

Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

Thursday, March 5, 2009
3:00 PM

East Wing, Lower Level Conference Room
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

This portion of the agenda is reserved for persons desiring to address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda. Speakers are **limited to 2 minutes**. The law does not permit Committee action or extended discussion on any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Committee action is requested, the matter can be placed on the next agenda. All statements that require a response will be deferred to staff for reply in writing.

3. Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2008.

4. INFORMATION ITEM - Receive status report for the Santa Clara-Alum Rock project.

5. INFORMATION ITEM - Receive status report on Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan. (Verbal Report)

6. INFORMATION ITEM - Receive status report for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail project.

7. ADJOURN

In compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), those requiring accommodations for this meeting should notify the Board Secretary's Office 48 hours prior to the meeting at (408) 321-5680



Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

Thursday, December 4, 2008

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board (PAB) was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairperson Campos in the East Wing, Lower Level Conference Room, Santa Clara County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, California.

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

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

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

There were no Public Presentations.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

6. **Status Report for Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project**

Kenneth Ronsse, Design & Construction Manager, provided the following summary for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project: 1) Right-of-way documents are in process of updating and scheduled completion is March 2009; 2) Utility design is complete and the next step will be to execute an agreement for utility relocation and purchase of materials; and 3) Light Rail Design is complete. Bid documents can be ready by late 2009 and construction can begin late 2010.

Chairperson Campos inquired on the project's funding plan and process to include it on the project priority list. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, responded the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project is on several lists for federal stimulus package. He stated

more information on federal funds for the project would be available early 2009. He noted both the City of San José and VTA have the project on its project priority list.

Member Cortese took his seat at 3:08 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo recommended including the project's status, 99 percent complete, on the list to aid in securing federal funds. Mr. Ristow stated projects on the list are categorized based on its status and is accompanied by a timeframe indicating when project would be ready for construction.

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

3. Staff Recognition of Outgoing DTEV PAB Members

Chairperson Campos expressed her appreciation for working with Member Cortese during the past eight years. She acknowledged his advocacy on projects under the DTEV PAB. She recognized his work as the Vice Mayor for the City of San José, and the service he would continue to provide on his new role as a Board Supervisor for the County of Santa Clara.

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, expressed enthusiasm to work with Member Cortese on his new position as a County Board Supervisor and move projects forward.

Mr. Connolly recognized Members McHugh and Alvarado for their diligence and dedication to the projects that went through the DTEV PAB. He noted members of the DTEV PAB were instrumental in providing direction to projects with high level of investment and economic development.

Mr. Connolly expressed appreciation to Javier Aguirre, Policy Aide for Supervisor Alvarado, for his input and guidance to DTEV PAB projects.

Member Cortese expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a member of the DTEV PAB, VTA Board of Directors, and transportation related committees. He acknowledged staff for their professionalism and looks forward working with them on transportation matters. He encouraged the DTEV PAB and staff to continue devoting the same energy and passion to move projects forward.

On Order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received staff recognition of outgoing DTEV PAB Members.

4. Minutes of June 12, 2008

M/S/C (Liccardo/Cortese) to approve Minutes of June 12, 2008.

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

5. **Minutes of September 4, 2008**

On Order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received and filed the Minutes of September 4, 2008.

7. **Status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project**

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) Project schedule; 2) Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan and BRT brand identity; and 3) State Route 130 Alum Rock relinquishment, Caltrans coordination.

Member Cortese inquired on the scope of the planned relinquishment of State Route 130 from the State to the City of San José. Mr. Connolly responded VTA, City of San José, and Caltrans District 4 agreed the relinquishment of the facility would eventually be moved to City ownership. The scope of ownership is under discussion and would be determined before the project proceeds through the next phases of design.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo recommended accelerating the project. Mr. Connolly responded accelerating the project would be part of the procurement process where staff would explore options to expedite development.

Chairperson Campos suggested staff work closely with the City of San José in developing a business oriented project. She queried on issues that would hinder the project to move forward. Mr. Connolly responded there are currently no outstanding issues. He noted a team would be established to address issues that would arise along the course of work.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, stated the following actions need to be monitored to avoid project delays: 1) Relinquishment of State Route 130 from the State to the City; 2) Vision of the City toward the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Corridor; and 3) Secure components of Measure A funds required to complete funding for the project.

Ray Salvano, City of San José Department of Transportation, stated staff of the Department of Transportation is working with the San José Planning, Building, Code Enforcement Departments and Redevelopment Agency regarding the plan and zoning of the area. He noted discussions with VTA staff regarding zoning, land use and BRT project is underway.

Chairperson Campos directed City of San José staff provide VTA staff with a draft of the Alum Rock Form Based Zoning Plan and coordinate a timeline to proceed with the work on the project.

On Order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received the status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project.

8. **Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) EIR**

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a presentation highlighting the following: 1) Project background; 2) BRT features; 3) Corridor evaluation; 4) Santa Clara-Alum Rock funding & schedule; 5) Community benefits of BRT; 6) BRT Street enhancements; and 7) Investment in the Corridor.

Tom Fitzwater, Environmental Planning Manager, provided a presentation highlighting the following: 1) Key environmental milestones; 2) Summary of public comments on Draft EIR; 3) Summary of impacts for BRT - overall; 4) VTA Board action requested; and 5) Summary impacts for BRT - traffic.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo queried on the impact of construction to businesses along the corridor. Mr. Fitzwater stated construction work would affect businesses for three months, and another month to do clean up and cosmetic activities.

Kenneth Ronsse, Design & Construction Manager, commented significant impacts of construction would mostly occur at the stations. He added plans would be developed to provide access to businesses and pedestrians.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired about the plan to address traffic impacts during construction. Mr. Ronsse responded the preliminary design for the project includes the planned traffic sequence. He added staff would be working with consultants in developing a detailed traffic plan to minimize construction impacts to the flow of traffic.

Chairperson Campos recommended staff continue communicating with the public on the developments of the project.

On Order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) EIR.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

On order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors



Date: February 23, 2009

Current Meeting: March 5, 2009

Board Meeting: N/A

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

THROUGH: General Manager, Michael T. Burns

FROM: Chief CMA Officer, John Ristow

SUBJECT: Status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

BACKGROUND:

This memorandum presents a status report of activities on the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Transit Improvement Project for the period beginning December 2008 to February 2009.

DISCUSSION:

Project Schedule

On December 11, 2008 the VTA Board certified the Santa Clara - Alum Rock Transit Improvement Project EIR. As a result, in January staff began the process for issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to create an on-call consultant list for Bus Rapid Transit projects. At the conclusion of the RFQ process, staff will select a consultant for the SC-AR BRT project and begin Preliminary Engineering in May 2009. The construction phase of the project will begin in May 2011 and is expected to conclude in September 2012 with revenue service starting in October 2012.

Activity	Start Date	End Date
VTA BOD certifies SC-AR EIR	-	December 11, 2008
RFQ for On-Call BRT Consultants	February 2009	March 2009
Preliminary Engineering	June 2009	April 2010
Final Design	May 2010	December 2010
Construction	May 2011	September 2012
First Day of Service	-	October 2012

State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue) Relinquishment

VTA has established a monthly PDT working group meeting to discuss relinquishment of State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue) to the City of San Jose. At the monthly meetings Caltrans, the City of San Jose and VTA have discussed the prospect of relinquishment of the facility. The

working assumption is that it would be a no cost relinquishment and a 24 month process that would allow the SC-AR BRT project to proceed on schedule. Caltrans would like to relinquish State Route 130 to the City “as is”, but the City desires that the roadway be upgraded to a 10 year maintenance free lifecycle prior to relinquishment. VTA has hired a consultant to conduct an analysis of State Route 130 to determine the cost of upgrades to bring the facility to a “state of good repair” and of those upgrades which would be provided through the BRT project and what costs would remain.

Caltrans provided VTA and the City with a copy of a Cooperative Agreement between Caltrans and the City of Alameda concerning the relinquishment of Webster Street, which allowed the state to relinquish a portion of a state highway within the City of Alameda’s jurisdiction. That agreement allowed the City of Alameda to design to City standards and to proceed with the project even though the final relinquishment was a longer process. VTA is working with the City and Caltrans following a similar model recognizing this shift in ownership will need to be acknowledged before the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT project proceeds through the next phases of design. If Caltrans and the City of San Jose can agree to a no cost relinquishment than the SC-AR project can proceed on schedule to be completed by 2012. However, if an agreement cannot be reached the formal Caltrans process for a cost relinquishment would be required, which can take up to four years to complete and would delay the BRT project.

Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan

In the spring of 2008 VTA began work on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Strategic Plan, which studies the six BRT corridors in Santa Clara County identified in the Valley Transportation 2030 Plan and the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA). The intent of the strategic plan is to develop an integrated BRT network linking activity centers throughout the county and offering a high quality transit service. The goal of the Strategic Plan is to 1) establish a brand identity for VTA’s future network of BRT services; 2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of developing BRT facilities in the candidate corridors, and; 3) develop an action plan for implementation in each corridor.

The BRT Strategic Plan will be completed in March 2009, but the analysis concludes that out of the six corridors the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Corridor is the most advanced and will be the first to be constructed. The Strategic Plan also notes that despite its relatively short length, the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Corridor is the most productive corridor with 1,400 boardings per route mile and 47.8 boardings per revenue hour. The Strategic Plan validates that the SC-AR corridor serves transit supportive areas with a high proportion of low income, zero-car households. The plan also supports that the SC-AR corridor has the right conditions for increased service levels and is a good candidate for enhancement to BRT service, operating seven days a week. There will be a presentation of the BRT Strategic Plan at the DTEV PAB meeting.

Bus Rapid Transit Vehicle Procurement

In FY 2010 VTA will procure approximately 23 specialized articulated hybrid vehicles, which are associated with BRT service and will have a distinct brand identity. VTA is requesting information from BRT vendors to demonstrate various types of BRT vehicles, in order to begin the procurement process in July of 2009 (FY 2010). On January 29th North American Bus Industries (NABI) demonstrated their 60’ BRT Hybrid vehicle (Attachment A), which is the same vehicle operated by METRO in Los Angeles. The vehicle used for the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT project is crucial to brand identity and helping the community to associate BRT as a

transit improvement.

Alum Rock Business District - Form Based Zoning Plan

The City of San Jose has been unable to provide VTA with a draft of the Alum Rock Business District- Form Based Zoning Plan, as requested by Councilmember Campos at the December 4th PAB meeting. VTA has followed up with the City since the PAB meeting, and was informed at the January 28th SC-AR BRT Working Group meeting that the City does not have a draft of the plan available for VTA to review.

Project Agreement between the City of San Jose and VTA

VTA staff has been working with the City of San Jose DOT staff to create an agreement for the PE phase of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT project. The agreement would detail the BRT project, proposed stations, project schedule, roles of participants, and scope of work for the PE effort. Subsequent agreements will define final design, construction, and operations/maintainance. The agreement is modeled on one that BART created with cities in Contra Costa County to allow both parties to agree to terms and conditions for a project before the project began. The intent of the agreement is to have both the City and VTA agree to the entire scope of the project and the roles of both agencies so that the BRT project can proceed more efficiently and cost effectively through PE. Like the BART model the agreement would require that the City Council and VTA Board would adopt the agreements. VTA has scheduled weekly meeting with the City of San Jose to work on the agreement and would like to have a draft to share with the City of San Jose Council and VTA Board by the end of March.

Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan

In 2007 VTA was awarded a Caltrans Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive grant to study access issues at the Eastridge Transit Center. The Transit Center is the second busiest transfer point in the VTA system, and VTA is wants a better understanding of barriers for neighboring Environmental Justice communities in accessing the Transit Center, with a particular focus on pedestrian and bicycle access. The Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan will help identify obstacles for pedestrian and bicycle's to the Transit Center, such as discontinuous routes, circuitous routes, major barriers, ADA issues, and other issues. The analysis will also look at cultural, language, and information barriers for communities surrounding Eastridge and focus outreach efforts to raise awareness of the transit center and VTA's services in the community. The study will also assess the need for improvement of passenger amenities; such as lighting, benches, shelters, signage, etc. The final report will summarize the findings from the study and suggest improvements to be considered in any future re-design of the Eastridge Transit Center and improve access for bicycles and pedestrians as well as the transit waiting environment.

Prepared By: Jody Littlehales

BRT Vehicle Demonstration at VTA- January 30, 2009





Date: February 19, 2009

Current Meeting: March 5, 2009

Board Meeting: March 5, 2009

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

THROUGH: General Manager, Michael T. Burns

FROM: Chief Engineering & Construction Officer, Mark S. Robinson

SUBJECT: Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project Status Report

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The VTA Board of Directors Workshop scheduled for February 27, 2009 will include discussions on projects proposed in the 2000 Measure A Program, including a report on the status and recommended next steps for the Eastridge Extension of the Capital Expressway Light Rail Project. A verbal presentation will be made at the March 5, 2009 PAB meeting to report on the workshop discussions.

Prepared By: Ken Ronsse, Deputy Director