

Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

Thursday, September 4, 2008

MINUTES

1. The Regular Meeting of the Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board (PAB) was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Liccardo in the Conference Room 157, Santa Clara County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sam Liccardo	Vice Chairperson	Present	
Pete McHugh		Present	
Blanca Alvarado		Absent	
Nora Campos	Chairperson	Absent	
David Cortese		Absent	

A quorum was not present and a Committee of a Whole was declared.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. Approve Minutes of June 12, 2008.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Liccardo, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole deferred the Minutes of June 12, 2008.

4. East San Jose Community Based Transportation Plan

Jody Littlehales, Transportation Planner, provided a brief background regarding the East San Jose Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP). She reported that the plan would identify transportation needs, solutions to address them, and explore funding opportunities. Highlights of the report are as follows: 1) Established a Project Working Group; 2) Creation of a "Project Fact Sheet" to get the community involved; and 3) Community Outreach by organizing three focus group meetings.

Ms. Littlehales noted that staff will distribute the fact sheet/survey through the end of September and the findings would be presented to the Neighborhood Advisory Committees. She added that the survey report would be included in the final CBTP.

Member McHugh inquired on the timeline for the East San Jose CBTP and the Milpitas CBTP. Ms. Littlehales responded that the East San Jose CBTP would be completed by December 2008 and the Milpitas CBTP would start early 2009.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired if the final CBTP would be incorporated to the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, responded that the CBTP would not be incorporated in the VTP 2035, but it would be eligible under the Lifeline Program that would receive funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, commented that the CBTP is a comprehensive way to examine the bicycle and pedestrian issues on East San Jose.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Liccardo, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received an update on the East San Jose Community Based Transportation Plan.

5. Status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, reported on the updated project timeline. He noted that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be presented to the San Jose City Council on November 2008 and presented to the VTA Board for certification on December 2008.

Mr. Connolly reported on the Draft EIR public hearing that was held on July 17, 2008 at the Mexican Heritage Plaza. He provided the Policy Advisory Board with the following public comments on the impacts of the project: 1) Concern regarding diesel buses; 2) Desire for clean burning technologies; 3) Parking concerns; and 4) Improve safety and security.

Mr. Connolly reported that staff conducted Community Outreach focusing on business owners. He noted that the presentations included the updated project information, project impacts, and station renderings and design schematics.

Mr. Connolly reported that Caltrans supports the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He noted that the project is progressing as scheduled. He added that VTA and City staffs are in both in alignment regarding the project with some issues that are expected to be resolved in the near future.

Member McHugh expressed concern on the low turn out of the business owners that attended the Community Outreach meeting. Mr. Connolly explained that despite the low turn out, staff was able to provide information regarding the project and address the community's concerns by conducting a walk-thru of the businesses along the corridor.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired about the community's reaction regarding the loss of on-street parking due to the project. Mr. Connolly responded that the parking issue was a major concern of the residents. He noted that staff expects to receive more input and concerns from the community as the project progresses.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, stated that staff will be working with the City of San Jose to locate alternative parking spaces.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired if Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or other technologies are being considered for the BRT. Mr. Ristow responded that hybrid diesel technology is being considered for the BRT.

Mr. Connolly commented that a study for the BRT strategic plan is being conducted and it would address vehicle procurement in the future. It would explore the different alternative technologies for the BRT.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Liccardo, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on the status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project.

6. Status Report for Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project

Mark Robinson, Acting Chief Engineering and Construction Officer, reported that the following are completed activities for the project: 1) Supplemental Environmental Document has been certified; 2) Final design drawings have been prepared to a 95% level; 3) Initial right-of-way documents have been prepared; and 4) Substantial completion of utility relocation design.

Mr. Robinson reported on the following current work items for the project: 1) Review of right-of-way mapping; 2) Schedule of appraisal; 3) Continuous work with utility companies to receive final utility relocation plans; and 4) Coordinate with City of San Jose staff to meet design requirements.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Liccardo, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a status report for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project.

7. ADJOURN

On order of Vice Chairperson Liccardo, there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors