NA
Gail Price	City of Palo Alto	Present
Nancy Shepherd (Alternate)	City of Palo Alto	NA
Kansen Chu	City of San Jose	Absent
Jamie Matthews	City of Santa Clara	Absent
Jamie McLeod (Alternate)	City of Santa Clara	Absent
Howard Miller	City of Saratoga	Present
Emily Lo (Alternate)	City of Saratoga	NA
Jim Griffith	City of Sunnyvale	Present
David Whittum (Alternate)	City of Sunnyvale	NA
Mike Wasserman	SCC Board of Supervisors	Present

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

Scott Haywood, Policy and Community Relations Manager and Staff Liaison, provided brief overview report, highlighting: May 9, 2011 Joint Advisory Committee Budget Workshop Meeting; May 12, 2011 Bike to Work Day; and the passing of Omar Ahmad, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Member representing the San Mateo County Transit District.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Pirzynski stated that the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting would adjourn in memory of Omar Ahmad.

Chairperson Pirzynski commented on the April 14, 2011 PAC and Cities Association of Santa Clara County Joint Meeting on the proposals of Sustainable Communities.

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

Chairperson Pirzynski requested that the agenda be taken out of order, noting the information items would be heard first until a quorum was established.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Proactive CMP Quarterly Report for January – March 2011

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview on the staff report. Mr. Swierk reported on the key projects and plans that VTA reviewed and commented on during the past quarter, highlighting: South Plaza Office Development in the City of Los Altos; General Plan Update and San Antonio Center Precise Plan Amendments and Developments in the City of Mountain View; Sun Garden Retail Development in the City of San Jose; Martial Cottle State Park General Plan and County Park Master Plan in the City of San Jose; and Rancho San Ysidro-Machado Subdivision in the City of Gilroy.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the whole agreed to receive the Proactive CMP Quarterly Report for January through March 2011.

10. Valley Transportation Plan (VTP), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategies Update (SCS)

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, provided a brief overview on the staff report. Mr. Augenstein reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have started discussions for developing three alternative financially constrained scenarios.

Mr. Augenstein noted VTA's Principles on SCS and Plan Bay Area are the following: 1) Discretionary Funding should follow Projected Growth; 2) Regional Vision Setting with Local Decision Making; and 3) SCS should be Practical and Implementable. These principles are intended to enhance opportunities to achieve the goals of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the Air

Resources Board. VTA staff is currently in the process of developing tool kits to assist the cities in reviewing the data in the Vision Scenario.

Member Griffith arrived at the meeting and took his seat at 4:30 p.m.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole agreed to receive the Valley Transportation Plan, Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies Update.

11. Caltrain Electrification

Steven Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a brief overview on the staff report. Mr. Fisher reported Caltrain and SamTrans completed the Final Environmental Assessment on Caltrain Electrification but has not received the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance. This project is federally approved.

The Caltrain Electrification Environment Assessment document is available online at: http://www.caltrain.com/projectsplans/Projects/peninsularailprogram/Caltrain_2025_Electrification.html.

Mr. Fisher discussed the current project scope, benefits, costs and funding. The total estimated project cost is \$1.25 billion in 2009 dollars. VTA, San Mateo County Transportation Authority, and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) each pledged \$60 million for a total of \$180 million. However, the project is stalled because of a \$500 million project funding gap, even after the proposed federal funding amounts.

Mr. Fisher reported on an effort to determine if High Speed Rail (HSR) would assist with the Caltrain Electrification project as part of the construction of the phased Peninsula Line, noting the HSR Authority will revisit the request at their next board meeting.

Public Presentation

Roland Lebrun, Interested Citizen, stressed the importance of Caltrain Electrification being completed between the Tamien Station and Gilroy. Mr. Lebrun urged the Committee to consider investing in a third rail between the Tamien Station and Gilroy to address the clearance issue.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole agreed to receive the Caltrain Electrification report.

Member Cristina left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole agreed to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: **Agenda Item # 6.** Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2011 and **Agenda Item #7.** FY 2011/2012 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Project Priorities.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Minutes of April 14, 2011

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole agreed to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2011.

7. FY 2011/12 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Project Priorities

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole agreed to recommend that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution approving the project priorities for the FY2011/12 Countywide Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program.

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

8. State Route (SR) 237/I-880 Express Connectors Operational Procedures

Murali Ramanujam, CMA Senior Transportation Engineer, provided a brief overview on the staff report. Mr. Ramanujam reported that the proposed Express Lanes in SR 237 is the first phase of a conversion of direct carpool to carpool connectors to Express Connectors at the SR 237/I-880 Interchange.

Staff is currently in discussions with Caltrans regarding the setting of the hours of operation and setting the protocol for calculating the toll rate. Mr. Ramanujam noted the two options for hours of operation of the Express Lanes and the dynamic toll pricing to maintain the Express Lanes traffic at an average travel speed of at least 45 miles per hour. Staff proposes a minimum toll rate of \$0.30 with no maximum toll rate.

Upon query from the Members of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Ramanujam responded the goal of the Express Lanes Program is to use the system as a demand management tool, noting much of the carpool lanes in Santa Clara County are underutilized.

Mr. Haywood stated the Express Lanes Program gives everyone the flexibility and option to utilize the carpool system. The Express Lanes Program has the potential of becoming a new revenue source for operation and maintenance as well as transit.

Member Price left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Members of the Committee of the Whole expressed support for Option #2 for Setting the Hours of Operation and suggested that a toll rate maximum limit be established.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole agreed to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the operational procedures related to setting of the hours of operations and the protocol for calculating the toll rates for the SR 237/I-880 Express Connectors project; and further recommend that a reasonable toll rate maximum limit be established. Member Wasserman noted his opposition to staff's recommendation.

OTHER

12. Committee Work Plan

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

13. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Garza, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary