



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 8, 2007

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairperson Dey in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Greg Armendariz, City of Milpitas
Rajeev Batra, City of Santa Clara
John Cherbone, City of Saratoga
Nancy Coss-Fitzwater, Ex-Officio, VTA
Dan Collen, County of Santa Clara
Don Dey, Chairperson, City of Gilroy

Members Present

Glenn Goepfert, City of Cupertino
Joan Jenkins, City of Mountain View
Henry Louie, Town of Los Altos Hills
Jim Rowe, City of Morgan Hill
Ben Tripousis, City of San Jose
Jack Witthaus, City of Sunnyvale

Members Absent

Robet Kass, Vice Chairperson, City of Campbell
Gayle Likens, City of Palo Alto
Jim Porter, City of Los Altos

Members Absent

Kevin Rohani, Town of Los Gatos
Gordon Siebert, City of Monte Sereno
Lee Taubeneck, Ex-Officio, Caltrans

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of Day

4. Committee Staff Report

John Ristow, Deputy Director Program and Highway Administration and Staff Liaison, introduced Michael Burns, General Manager, who provided the following update on the

BART Extension Project: 1) The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved \$364 million to help fund 65% design work over the next two years and payback VTA for Preliminary Engineering work it has completed to date; 2) The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was released and public meetings to discuss the SEIR and receive public comment will take place in San Jose, Milpitas and Santa Clara.

Member Cherbone took his seat at 1:40 p.m.

Mr. Burns provided an update on various construction projects and highlighted the following: 1) The Transit Mall Station Retrofit Project is almost complete. Five of seven stations were retrofitted and the Santa Clara Station should be complete by May 2007; 2) Canopies have been installed at the San Antonio and Saint James stations; 3) Construction of the Route 17 Auxiliary Lane between Camden Avenue and Hamilton Avenue is almost complete and should open by the middle of February 2007; and, 4) The 152/156 Interchange Project is out to bid and award of the contract is expected in March 2007.

Mr. Burns stated that the Financial and Organizational Audit is almost complete and the VTA will receive the results in March. The Board of Directors will receive a presentation of the results at its March 23, 2006 Board Workshop. He referenced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget and noted that projections indicate that it will end with a balanced budget and may provide a small surplus. He noted that preparations for the FY 2008 – FY 2009 budget are underway and it will not include any fare increases or service cuts. He also highlighted that the VTA will review the day pass, senior/disabled fare and youth fare to see if reductions in the fares will increase ridership.

Mr. Burns referenced the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) that is part of the State Infrastructure Bond, and noted that the CTC will release a list of staff recommended projects on February 16, 2007. A public meeting will take place on February 20, 2007 to provide input and comments to the CTC. The CTC will approve the projects on February 28, 2007. Member Tripousis asked if VTA will request letters of support for the projects from the cities. Mr. Burns responded, “yes”.

Mr. Burns noted that the swap of State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) funds was approved by the Board of Directors at its February 1, 2007 meeting. This approval included an allocation of \$20 million for streets and roads.

Mr. Burns highlighted the “call for project” schedule of the following grant programs: 1) The Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) grant program was released on February 5, 2007 and applications are due by the end of March; 2) The TDA release will take place in early March; 3) The Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Capital grants release will take place on February 9, 2007; 4) The CDT Planning grants release will take place in April/May.

Alternate Member Batra noted that many construction projects receive estimates that are above the Engineer’s Estimate. He asked about the experience of VTA and if the higher costs have meant the construction of fewer projects. Mr. Burns responded that the increased costs have resulted in the advancement of fewer projects and the need to identify other potential funding sources to fill the gap.

Alternate Member Batra referenced the \$20 million in STIP funds for Streets and Roads and asked for further explanation and if the funds could go toward street maintenance. Mr. Ristow responded that the funds will not fund street maintenance and will instead fund the Local Roads program of the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030.

Member Jenkins noted that the TAC often provides input to staff, however the input is not incorporated into the memorandum that goes before the Board of Directors. Mr. Burns supported Member Jenkins' comments and stated that staff will try to include comments in future memorandums.

Member Tripousis inquired about how VTA will seek a larger part of regional dollars to support future projects and what cities can do to support this efforts. Mr. Burns stated that VTA does not yet have strategy and noted that VTA has not received adequate representation at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

Chairperson Dey noted that the TAC wishes to take a more proactive role on issues members must address on a day to day basis. He stated that one issue is the overlap between the time of the TAC meeting and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. He asked the difficulty of modifying the schedule to accommodate better coordination between TAC members and PAC members. Mr. Burns responded that a delay of one or two days is possible, however a delay of a week would cause an issue. He added that VTA could attempt to present information on items of interest to the TAC sooner in the process.

Alternate Member Batra asked for a list of sources of funding and potential amounts that VTA could possibly receive from Proposition 1B. He noted that this will help the city proceed with projects as it will know which funds are available for a project. Mr. Ristow noted that VTA would have a better picture after the February 28, 2007 CTC meeting.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Dey reported that Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Staff Liaison, contacted him requesting volunteers from the TAC who would review the update of the Countywide Bike Plan.

6. Reports from TAC Working Groups

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

John Sighamony, Transportation Planner III, provided a report entitled "County Pedestrian Needs- CIP Working Group" that highlighted the following: 1) Groundwork; 2) Sidewalks; 3) Crossing Enhancements; 4) County Issues; and, 5) CIP Comments.

Alternate Member Collen noted that bike and pedestrian advocates constantly approach the County with the need to remove pedestrian prohibitions or to construct

new sidewalks on County expressways. He stated that the County continues to look at potential fund sources for these projects and recommended that the County and VTA meet to discuss potential fund sources.

Chairperson Dey stated that the issue of sidewalk construction is a larger issue beyond the County and the TAC should work to identify other funds to address this need.

- **Systems Operations & Management (SOM)**

Paul Ma, City of San Jose, noted that the SOM met in January and discussed the following: 1) Data from the 2006 CMP Monitoring Report; 2) The continued review and revision of VTA's traffic impact analysis guidelines; and, 3) Caltrans California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) comments on local development projects. This discussion led to the development of the following three action items: a) the production of a synopsis on the local funding strategy for local mitigation toward countywide transportation system improvements on state highways; b) provide a synthesis of Caltrans past comments that the SOM believes are difficult to accomplish; and, c) VTA to provide an information session for Caltrans staff to educate them about the local guideline procedures.

Chairperson Dey referenced the Caltrans discussion and asked if the action items will fully address the issues or are the start of future solutions. Mr. Ma responded that this represents the start of the process with Caltrans.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

7. **Minutes of December 14, 2006**

M/S/C (Tripousis/Jenkins) to approve the Minutes of December 14, 2006.

8. **Minutes of January 11, 2007**

M/S/C (Tripousis/Jenkins) to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2007.

9. **Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October through December 2006**

M/S/C (Tripousis/Jenkins) to review the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October through December 2006

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

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Countywide Review and Screening of Candidate Locations for Noise Mitigation Projects on Freeways and Expressways

John Ristow, Deputy Director Program and Highway Administration and Staff Liaison, introduced Marcella Renzi, Transportation Planning Manager, who noted that this program will screen candidate locations for soundwalls. She stated that staff will request \$500,000 to issue a call for candidate locations and hire a consultant to facilitate a three-staged screening process to determine if a problem exists at the location and if a solution is possible.

Ms. Renzi highlighted the following three-stage process: 1) Site Visit; 2) Paper review of location to determine such facts as when the house or business was built, the last time work was done on the freeway and the traffic volumes; 3) Completion of field measurements and a detailed analysis in which the consultant will conduct noise readings and complete a report on the feasibility of noise mitigation measures. She noted that the VTA will provide the results of these studies to the respective cities and keep the results in a database.

Ms. Renzi noted that this process is the second step in a five step process necessary for the construction of a soundwall. The five steps are: 1) Citizen concern; 2) VTA process under consideration; 3) Preparation of a Noise Barrier Summary Scope Report (NBSSR); 4) Programming of funds; 5) Design and construction of soundwall.

Member Tripousis inquired about why the VTA has to complete a NBSSR when it will complete its own consultant study. Ms. Renzi noted that the NBSSR is a more detailed study that includes a specific solution, cost, and a potential schedule. Member Tripousis further inquired about whether the NBSSR or the initial VTA assessment will determine a project's placement on the candidate list. Mr. Ristow responded that the VTA process will screen down the list of projects to take to the next step of a NBSSR.

Member Jenkins inquired about funding for construction of the soundwalls. Ms. Renzi responded that, pending Board approval, the funds will come from the STIP.

Alternate Member Collen referenced a past list of candidate locations and asked if this process will disregard the old list. Ms. Renzi noted that there were two lists and one has been closed out. Mr. Ristow added that this new process will identify new locations not initially covered by past lists.

Alternate Member Collen inquired if this process will lead to the development of a potential program amount. Mr. Ristow responded that this process could potentially lead to a programming amount. Alternate Member Collen added that the County could provide assistance for the projects along expressways.

Alternate Member Batra noted that publicity of the scope of this study should highlight that this program is to address noise only from ground transportation. Member Witthaus added that the program should include railroad noise.

Member Witthaus asked about how many locations the VTA will assess with the proposed budget. Ms. Renzi responded that the VTA believes the \$500,000 is adequate to study all candidate locations.

Alternate Member Collen asked if a constituent letter or other documentation is necessary to initiate the process. Mr. Ristow responded that each city and the County will determine how it chooses its candidate locations.

Member Witthaus asked if VTA has a sense of where problems exist. Mr. Ristow responded that this is a Countywide problem.

M/S/C (Jenkins/Tripousis) to recommend that the VTA Board of Directors authorize a countywide review and screening of candidate locations for noise mitigation projects on freeways and expressways; and authorize the General Manager to enter into consultant contracts for up to \$500,000 for technical work necessary to implement the screening program.

OTHER

11. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee Report

Chairperson Dey noted that the subcommittee met after the last TAC meeting and is working on a Mission Statement for approval by the TAC within the next few months. He added that the subcommittee is working to identify the tasks that the TAC can work on in the future.

On order of Chairperson Dey, there being no objection, the TAC Subcommittee Report was received.

Member Cherbone left his seat at 2:45 p.m.

12. Committee Work Plan

Member Jenkins inquired about the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) and asked if it will come to the TAC for review.

Chairperson Dey asked that the workplan incorporate review of the COA and Financial and Organizational Audit by the TAC.

Member Tripousis requested that VTA provide adequate notice and involve the TAC in the preparation of the VTP 2035 and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

On order of Chairperson Dey, there being no objection, the Committee Work Plan was reviewed.

13. Announcements

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Liaison, requested the assistance of volunteers from the TAC who would review the update of the Countywide Bike Plan. Chairperson Dey and Members Tripousis and Collen volunteered to assist in the update.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Dey, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Murillo, Assistant Board Secretary
VTA Board of Directors