



Date: July 21, 2006  
 Committee Meeting Date: August 10, 2006  
 Board Meeting Date: N/A

**BOARD MEMORANDUM**

ACTION        DISCUSSION   X   INFO       

**TO:** Technical Advisory Committee  
 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
 Board of Directors

**THROUGH:** Michael T. Burns  
 General Manager

*Michael T. Burns*

**FROM:** Carolyn M. Gonot  
 Chief Development Officer

*Carolyn M. Gonot*

**SUBJECT:** Land Use Dataset Confirmation for Countywide Transportation Model

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of VTA's responsibilities for developing and maintaining a countywide transportation model, periodic updates to the input socio-economic databases are required, coinciding with development of a new base year model and the release of new Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Projections datasets. The accuracy of model output is directly related to the accuracy of the input datasets.

For application in the countywide model, these databases are organized in distinct geographical areas known as Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs). For each TAZ, detailed socioeconomic data such as the number of households, population and employment by industry type are used to develop estimates of travel demand. The information contained in the TAZs is assembled from a variety of sources including ABAG Projections data, U.S. Census, California Employment Development Department (EDD), and information provided from Member Agencies.

The current socio-economic databases were developed in 2003 and were based on the ABAG Projections 2003 data series. New datasets have been developed reflecting a 2005 base year and a 2030 forecast year. Member Agencies are being asked to review the new data and provide comments to VTA by September 29, 2006.

**DISCUSSION:**

Draft datasets based on ABAG Projections 2005 data series and reflecting a new 2005 base year and 2030 forecast will be provided at the August meeting for your review and comment. The

ABAG Projections 2005 includes ABAG and MTC assumptions regarding the location of future “Smart Growth” development (generally consisting of higher density mixed-use development) within each city boundary. Subsequently, Member Agencies are asked to give particular consideration to this “Smart Growth” assumption in their review.

#### Dataset Review

The materials provided to assist in the review consist of a map showing the locations of the TAZs for each jurisdiction, an electronic and hard copy of the detail data within each TAZ and Year 2030 ABAG control totals of households and employment for each jurisdiction. The information is also posted in Geographic Information System (GIS) layers (ESRI Shape files) and .JPG file format for each jurisdiction at <http://www.vta.org/news/vtacmp/2005LANDUSE/>. VTA is requesting member agencies to review, and if necessary, revise the initial VTA allocations by TAZ for their jurisdiction, respecting as a limit the control totals for households and employment growth from 2005 to 2030 per ABAG Projections 2005.

VTA will be sending a letter to each member agency’s planning department and VTA technical advisor committee member that details VTA’s request to review the land use data. VTA is requesting responses by September 29, 2006.