

## Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

Thursday, March 5, 2009

### MINUTES

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board (PAB) was called to order at 3:08 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
Dave Cortese	Member	Present	
Rose Herrera	Member	Present	
George Shirakawa	Member	Present	3:31 PM
Sam Liccardo	Vice Chairperson	Present	
Nora Campos	Chairperson	Present	

**A quorum was present.**

#### 2. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Presentations.

#### 3. **Minutes of December 4, 2008**

**M/S/C (Cortese/Liccardo)** to approve Minutes of December 4, 2008.

#### 4. **Status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project**

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) Project schedule; 2) State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue) Relinquishment; 3) Bus Rapid Transit Vehicle Procurement; 4) Alum Rock Business District - Form Based Zoning Plan; 5) Project Agreement between the City of San Jose and VTA; and 6) Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan.

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

Member Cortese inquired on the eligibility of the State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue) Relinquishment for Federal stimulus funds. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, responded the State Route 130 Relinquishment is not included in the City of San Jose's list of projects eligible for Federal funds. He noted staff is waiting on the State's decision regarding the distribution of the remaining Federal stimulus funds where the State Route 130 Relinquishment may be eligible. He noted the State Route 130 Relinquishment may also acquire Federal funding for roadway rehabilitation on the next re-authorization of the Federal Transit Bill.

Member Cortese expressed concern on the impact of the relinquishment to the Santa Clara-Alum Rock project schedule. Mr. Connolly responded a Memorandum of Understanding would be developed between the City of San Jose and Caltrans to proceed with construction and eliminate impacts to the project schedule.

Chairperson Campos questioned what improvements the Santa Clara-Alum Rock project would deliver. Mr. Connolly responded the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would bring portions of the project under a state of good repair. He noted the project assessment would be conducted to determine the cost to improve elements outside the project.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired about the project assessment's timeline. Mr. Connolly responded the assessment would take four to five months, and it would include a lot of field work.

Ray Salvano, Department of Transportation, City of San Jose, described the scope of the relinquishment and the assessment process. He noted a general assessment of Alum Rock's condition with and without the BRT would be conducted to determine the cost of improvements.

Chairperson Campos inquired on the timeline of the Alum Rock Business District-Form Based Zoning Plan. Mr. Connolly responded staff has until the end of March 2009 to provide input on the plan.

Member Shirakawa took his seat at 3:31 p.m.

Member Cortese expressed the following concerns regarding the BRT project:

- 1) Compatibility of the project to different modes of transportation; and
- 2) Pedestrian and landscaping improvements attuned with the Capitol Expressway Corridor.

Ken Ronsse, Deputy Director, responded the project is encountering compatibility issues but assured the project would be compatible with different modes of transportation. He noted staff has not explored advancing the pedestrian and landscaping elements for the BRT.

Member Cortese requested staff provide the Policy Advisory Board with the following information: 1) Status and updates of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock project; and 2) Information on pedestrian and landscaping improvements ready to move forward.

Member Herrera inquired if the community outreach on the Eastridge Center would include pedestrian and landscaping improvements for the BRT. Mr. Connolly responded they would be part of the discussion.

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

**5. Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan**

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a presentation highlighting the following: 1) BRT Strategic Plan; 2) VTA Service Design Guidelines; 3) VTA BRT Branding; 4) Branding; 5) Corridor Evaluation; 6) Transit Sustainability Policy; 7) Most Promising Options; 8) Daily Ridership; 9) Total Operating Cost Estimate; 10) Operating and Maintenance Cost/Passenger; 11) Capital Improvement Analysis: Major Fundings; 12) Design Principles; 13) Corridors; and 14) Next Steps.

Member Cortese suggested replacing the name Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Member Herrera inquired on the analysis for having BRT to Eastridge Center and its impacts to economic development. Mr. Connolly explained staff has a great relationship with the management of Eastridge. They understand the importance of public transportation in improving economic condition of the area. He added staff would explore ways to effectively operate the Light Rail and BRT to Eastridge.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired if electric vehicles could be procured for the BRT. Mr. Connolly responded hybrid vehicles would be procured for the BRT. He explained at this time electric vehicles are unable to provide the level of service brought by BRT.

**On Order of Chairperson Campos** and there being no objection, the Committee received a status report on Bus Rapid Transit Strategic Plan.

**6. Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project**

Kenneth Ronsse, Deputy Director, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) Project overview; 2) Multi-modal Boulevard; 3) Impacts of the project; and 4) Project status (Right-of-way acquisition and Federal documents).

Member Cortese inquired on the need of projects for Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, explained all Federal requirements and clearance need to be met on projects receiving Federal stimulus funds.

Member Cortese inquired on other potential funding sources. Mr. Ristow responded a criteria for selecting projects eligible for Federal Stimulus Bill, amounting to \$1.5 billion, are yet to be determined.

Member Cortese inquired if the Board of Directors adopted an expenditure plan. Mr. Ristow responded the Board of Directors has not adopted a new expenditure plan. He stated staff recommends a short term expenditure plan, two to ten years, geared to move projects and investments forward.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired on the role of ridership in prioritizing the project to receive funding. Mr. Ristow explained ridership figures are considered at the New Starts process. He noted land use and ridership would be incorporated in the study staff is conducting to determine ways to move projects forward. He stated it is the Board of Directors decision to move Capitol Expressway Light Rail project forward.

Member Liccardo requested findings from the studies and information gathered from community outreach to serve as a guide for the City of San Jose's General Plan update. Mr. Ristow responded staff participated on the General Plan exercise and noted an update would be presented to the Policy Advisory Board at a future meeting.

Member Cortese requested the year 2000 Preferred Investment Strategy for the DTEV.

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

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Campos** and there being no objection, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors