

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 9, 2009

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
Greg Armendariz	City of Milpitas	Present
Kevin Riley, Alternate	City of Santa Clara	Present
Shahla Yazdy, Alternate	City of Palo Alto	Present
Kevin Rohani, Alternate	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Richard Chen, Alternate	Town of Los Altos Hills	Absent
John Cherbone	City of Saratoga	Present
Michael Murdter	County of Santa Clara	Absent
Kevin Connolly, Alt. Ex-Officio	VTA	Absent
Don Dey	City of Gilroy	Present
Joan Jenkins	City of Mountain View	Absent
Robert Kass	City of Campbell	Absent
Ben Tripousis	City of San Jose	Present
Larry Lind	City of Los Altos	Present
Kathy Molloy Previsich	City of Morgan Hill	Absent
Ed Slintak	City of Monte Sereno	Absent
Glenn Goepfert	City of Cupertino	Absent
Lee Taubeneck, Ex-Officio	Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans)	Absent
Jack Witthaus, Chairperson	City of Sunnyvale	Present

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

4. Committee Staff Report

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, provided a report highlighting: 1) Welcomed new Alternate Member Shahla Yazdy, representing the City of Palo Alto; 2) California Transportation Commission (CTC) meetings held the week of July 6, 2009, noting the \$40 million allocation for the BART to San Jose Project through Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds was agendaized; 3) City of Santa Clara Bicycle Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; and 4) Mineta Transportation Institute Graduation Ceremony, noting graduates Matthew Jue, City of Campbell, and Raymond Salvano, City of San Jose.

Alternate Member Yazdy introduced herself and noted Julie Caporgno has been appointed the Member of TAC. Former TAC Vice Chairperson Gayle Likens retired from the City of Palo Alto.

Mr. Ristow noted the election of Vice Chairperson would be agendaized at the August 13, 2009 meeting.

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

5. High Speed Rail/Caltrain Project

Steven Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a report on the High Speed Rail/Caltrain Project. He distributed a document entitled, "California High Speed Rail, San Francisco/Silicon Valley Corridor Investment Strategy, June 2009," and provided an overview of the north segment, highlighting: 1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) process; and 2) Projects in Phase 1 of the investment package.

Mr. Fisher distributed a document entitled, "San Jose to San Francisco High-Speed Train Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Participating Agency Technical Group, June 2009," and provided an overview, highlighting: 1) June 2009 Technical Working Group Meeting; and 2) Draft Schedule Update.

Member Dey commented the desired goal is to have grade separation for all modes, Caltrain, Freight, and High Speed Rail.

Member Tripousis referenced the ARRA allocation and noted an indication of how the monies will be allocated is anticipated by the end of August 2009. The initial consideration of the various alternatives along the corridor is anticipated during the September/October 2009 timeframe. The goal is to provide an initial presentation to the High Speed Rail Authority Board on the various alternatives being considered with the mindset of getting to a preferred alternative by January 2010.

Mr. Fisher provided a report on the progress of the south segment, San Jose to Merced, highlighting: 1) Status of formation of Technical Working Groups; 2) Meeting with consultant team week of June 29, 2009; and 3) South segment issues.

In reference to the Technical Working Groups, Member Dey supported the idea of consolidating the transportation agencies and the cities. Member Dey suggested Monterey County be involved in the Technical Working Group Meetings.

Mr. Fisher also provided a report on VTA's revolving role in High Speed Rail.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, a verbal report on the High Speed Rail/Caltrain Project was received.

6. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Witthaus noted he recommended the July 9, 2009, TAC meeting be held and expressed his appreciation to TAC Members for attending the meeting.

7. Reports from TAC Working Groups

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

Celeste Fiore, Transportation Planner II, provided the following highlights from the June 2009, CIP meeting: 1) Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager (TFCA 40%) funds solicitation for comments to be revisited; 2) Discussed Surface Transportation Program funding allocation within County of Santa Clara; 3) Staff given direction by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) on how to handle American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) cost savings; and 4) Discussed Senate Bill (SB) 286 – Transportation Enhancement Program.

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

There was no Systems Operations & Management (SOM) Working Group Report.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the report from the CIP Working Group was received.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Minutes of May 14, 2009

M/S/C (Dey/Tripousis) to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2009.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Grand Boulevard Initiative – Status Report

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “Grand Boulevard Initiative Update,” highlighting: 1) Grand Boulevard Initiative Overview; 2) El Camino Real – State Route 82; 3) Grand Boulevard Task Force; 4) Guiding Principles; 5) Progress to Date; 6) Benefits to VTA and Member Agencies; and 7) Moving Forward (Multimodal Corridor Plan (underway); 2009 Grand Boulevard Awards Program; and Economic and Housing Opportunities (ECHO) Study).

Upon query of Member Dey, Mr. Swierk reported on the support and involvement of Caltrans.

Chairperson Witthaus commented when the Tasman West Light Rail Line was built through the City of Sunnyvale, the construction focused on lets build the light rail track only, and the end result were stations with no pedestrian access. He queried if the initiative will prompt VTA to consider including broader streetscape improvements in a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to obtain more of a multi-modal project rather than simply a bus way only. Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, Planning, indicated “yes.”

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, a status report on the Grand Boulevard Initiative was received.

10. Transportation System Monitoring Program Progress Report – July 2009

Eugene Maeda, Senior Transportation Planner, introduced Joe Guerre, Consultant with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., who participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Mr. Maeda provided background information on the purpose of developing and implementing a Transportation System Monitoring Program. He provided a PowerPoint Presentation, entitled, “Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County,” highlighting: 1) Meeting Objectives; 2) Work to Date; and 3) Status of Surveys.

Mr. Guerre referenced the draft brochure entitled, “Santa Clara County Transportation Monitoring Program,” and provided an overview. The brochure summarized the performance of the transportation network in Santa Clara County. All data contained in the brochure was factual based on data collected to date.

Mr. Guerre referenced the PowerPoint Presentation and continued the presentation, highlighting: 1) Data Gaps in Initial Program; and 2) Final Products (a. Brochure for initial program; and b. Technical report).

Mr. Maeda referenced the PowerPoint Presentation and continued the presentation, highlighting the Schedule as follows: 1) Next steps (a. Revise table and brochure based on today’s discussion, and b. Begin development of technical report; and 2) Milestones (a. Present preliminary program to TAC and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) – July/August 2009; and b. Present final program to TAC, PAC, and the Congestion

Management Program and Planning (CMPP) Committee and Board of Directors – September/October 2009.

Mr. Maeda referenced the PowerPoint Presentation, “Example of Available Data on Roadside Assets,” and queried if it would be useful to include the roadside asset expenditures data listed in the brochure. Mr. Guerre noted there is currently no data available to report on the conditions of the roadside assets.

Member Tripousis referenced the brochure, “Sustainability” category, sentence stating: “Number of recorder air quality infractions.” He indicated the word “recorder” should be reflected as “recorded.”

Member Tripousis indicated there is value in having the expenditure data listed on the brochure, but there needs to be something to compare the data to, such as a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) comparison, a Caltrans evaluation. There should be at least one benchmark to compare the data to, a comparative to each indicator.

Member Dey referenced the brochure, categories such as: “Traffic Signals” and “Lighting,” and recommended the cities be provided a survey wherein the cities would rate their performance level as good, fair, or poor.

Chairperson Witthaus referenced the countywide average of expenditures listed in the brochure and recommended a range be shown instead.

Chairperson Witthaus recommended the Project Team take additional time to search for benchmarking information, to poll the TAC membership inquiring about the kinds of performance measures their Agencies are using that could be considered for a benchmark, and to place the information into a simple self-assessment document.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, an update on the development of the Transportation System Monitoring Program was received.

11. Revisions to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Checklist - Transportation Section

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, distributed the document entitled, “California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Resources Evaluation System, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, which contained information on the new 2009 proposed rulemaking process.

Member Armendariz left the meeting at 3:07 p.m., the quorum was lost, and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

Member Dey referenced the Staff Report, Page 3 of 3, Section 3. New and revised questions for the Transportation/Traffic section of the checklist, first bulleted item, “Revised: Change the phrase: (Would the project) “Substantially increase hazards” to (Would the project) “Substantially decrease safety” and add another example “e.g.

additional and/or inadequate intersections.” Member Dey expressed concern regarding the words, ‘add another example “e.g. additional and/or inadequate intersections,” ’ and requested staff clarify its meaning.

Member Dey referenced Section 3, fifth bulleted item, “New: (Would the project) Cause a degradation of the performance or availability of all transit including buses, light or heavy rail (for people or goods movement) as well as bicycle and pedestrian modes.” He requested the words, “as well as bicycle and pedestrian modes,” be removed from the item.

Chairperson Witthaus expressed concern regarding the language used in the recommended changes to the CEQA Checklist, such as the use of the words, “perception” and “inadequate intersections.” He requested the language be improved to avoid any issues and the item be brought back to TAC at its August 13, 2009 meeting for action.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole discussed the proposed revisions to the CEQA checklist.

Alternate Member Yazdy left the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

12. Grant Application – Regional Measure 2 (RM2) - Safe Routes to Transit

Michelle DeRobertis, Senior Transportation Planner, distributed a document from the 2008 Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan entitled, “Safe Routes to Transit Projects.” She referenced the Call for Projects: Safe Routes to Transit and noted the Regional Measure 2 (RM2) Safe Routes to Transit grant applications must be submitted by August 12, 2009.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a verbal report on the Grant Application - RM2 - Safe Routes to Transit.

13. MTC Funding

Celeste Fiore, Transportation Planner II, distributed a document entitled, “Caltrans District 4 – Office of Local Assistance Project Status, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local Streets and Roads System Preservation Projects, Status as of July 3, 2009.” Ms. Fiore provided an overview, highlighting the status of the Projects contained in the document.

Ms. Fiore distributed the document entitled, “Metropolitan Transportation Commission, ARRA, Highway Strategic Investments, Prop 1B Backfill, Smart Highways, Safety and Transportation Enhancements, Amend into Federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with Revisions 09-06 (Pending), 09-12 (Approved) and 09-13 (Pending), Status as of July 3, 2009.” She provided an overview, highlighting the status of the Projects contained in the document.

Chairperson Witthaus commented the City of Sunnyvale opened bids on its ARRA project the week of June 29, 2009, noting the project was below the Engineer's Estimate.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a verbal report on MTC Funding.

Chairperson Witthaus recommended Agenda Items #14 and #15 be combined.

14. **Advisory Committee Enhancement Update: July and**
15. **Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report**

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, reported on the June 24, 2009, Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Task Force meeting, highlighting: 1) Discussed the continuation of the analysis of potential strategies for improving the Advisory Committee process; 2) Reviewed the following proposals: a) Hay Group recommendation to combine the TAC and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC); b) Proposal to modify the frequency of meetings for some or all of the committees; c) Proposals to modify the committee structure; and d) The concept of holding joint meetings where appropriate or to conduct workshops in lieu of scheduled meetings.

Mr. Flynn provided a report on the Task Force's recommendations pertaining to the proposals, such as: 1) Task Force opposed the Hay Group recommendation to combine the TAC and PAC; 2) Task Force did not embrace the proposal to modify the frequency of meetings for some or all of the committees; and 3) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) serve as technical expertise working groups to the TAC.

Mr. Flynn indicated the VTA Board of Directors Vice Chairperson, Sam Liccardo, attended the May 2009 Task Force meeting. He noted Vice Chairperson Liccardo informed the Task Force that VTA is in a severe financial situation, and although, the Advisory Committees provide very valuable input, the Advisory Committees also require much staff support. Vice Chairperson Liccardo strongly recommended the Task Force look at ways of increasing efficiency, economizing, while maintaining the level of input.

Member Tripousis left the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Mr. Flynn noted the next Task Force meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2009, with a follow-up meeting, if needed, scheduled for July 29, 2009. The Task Force recommendations will be forwarded to the August 20, 2009, Administration and Finance Committee meeting for consideration.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a brief update on the status and progress of the Advisory Committee Enhancement process to date and received a verbal update from the Committee's Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee.

OTHER

16. Committee Work Plan

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

17. Announcements

Member Dey announced the City of Gilroy Garlic Festival will be held the last weekend of July 2009.

Chairperson Witthaus announced the City of Sunnyvale was recruiting for the position of Traffic and Transportation Engineer.

18. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors