

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 13, 2008

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 Tripousis in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San José, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Rajeev Batra
John Cherbone
Dan Collen, Alternate
Kevin Connolly, Alt. Ex-Officio
Don Dey
Robert Kass
Jaime Rodriguez, Alternate
Jim Rowe, Alternate
Peter Skinner
Lee Taubeneck, Ex-Officio, Caltrans
Ben Tripousis, Chairperson
Jack Witthaus, Vice Chairperson

Representing

City of Santa Clara
City of Saratoga
County of Santa Clara
VTA
City of Gilroy
City of Campbell
City of Milpitas
City of Morgan Hill
City of Mountain View
Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans)
City of San Jose
City of Sunnyvale

Members Absent

Richard Chen
Jim Gustafson
Gayle Likens
Ralph Qualls Jr.
Kevin Rohani
Ed Slintak

Representing

Town of Los Altos Hills
City of Los Altos
City of Palo Alto
City of Cupertino
Town of Los Gatos
City of Monte Sereno

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Chairperson Tripousis requested that Agenda Item #16, Discuss the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) proposed action regarding the VTA Organizational & Financial Assessment proposal to merge the TAC and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), be heard after Agenda Item #10, Receive the 2008 Federal and State Legislative Programs.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Orders of the Day were accepted.

4. Committee Staff Report

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, reported that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that VTA will receive \$12.1 million in State funding as part of the \$394 million in Proposition 1B bond funding.

Mr. Flynn noted the following highlights from the March 6, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting: 1) Approval of the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035 Project lists for submittal to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); 2) Reviewed the Fund Estimates for the Valley Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan; and 3) Reviewed the MTC Transportation 2035 (T2035) – Proposed Vision Policy Strategies.

Mr. Flynn announced the resignation of Maria Marinos, Board Secretary, who joined the County of Santa Clara as the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Alternate Member Rodriguez took his seat at 1:40 p.m.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, 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)**

Celeste Fiore, Transportation Planner II, provided the following highlights from the February 26, 2008 CIP meeting: 1) Call for Projects for the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3; 2) Caltrans Project Agreement Construction Tool (PACT); 3) VTA to host a Caltrans Workshop in April or May 2008; and 4) High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes, and Local Streets and Roads issues under the VTP 2035.

Ms. Fiore announced that the next CIP meeting will be held on March 25, 2008.

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

There was no report from the Systems Operations & Management (SOM) Working Group.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Reports from TAC Working Groups, CIP and SOM, were received.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Minutes of February 14, 2008

M/S/C (Dey/Rodriguez) to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2008.

8. Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report October 2007 through December 2007

M/S/C (Dey/Rodriguez) to receive the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report for October to December 2007.

9. South County Circulation Study Report Findings

M/S/C (Dey/Rodriguez) to receive the South County Circulation Study Report Findings.

REGULAR AGENDA

10. 2008 Federal and State Legislative Programs

Kurt Evans, Government Affairs Manager, provided a report on the 2008 Federal Legislative Program that highlighted the following:

- Support the FY 2009 appropriations level for federal surface transportation programs equal to the spending levels of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU).
- Seek federal appropriations in FY 2009 for Highway 152, Advanced Zero-Emission Bus Demonstration Program, I-880/I-280/Stevens Creek Interchange Project, and High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Project.
- Work with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and other stakeholder groups.

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

- Work with APTA and other transportation stakeholder groups to develop policy principles and strategies on the SAFETEA-LU reauthorization.
- Advocate for funding to enhance the security and safety of the nation's public transit systems.
- Partner with the New Starts Working Group on advocacy efforts.
- Support federal policies that encourage the use of innovative contracting methods and public-private partnerships for transportation infrastructure projects.
- Support federal policies that ensure that public transit is an essential partner in the establishment of a national strategy for achieving energy independence and addressing the problem of global warming.
- Support federal investment in Amtrak.
- Support the enactment of legislation to create innovative financing tolls for developing high-speed rail corridors in California and other parts of the country.

Chairperson Tripousis requested staff to provide the Committee with the summary report that was developed by MTC.

Mr. Evans provided a report on the 2008 State Legislative Program that highlighted the following:

- Monitor the development of bills related to the implementation of Proposition 1B by the Legislature.
- Support the full transfer of gasoline sales tax revenues from the General Fund to the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) pursuant to Proposition 42.
- Support the efforts of the California Transit Association to develop a consensus on a constitutional amendment to permanently protect gasoline sales tax "spillover" revenues for public transportation purposes.
- Ensure that any previous loans from the various state transportation accounts to help with prior-year General Fund deficits are repaid in full.
- Support legislative proposals and policies that ensure that adequate levels of funding are available for operating, maintaining, rehabilitating, and improving California's transportation infrastructure.
- Support legislative proposals and policies that enhance the ability of local project sponsors and Caltrans to effectively manage and expedite the delivery of transportation projects.
- Work with the California Transit Association and other rail transit operators in the state to streamline the public rail transit safety oversight programs of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).
- Oppose legislative proposals and policies that would take away any amount of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) programming responsibility from the regions.
- Continue to participate in the Silicon Valley High-Speed Rail Coalition.
- Support legislative proposals and policies that encourage transit-oriented development and other smart growth initiatives.

- Ensure that any legislation to implement AB32 (Nunez) is structured in a way that assists the Bay Area in achieving its own greenhouse gas emissions and mobility goals.
- Monitor the implementation of the California Air Resources Board's Urban Transit Bus Fleet Rule.

Chairperson Tripousis provided an update from the Silicon Valley High-Speed Rail Coalition meeting that highlighted the following: 1) Senate Bill 1422 (Lowenthal), High-Speed Rail Authority; 2) Governance; 3) Commitment of bond dollars for projects ready for construction; and 4) \$17 million loan from the Hydrogen Highway Program to fund the engineering work of the High-Speed Rail Authority.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee received a report on the 2008 Federal and State Legislative Programs.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

16. Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) Proposed Action Regarding the VTA Organizational & Financial Assessment Proposal to Merge the TAC and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

Chairperson Tripousis expressed concern about the merging of the TAC and the PAC as recommended by the Hay Group. He noted that the TAC and PAC have distinct roles as advisory committees.

Jim Lawson, Senior Policy Advisor and Staff Liaison, suggested writing a letter to the Board of Directors Chairperson to express the Committee's position about merging the TAC and PAC Committees.

Member Dey compared the TAC and PAC, and provided information about their different functions and the consequences of combining them. He recommended broadcasting VTA meetings to address staffing issues.

Member Kass recommended inviting the Hay Group to provide a presentation before the Committee and explain the rationale of merging the TAC and PAC. He stressed that each committee has its own role and the information provided to a committee should correspond with its function and mission. He commented that the Committee's input and recommendations should be reflected on the memorandums that are presented to the Board of Directors.

Chairperson Tripousis commented that providing the TAC and PAC with the same information helps advocate issues that would provide regional significance.

Mr. Lawson suggested bringing this item, merging of the TAC and PAC as recommended by the Organizational and Financial Assessment, back to the Committee as an action item at its next meeting. He added that staff would work with Chairperson Tripousis on drafting a letter to the Board of Directors' Chairperson.

Alternate Member Rodriguez left his seat at 2:52 p.m.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee discussed the TAC proposed action regarding the VTA Organizational & Financial Assessment proposal to merge the TAC and the PAC.

Member Batra left the meeting at 2:54 p.m., the Quorum was lost and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

Member Skinner left his seat at 2:54 p.m.

11. Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County

Eugene Maeda, Transportation Planner III, provided a report identifying the significance and the need for a Transportation System Monitoring Program.

Mr. Maeda noted the findings of the TAC Subcommittee regarding the Transportation System Monitoring Program at its February 14, 2008 meeting as follows: 1) The monitoring program would provide up-to-date information on performance of the Santa Clara County transportation system in a single report; and 2) Data collected could be used for transportation planning, to identify improvements in the transportation system, and build cases for resource allocation.

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Connolly left the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Alternate Member Collen expressed concern regarding the process of collecting data from different agencies because it may be a burden to their staff.

Member Witthaus suggested conducting a survey that would identify the data produced by different agencies and to use the collected information as the basis for the monitoring program.

Member Skinner took his seat at 3:00 p.m.

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, suggested reagentizing the Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County at the Committee's April 10, 2008 meeting.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received the Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County.

12. VTA Strategic ITS Planning

David Kobayashi, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a report on the VTA Strategic ITS Planning that highlighted the following: 1) Background information on the ITS Strategic Plan; 2) Four major funding allocation strategies; and 3) Funding needed for operations, management and maintenance of ITS.

Vice Chairperson Witthaus and Member Kass left the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Alternate Member Collen commented that he agrees with the assessment of needs identified on the Transit ITS Deployment Plan for Santa Clara County. He recommended using ITS infrastructure to mitigate the impact to roadways as a solution to address the needs. He also expressed concern on the following topics: 1) Regional Transportation Operations Personnel Service (RTOPS); and 2) Operating Assistance Program. He noted that operating assistance should be given directly to the participating agencies.

Alternate Member Rodriguez took his seat at 3:18 p.m.

Member Dey provided the following comments: 1) Expressed support for the RTOPS; 2) Recommended establishing a centralized Traffic Management Center (TMC); 3) Expressed concern about the use of old data, 2000 U.S. census, on Table 3 - Population & Traffic Signals by Jurisdiction in Santa Clara County; 4) Expressed concern on the San Jose Proactive Signal Timing project; 5) Expressed concern on the Coyote Valley ITS; and 6) Ability to maintain the TOS Elements and Ramp Metering for Caltrans projects.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on the VTA Strategic ITS Planning.

13. (Deferred to the April 10, 2008 Technical Advisory Meeting)

Review and recommend the following process for selecting project review and scoring committees for VTA Congestion Management Program Discretionary Funding programs that specifies committee membership and participation.

14. Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan: State-of-the-Industry Review

Steven Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner, noted that questions or concerns regarding the Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan: State-of-the-Industry Review can be directed to him by phone at (408) 321-5748 and by E-mail at steve.fisher@vta.org.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received the Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan: State-of-the-Industry Review.

15. Countywide Bicycle Plan – Review Draft Plan

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, “2008 Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan,” that highlighted the following: 1) Process-to-date; 2) Process after today; 3) Purpose of the Countywide Bicycle Plan; 4) New and/or expanded topics from the 2000 plan; 5) Transportation Planning and Programming; 6) Land use planning; 7) Local ordinances and guidelines; 8) Design and construction infrastructure; 9) Complementary policies that encourage bicycling; 10) Potential Capital projects; 11) Cross county bicycle corridors; 12) Cross county bicycle corridors potential projects; 13) Across Barrier Connections (ABC) potential projects; 14) City and nonprofit programs; 15) VTA bicycle programs; and 16) Next steps for approval – Countywide Bicycle Plan.

Ms. DeRobertis noted that comments and recommendations should be received on or before March 21, 2008 to be integrated to the Bicycle Plan.

Member Dey recommended updating the Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) so agencies that did not make it on the list may start applying.

Member Skinner expressed concern on the ability of projects to receive funding from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA). He recommended identifying new sources of funding.

Member Dey expressed concern regarding the constructed single point urban interchanges. He requested staff to evaluate its effectiveness.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received the Countywide Bicycle Plan – Review Draft Plan.

17. MTC Activities and Initiatives

Chairperson Tripousis reported that the Partnership Board approved and forwarded the Strategic Plan for Pavement to the Commission for adoption.

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on the MTC Activities and Initiatives.

OTHER

18. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee Report

There was no Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee Report.

19. Committee Work Plan

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

20. Announcements

Member Skinner recommended receiving the TAC Agenda packets one week before the meeting. He also requested to receive staff's updated contact information.

Ex-Officio Member Taubeneck suggested moving actions items at the beginning of the Regular Agenda.

21. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Tripousis, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors