

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 14, 2009  
1:30 PM

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### 1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Representing	Status
Jaime Rodriguez, Alternate	City of Milpitas	Present
Rajeev Batra	City of Santa Clara	Present
Todd Capurso	Town of Los Gatos	Present
John Cherbone	City of Saratoga	Present
Kevin Connolly, Alt. Ex-Officio	VTA	Present
Don Dey	City of Gilroy	Present
Glenn Goepfert	City of Cupertino	Absent
Joan Jenkins	City of Mountain View	Present
Robert Kass	City of Campbell	Present
Gayle Likens, Vice Chairperson	City of Palo Alto	Present
Larry Lind	City of Los Altos	Present
Richard Chen, Alternate	Town of Los Altos Hills	Absent
Jim Rowe, Alternate	City of Morgan Hill	Present
Dan Collen, Alternate	County of Santa Clara	Present
Ed Slintak	City of Monte Sereno	Absent
Sylvia Fung, Alternate Ex-Officio	Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans)	Present
Ben Tripousis	City of San Jose	Present
Jack Witthaus, Chairperson	City of Sunnyvale	Present

**A quorum was present.**

#### 2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

#### 3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Chairperson Witthaus stated there was an item identified for the committee to hear subsequent to the publication of the agenda. Under Orders of the Day, the committee has the opportunity to vote on whether or not to hear this item.

**M/S/C (Collen/Kass)** to add the Bicycle Expenditure Plan recommendation to the agenda because of a need for immediate action and the need came to the attention of the Committee after posting of the agenda.

The Bicycle Expenditure Plan will be the first regular item on the agenda.

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

**4. Committee Staff Report**

Steven Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner, reported the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is developing a list of High Speed Rail projects that will feed into the consolidated statewide list for the High Speed Rail American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill) process. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is responsible for the High Speed Rail ARRA process. The most prominent of the sub-projects being considered is the funding into the Transbay Terminal Project in San Francisco. Santa Clara County is also trying to obtain funds for electrification, engineering and construction for the Diridon Station area. All projects have to fall within the restrictions of ARRA funding and conform to the environmental process.

Member Dey asked if there has been any thought about working or talking with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in discussion with Caltrain and MTC. The PUC is concerned about safety along the corridor, grade separation at the crossing, not only for high speed rail, but also for Caltrain tracks.

Mr. Fisher responded grade separation is a prerequisite for high speed rail. VTA will be working with High Speed Rail staff on the safety of the project.

Alternate Ex-Officio Connolly took his seat at 1:43 p.m.

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and 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)**

There was no Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Working Group Report.

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

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

Eugene Maeda, Senior Transportation Planner, reported the Systems Operations & Management (SOM) Working Group accomplished several tasks last month: 1) The Board adopted the Updated VTA Local Transportation Model Consistency Guidelines; 2) Ramp Metering Project for northbound 87 is nearly complete and the existing Conditions and Metering Rates studies for southbound west 101 is complete and being reviewed by the Ramp Metering Working Group; and 3) Training on Traffix software was held at VTA on April 23 and 24 and was well attended by member agency staff.

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and there being no objection, the Report from the SOM Working Group was received.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

7. **Minutes of April 9, 2009**

M/S/C (Tripousis/Dey) to approve the Minutes of April 9, 2009.

8. **Proactive Development Review Program Enhancements and Quarterly Report**

M/S/C (Tripousis//Dey) to receive the presentation on the Proactive Development Review Program Enhancements and Quarterly Report.

9. **Programmed Project Monitoring – Quarterly Report**

M/S/C (Tripousis//Dey) to receive the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for January-March 2009.

10. **Transportation System Monitoring Program – Progress Report (May 2009)**

M/S/C (Tripousis//Dey) to receive an update on the development of the Transportation System Monitoring Program.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**The Agenda was taken out of order.**

10A. **Adopt 2009 Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) Project List**

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, Congestion Management Planning, stated the 2009 Bicycle Expenditure Project (BEP) Project List is going to the other Advisory Committees this week and to the Standing Committees next week. There is a need to approve this item along with item #13, Transportation Development Act Article 3 (TDA3) Project Priorities, on the agenda. The County's TDA3 Project will be delayed

for a year if this item is not heard today. We want to make sure the County Project moves forward. He reported at the last TAC meeting, there were some discussion and question about adding last minute projects to the BEP. Several projects were received from various cities and it was decided to score all the projects. VTA staff recommends approval of the BEP and forwarding it on to the Board.

**M/S/C (Dey/Tripousis)** to recommend the Board of Directors adopt the 2009 Bicycle Expenditure Program project list as shown in the report attachment.

Member Capurso took his seat at 1:50 p.m.

## **11. Draft Recommended Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 Biennial Budget Review**

Joe Smith, Chief Financial Officer, presented a general overview of the Recommended Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 highlighting a handout as follows: 1) Economic Backdrop; 2) Illustration of the Sales Tax Receipts and State Transit Assistance (STA) Revenues; 3) Five Budget Objectives – preserve service, preserve jobs, continue to invest in infrastructure, to advance capital programs specifically the Measure A program, and to have a balance approach in solving the funding shortfall (using reserves and reducing expenditures; 4) Recommended Budget Summary which illustrated the schedules of the six components of VTA budget; 5) Major Assumptions relative to Transit Operating Revenues and Expenses; 6) Operating Assumption Risks as follows: sales tax receipts could decline more than projected; pension contribution could increase; healthcare premiums could increase more than projected; and volatility of the diesel fuel prices; 7) Illustration of the current and proposed fixed-route fares, American With Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit fares and eco pass fares; 8) Summary of the Transit Operating Budget which shows sales tax as the biggest source of funding; 10) Transit Capital Program Activity – the most significant is that VTA had set aside \$48 million of the stimulus funds to procure hybrid buses; 11) 2000 Measure A Budget Parameters; 12) 2000 Measure A Comparison of Revenues and Non-Project Expenses ranging from VTA operating assistance to debt repayment; 13) 2000 Measure A Capital Appropriation by Program; 14) 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program Activities with a list of projects that will be funded over the next two years; 15) Congestion Management Program Revenues and Expenses; 16) VTP Highway Project Appropriations; and 17) Outreach and Next Steps – making presentations to the Advisory Committees and the Standing Committees. Staff will be looking for a recommendation from the Administration & Finance Committee and hopefully the budget will be adopted at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Jim Unites, Deputy Director of Service Planning, stated the original proposed budget included proposals to discontinue the four premium services offered by VTA for paratransit riders that are beyond what the American With Disabilities Act (ADA) requires. Another proposal is to realign the current transit services with the fixed-route bus and rail services so paratransit riders can ride anytime from 5 a.m. to 2 a.m. anywhere within the county.

Public meetings were held and letters were mailed to paratransit clients to allow the public to learn about the service changes. VTA received feedback from paratransit riders that they would like to continue to retain the premium services and are willing to pay for the service. All service changes are proposed to take effect in January 2010.

---

John Ristow, Chief CMA and Staff Liaison, in response to Member Batra's inquiry, responded CMA member contributions would be frozen for FY 2010.

Member Batra also inquired whether Caltrain and ACE had agreed to no increase in partner contributions. Mr. Unites responded that Caltrain, Samtrans and Muni are working on their budgets now.

Mr. Smith, in response to Member Kass inquiry, stated for FY 2010 the federal funds will be used for bus procurement. When VTA receives the \$48 million stimulus funds, the federal funds were moved to operating budget.

Member Tripousis asked if the \$5 million on Capital Railway Project will go to federalization. Mr. Ristow responded no, it is intended to be a placeholder for potential projects that may come out of the Light Rail System Analysis.

Member Kass expressed concern on the 3½% increase in the CMP member agency fees for FY 2011.

Carol Lawson, Fiscal Resources Manager, in response to Chairperson Witthaus requests that concerns and comments be incorporated in the staff report stated a report would be submitted to the Administration and Finance Committee (A&F) and to the full Board.

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and there being no objection, the Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 Draft Recommended Biennial Budget was reviewed.

**12. 2008 Monitoring and Conformance Report**

Adam Burger, Transportation Planner, reported the Monitoring and Conformance Report is undertaken annually to meet legislative monitoring requirements and document changes in congestion and land use approvals. For the report, VTA is required to monitor land use approvals, CMP intersections data, and freeways and rural highways level of service data.

The findings were as follows: 1) Land use – over 13,000 residential units were approved, over 10,000 of those were in San Jose; 2) CMP Intersections – a total of 5 out of 252 were found to be operating at level of service F; 3) Freeways – 64 freeway segments were operating at level of service F; 4) Rural Highways – all rural highways conformed to standards in 2008, which is unchanged from 2007.

Mr. Burger, in response to Chairperson Witthaus question in relation to land use data, responded the Monitoring Report accounted for changes in zoning. VTA sends out requests to every city asking for the number of units approved by the City Council, so adjustments can be made to the data if there is a change from commercial or industrial to residential.

**M/S/C (Dey/Kass)** to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Draft 2008 Monitoring and Conformance Report. The findings are summarized in the memorandum and the draft report is provided in the Attachment.

**13. FY2009/10 TDA3 Project Priorities**

Bill Hough, Transportation Planner, reported the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are derived from a ¼-cent of the State's general sales tax. Article 3 of the TDA

stipulates that portion of these funds be used for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The Board in 2000 adopted a policy that 70% of the TDA Article 3 money is guaranteed to member agencies based on the most recent California Department of Finance population estimates and the remaining 30% would be dedicated to projects in the Bicycle Expenditure Program.

There is a total of \$2.1 million available for the Guarantee Fund and \$988,000 available for the Bicycle Expenditure Program.

**M/S/C (Collen/Batra)** to recommend the Board of Directors adopt a resolution approving the project priorities for the FY2009/10 Countywide Transportation Development Act Article 3 Program as shown in the Attachment.

#### **14. Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program Update**

Murali Ramanujam, Senior Transportation Engineer, reported the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program consists of the SR 237/I-880 Express Connectors Project and the SR 85 and US 101 Express Lanes.

SR 237I-880 Express Connectors – the SR 237 Express Connectors near term project is in progress: 1) Preliminary design work started in February; 2) Contract signed by consultant; 3) The Board approved the amendment to the contact; 4) A total of \$6 million in stimulus funds were allocated to this project; and 5) Currently working with Caltrans to move forward with the project.

SR 85 Express Lanes: 1) Existing Conditions Report had been submitted to Caltrans for approval; and 2) Working on a Project Study Report to be submitted to Caltrans.

Alternate Member Collen requested an update on the progress of the “return to source” on the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) revenue. Mr. Ristow responded the Board of Directors endorsed Assembly Bill 744 which will create express lanes throughout the entire bay area. The language included in the Bill describes the return of revenue to the corridors at a 95% level and the remaining 5% will be held by MTC as a reserve to assist other corridors.

Alternate Member Rodriguez requested the I-680 Express Lanes be included in the program updates.

Member Dey requested staff show location of Morgan Hill and Gilroy on the map that shows the Silicon Valley Express Lanes network.

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and there being no objection, information on the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program was received.

#### **15. Light Rail System Analysis – Initial Findings**

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager and Alternate Ex-Officio, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Light Rail System Analysis”, highlighting the following: 1) Project Background; 2) Project Schedule; 3) Initial Findings – developed & presented 10 preliminary scenarios at Working Group meeting in April which identified constraints and potential solutions; and 4) Next Steps – refine scenarios.

---

Member Batra suggested including an analysis bypassing downtown San Jose on the study.

Member Kass commented that Vasona and Eastridge extensions need to be integrated to the overall analysis and evaluated on the same criteria and level of improvements.

Vice Chairperson Likens commented it would be helpful to show on the maps major transit connection points to show integration of the lines.

Chairperson Witthaus commented on the station closures that VTA might want to consider and outreach to those affected communities over and above the VTA Committee process.

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and there being no objection, information on the Light Rail System Analysis was received.

**16. Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: May**

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, reported the Task Force had developed 36 priorities through the Subcommittee process and had determined the three highest priorities that the group would focus on. At the April 29<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting, the group talked about strategies on how to move these three priorities:

- 1) Add to Board memo Advisory Committee votes and major comments/concerns – the group suggested the person who prepared the memo would work with the board staff, Committee Staff Liaison and Committee Chairperson and prepare a supplemental report for the Standing Committee. The report would then be incorporated in the Board memo.
- 2) Ability to inform the Board about various issues of Committee concern but not included in the workplan – the first strategy is to incorporate into each of the respective Advisory Committee Bylaws the ability to identify concerns. The second strategy is for the chair of the Advisory Committee to write a memo to the board if they want to initiate a concern or bring up an issue to the board.
- 3) Committees need to review and provide input to staff on items and issues in early development, not at the final completed stage – item was tabled due to time restriction.

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, stated the synopsis on the committees' actions and major concerns going to the Standing Committees will start with the Standing Committees next week.

Member Kass asked if members could get a copy of the supplemental report so they can see how it was translated.

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and there being no objection, a brief update on the status and progress of the Advisory Committee Enhancement process to date was received.

**17. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report**

Chairperson Witthaus stated the memo process will go a long way toward solving the important issue of communication to the Board. Rather than relying on minutes,

---

information will be processed through the person who has the knowledge of covering the item. The comments and concerns will be well covered and reported out.

The summary of the discussion was that any committee could raise concerns and discuss them. VTA staff does not need to do an extensive research on any single item the committee wants to discuss. If the committee believes there are issues they want to bring to the Board, it's the chairperson's responsibility to raise that to the Board.

The third priority, Committees need to review and provide input to staff on items and issues in early development, not at the final completed stage, was not deferred. There was full agreement among the ACE members that this item is already happening and is already covered.

Member Dey asked was the idea of the individual committees being able to request VTA staff to do certain work, but there was a big opposition for fear of committees telling VTA staff what to do, coming from any particular group or was that a general consensus. Chairperson Witthaus responded it was a general concern on part of VTA staff that were in attendance at the meeting.

**18. Draft Congestion Management Work Program**

John Ristow, Chief CMA and Staff Liaison, reported comments received from Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are incorporated into the Committee Discussion. VTA staff recommend not increasing member agency fees.

At the April Committee meetings, the draft CMP Work Program was reviewed with the PAC and TAC and the members asked several questions and requested more information. Mr. Ristow will attend the May PAC meeting and present requested information on the VTA Congestion Management Program.

Mr. Ristow recommended to approve the work program with no fee increase.

Member Dey commented the handout is a very thorough document. He expressed his appreciation for all the work VTA staff does, for their support and leadership.

**M/S/C (Batra/Kass)** to recommend the Board of Directors approve the Fiscal Year 2010 Congestion Management Work Program.

**OTHER**

**19. MTC Activities and Initiatives**

John Ristow, Chief CMA and Staff Liaison, reported MTC adopted the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**20. Committee Work Plan**

High Speed Rail will be added to the workplan.

Member Dey requested two 2 items to be put back on the workplan: 1) Items for future consideration; and 2) Identify items that are grant related.

Chairperson Witthaus stated we have a report on the Transportation System Monitoring Program. He reminded members that VTA staff are looking for input on how we might develop a monitoring system that we can all use easily.

**21. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alternate Member Collen announced Santa Clara County received an authorization today from Caltrans to proceed with the economic stimulus project.

Member Jenkins introduced Helen Kim, who is taking over the Transportation Analyst position of Peter Skinner. She will be accompanying Member Jenkins in VTA meetings.

Chairperson Witthaus commented on the bid climate noting last week they bid a signal project 40% below estimate.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Witthaus** and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda L. Cruz, Assistant Board Secretary  
VTA Board of Directors