



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 8, 2007

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Chairperson Dey in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San José, California.

#### ROLL CALL

##### Members Present

Rajeev Batra, Alternate  
John Cherbone  
Nancy Coss-Fitzwater, Ex-Officio  
Dan Collen, Alternate  
Don Dey, Chairperson  
Gayle Likens  
Henry Louie  
Jaime Rodriguez, Alternate  
Jim Rowe, Alternate  
Ben Tripousis  
Jack Witthaus

##### Representing

City of Santa Clara  
City of Saratoga  
VTA  
County of Santa Clara  
City of Gilroy  
City of Palo Alto  
Town of Los Altos Hills  
City of Milpitas  
City of Morgan Hill  
City of San José  
City of Sunnyvale

##### Members Absent

Joan Jenkins  
Robert Kass, Vice Chairperson  
Jim Porter  
Ralph Qualls, Jr.  
Kevin Rohani  
Gordon Siebert  
Lee Taubeneck, Ex-Officio

##### Representing

City of Mountain View  
City of Campbell  
City of Los Altos  
City of Cupertino  
Town of Los Gatos  
City of Monte Sereno  
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**

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

John Sighamony, Transportation Planner III, made reference to the Santa Clara County Litter Task Force and noted that the “Great American Litter Pick-Up Day” will take place on May 19, 2007, in the city of San José. Mr. Sighamony asked if other cities would be interested in participating in the Great American Litter Pick-Up Day, and if so, to please contact him.

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, reported that the VTA Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) in their role as the Citizens’ Watchdog Committee (CWC), has developed their Quarterly Progress Report for the 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program. The Progress Report was reviewed at their February 7, 2007 meeting and final strategic adjustments were made at their March 7, 2007 meeting. The Board of Directors will receive a draft Progress Report for its approval.

Mr. Lawson reported that in December 2006, the Board of Directors approved a contract for state legislative advocacy services with Smith, Watts & Company, for an additional three years. The Board of Directors requested that the Company provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on an annual basis. Mark Watts, Project Manager, provided a report to the Board of Directors at their March 1, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Lawson reported that on February 28, 2007, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded VTA funds from the Infrastructure Bond approved by the voters as Proposition 1B in November 2006. The following projects were funded: 1) Interstate 880 HOV Lanes from Route 237 to US 101 - \$72 million; 2) U.S. 101 Widening from I-280/I-680 Interchange to Capitol Expressway/Yerba Buena - \$30 million; and 3) U.S. 101 Auxiliary Lanes from Route 85 to Embarcadero - \$85 million.

Mr. Lawson reported that the following projects were not funded: 1) U.S. 101 Widening to six Lanes from Route 25 to Monterey Road in South County; and 2) I-880/I-280 Interchange Improvements in San José. Mr. Lawson gave a special thanks to San José Mayor and VTA Board Member Chuck Reed, and Laura Stuchinsky, VTA Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) Member and Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) representative, who advocated on VTA’s behalf.

Member Tripousis expressed concern regarding funds for local streets and roads. He commented that the League of California Cities is encouraging jurisdictions to request that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger provide as much funding as possible. He made reference to Senate Bill (SB) 286 – Dutton, which refers to the allocation of local streets and roads funding under Proposition 1B, and queried about the status. Mr. Lawson noted that staff would provide a status report to the Committee via e-mail.

Mr. Lawson reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has released information on the next phase of Proposition 1B money, the State Infrastructure Bond for Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account. This represents the revenue share to Bay Area transit operators. The revenue share is split between a revenue-based share and population-based share. Under the revenue-based share, VTA would receive approximately \$123 million for transit capital projects. He noted that Caltrain would receive approximately \$42 million for transit capital. The population-based share for the Bay Area is approximately \$347 million. MTC has proposed funding for the following VTA projects: 1) Transit corridor improvements for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Lines 22 and 23 – approximately \$45 million; 2) Lifeline funding for transit operators – approximately \$33 million; and 3) additional funds for Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) – approximately \$20 million.

Mr. Lawson provided a status report on the damaged Sunol/Auzerais Signal bungalow on the Vasona Light Rail Line. Mr. Lawson noted that the contractors, Midvale Electric and Rail Systems Solutions, completed the repair work in less than 60 days.

Mr. Lawson reported that VTA staff held four public meetings in February 2007, on the BART Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). Over 120 members from the public and more than 30 Community Working Group (CWG) members were in attendance. Most of the feedback was positive and comments received from the public meetings will be formally addressed in the Final SEIR slated for May 2007.

Mr. Lawson provided a progress report on VTA's Community Bus Program. He indicated that both the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy have had meetings with city staff, elected officials, presentations at council meetings, and meetings with local community stakeholders identified by the cities. The Community Bus services are scheduled to begin July 2007.

Member Tripousis referenced Community Bus services and noted that the City of San José has received requests/inquiries about having transit services specifically from downtown San José to the new market center located on Coleman Avenue. Mr. Lawson indicated that VTA has received some of the same requests/inquiries and anticipates addressing the issue as part of the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA).

Mr. Lawson noted that Jeff Funk, Deputy Director of Construction, is leaving VTA. Mr. Funk has been with VTA for over seven years and has been instrumental in delivering highway improvement projects that were part of the 1996 Measure B Program.

Mr. Lawson reported that VTA received bids for the construction of Route 152/156 Interchange Improvement Project in South County. The Board of Directors awarded the contract to RGW Construction at \$17.3 million and groundbreaking for the project is tentatively scheduled for April 2009.

Upon query of Alternate Member Batra, Mr. Lawson noted that RGW Construction's bid was below the Engineer's Estimate.

**On order of Chairperson Dey**, there being no objection, the Committee Staff Report was received.

**5. Chairperson's Report**

There was no Chairperson's Report.

**6. Reports from TAC Working Groups**

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

John Sighamony, Transportation Planner III, noted that the CIP Working Group meeting scheduled for February 2007 was cancelled. He noted that on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, VTA released a Call-For-Projects for both the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Program and programming phase of the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030 under Local Streets and County Roads. The TDA Article 3 applications are due on April 13, 2007, and Local Streets and County Roads applications are due on April 6, 2007.

Alternate Member Collens and Member Likens expressed concern regarding the insufficient amount of time given to submit applications for Local Streets and County Roads.

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

There was no report from the SOM Working Group.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**7. Minutes of February 8, 2007**

M/S/C (Tripousis/Rodriguez) to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2007.

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**8. Lifeline Transportation Program: Status Update, Program Changes and Call-for-Projects**

Bill Hough, Transportation Planner III, referenced staff's recommendation. He directed attention to Attachment A, which contained the six projects approved by the Board of Directors and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in June 2006. When the six projects were approved, both VTA and MTC believed that transit pass subsidy projects would be eligible. However, recent decision by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and MTC prevent funding programs that subsidize transit passes. Mr. Hough noted the following three projects affected by this change: 1) Outreach's Family Transportation Program; 2) San José's Housing Services Partnership; and 3) VTA's Community Partnership Transportation Project.

Mr. Hough reported that the City of San José's Housing Services Partnership contained both a transportation assistance/transit pass subsidy and an Auto Repair Assistance Program (ARAP) component. Originally, the City of San José was awarded \$180,000, but due to the recent decision by the FTA, the City of San José has proposed revising the project scope to eliminate the transit pass subsidy component, increase the level of ARAP services, and reduce the requested grant amount to \$75,000.

Mr. Hough reported that VTA's Community Partnership Transportation Project has been pulled from the program, because it was entirely dedicated to subsidizing transit passes. As a result, \$1,000,000 is available for reprogramming.

Mr. Hough reported that the Joint Lifeline Transportation Committee (JLTC) is recommending that the Board of Directors approve the City of San José revised proposal and issuing a new Call-For-Projects in the amount of \$1,105,487 unprogrammed Lifeline funds. He directed attention to the tentative Lifeline Transportation 2007 Call for Projects Schedule, highlighting that the new Call-For-Projects is scheduled to be issued on April 6, 2007.

Chairperson Dey commented that the City of Gilroy actually put in a larger grant request, but was only awarded a portion of the grant request. He asked if the City of Gilroy would be made whole, since there are more funds available. Mr. Hough noted that the City of Gilroy project is being funded out of the Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) portion and there is no CMAQ money available.

**M/S/C (Rowe/Tripousis)** to review and recommend that the VTA Board of Directors approve a revised scope and grant amount for the City of San José's Auto Repair Assistance Program (ARAP) in the amount of \$75,000 and issue a new Call-For-Projects (CFP) for the Lifeline Transportation Program.

## **9. Safe Routes to Transit Presentation by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition**

Dave Campbell, Vice Chair, East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC), distributed a document entitled, "Safe Routes To Transit Program (SR2T), Notice of Call for Projects, Cycle II," and provided an overview of the Program. The SR2T Program is funded through Regional Measure 2 and is a \$20 million Program intended to reduce congestion on Bay Area bridge corridors by improving bicycle and pedestrian access and safety to and from

transit stations. Mr. Campbell noted that the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC) and EBBC are administering the program with MTC.

Mr. Campbell indicated that SR2T Program is in its second cycle of the funding program, and approximately \$4 million will be available for the Nine-County Bay Area region. The application deadline is April 3, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. and should be submitted to the TALC. Mr. Campbell noted that the application materials are available on the TALC Website: [www.transcoalition.org](http://www.transcoalition.org). A Pre-Application Workshop will be held on March 14, 2007, in downtown Oakland.

Mr. Campbell provided a report on the eligibility requirements and application evaluation process.

**On order of Chairperson Dey**, there being no objection, a Safe Routes to Transit Presentation by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition was received.

## **OTHER**

### **10. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee Report**

Chairperson Dey reported that the TAC Subcommittee has been working on a mission statement and believes that it has developed a mission statement that truly reflects what the TAC has been and should be working on.

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

### **11. Mission Statement for the Technical Advisory Committee**

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, noted that the TAC Subcommittee consists of Chairperson Dey, Vice Chairperson Kass, Members Witthaus, Tripousis, and Porter.

Mr. Lawson noted that the 2006 VTA Board of Directors Chairperson had requested that the TAC provide feedback and suggestions on how to better incorporate TAC's expertise in the decision-making process. He indicated that TAC forwarded to the Board of Directors a list of recommendations on how to enhance TAC's effectiveness and

relationships to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and VTA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors approved TAC's list of recommendations at their December 14, 2006, meeting. Mr. Lawson indicated that among the most important of the items was the development of a mission statement.

Mr. Lawson indicated that the draft mission statement contained in Attachment A clearly defines TAC's role, responsibilities, limitations, and specifies the relationship to PAC and the Board of Directors.

Mr. Lawson referred to the draft mission statement, first paragraph under the section heading labeled “Activities”, and noted that the first sentence would be modified as follows:

“Issues will be referred to TAC by the VTA General Manager, the VTA Board of Directors, or the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) *through the General Manager or his/her designee.*”

Alternate Member Batra directed attention to the first paragraph under the section heading labeled “Activities”, and requested that the second sentence read as follows:

“The TAC will also advise the Board of Directors with respect to any technical or policy-related matter the members determine to be relevant to *the Member Agencies* or to VTA.”

Alternate Member Batra directed attention to the first paragraph under the section heading labeled “Activities”, and requested that the third sentence read as follows:

“These *matters* include:”

Alternate Member Batra directed attention to the section heading labeled “Activities”, second sub-heading, “Additional Issues,” and requested that it read as follows:

“Additional *Matters*”

Member Likens directed attention to the same sub-heading, seventh bulleted item, “Transit service”, and requested that it read as follows:

“*All transit services*”

**M/S/C (Likens/Rodriguez)** to approve the mission statement for the Technical Advisory Committee, as amended.

## **12. Committee Work Plan**

Jim Lawson, Government Affairs Manager and Staff Liaison, directed attention to all of the items agendaized for the April 12, 2007, TAC meeting, highlighting that the results of the Organizational and Financial Assessment of VTA would be presented to the Committee.

Member Witthaus requested that the following item be listed under Other Items for Future Consideration: “Provide the State and Federal Legislative Program summaries in draft format for TAC review and comment.”

Member Likens expressed concern that the “2007-08 TDA Article 3 Program” item is agendaized for the April 12, 2007 meeting, given that the TDA Article 3 submittal deadline is April 13, 2007. Mr. Sighamony noted that the item would be agendaized at the May 10, 2007 TAC meeting.

Alternate Member Rodriguez requested that a section entitled “Grants” be added to the Work Plan and to highlight grants jurisdictions can apply for and grant deadlines.

Member Witthaus made reference to grants and requested that the latest Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Call for Projects due April 6, 2007, be placed on the Work Plan.

Chairperson Dey noted that the Grand Boulevard Study would be presented at the April 12, 2007 TAC meeting.

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

**13. Announcements**

There were no Announcements.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Dey**, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors