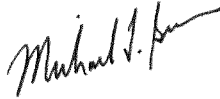




Date: November 29, 2006
 Committee Meeting Date: December 14, 2006
 Board Meeting Date: N/A
 ACTION DISCUSSION INFO

BOARD MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns 
 General Manager

FROM: Carolyn M. Gonot 
 Chief Development Officer

SUBJECT: Transit Sustainability Policy Overview

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

At the December Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, staff will provide an overview of the Transit Sustainability Policy.

The Transit Sustainability Policy is ridership-based. The policy is intended to provide a framework for the efficient and effective expenditure of public funds and to achieve the highest return on transit investments in terms of public good and system productivity. The policy is also designed to help inform the Board’s decision-making by providing an evaluation and recommendation process that can be applied uniformly to any project or service in any location throughout Santa Clara County and for comparing operating and capital costs for various transit modes that achieve similar corridor ridership levels.

The policy will guide the implementation of new transit services as well as the refinement and maintenance of existing transit services. All proposed new services will be subject to the Transit Sustainability Policy and will undergo analysis using the standards and criteria presented in the Service Design Guidelines. The guidelines are designed for use in the evaluation and design of existing service, potential service changes, and proposed new services. They are also designed to address somewhat more qualitative issues such as route and system design, mode specific operational requirements, and land use transportation integration. The Board-adopted Service Management Plan will incorporate elements of the guidelines.

The proposed three-step Evaluation and Recommendation process involves several stages and activities for evaluating new services and the restructuring of existing VTA services and facilities. The key stages are as follows:

1. Project or Study Area Definition
2. Ridership & Operations Analysis (Application of Service Design Guidelines)
3. Implementation Recommendations

The result of this process may be recommendations to modify potential services, phase services to match the predicted growth in potential ridership, or develop collaborative ridership improvement plans to ensure that the demand for transit service is paired with capital and operating investments.