



## **Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board**

Thursday, September 3, 2009  
3:00 PM

Board of Supervisors Conference Room  
County Government Center  
70 West Hedding Street, 10Th Floor  
San Jose, CA

### **AGENDA**

#### **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION**

**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 June 4, 2009.**

**4. INFORMATION ITEM - Receive Status Report for Santa Clara Alum Rock Project.**

**5. ACTION ITEM - Approve the creation of a project agreement for the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit Project establishing a design basis for Preliminary Engineering.**

**6. INFORMATION ITEM - Receive the Capital Expressway Improvements Status Report.**

**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, June 4, 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 3:02 p.m. by Chairperson Campos in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Santa Clara County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Jose, California.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
David Cortese	Member	Present
Rose Herrera	Member	Present
George Shirakawa	Member	Present
Sam Liccardo	Vice Chairperson	Present
Nora Campos	Chairperson	Present

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

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

There were no Public Presentations.

#### **3. Minutes of March 5, 2009**

**On Order of Chairperson Campos** and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole deferred the Minutes of March 5, 2009, pending the arrival of a quorum.

#### **4. Status Report for Santa Clara-Alum Rock Project**

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a brief report on the status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock (SCAR) Project which highlighted the following:

1. VTA staff released the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for On-Call Consultants for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Services. Staff reviewed all the proposals and the top firms were selected to be included on the list. The final On-Call Consultant Lists is scheduled for final approval at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting. This will become the basis for the preliminary engineering work on the SCAR project, which will begin in the fall.

2. State Route 130 Relinquishment – a consultant team has been doing an assessment of the condition of State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue). The assessment will provide the City of San Jose and VTA with an accurate evaluation of the cost required to upgrade the facility prior to any relinquishment between the City of San Jose and the State. VTA and the City of San Jose are meeting with Caltrans to discuss the relinquishment process.

Member Cortese took his seat at 3:04 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

3. The Board adopted the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Strategic Plan in May. This allows VTA to proceed with the procurement of the BRT vehicles. The procurement process will start in July 2009.
4. The City of San Jose provided VTA with a copy of the Alum Rock Neighborhood Form Based Zoning District. VTA reviewed and provided comments to the City which will be incorporated into the final draft.
5. VTA and the City of San Jose have been meeting to work on the final Project Agreement between the City of San Jose and VTA for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT Project.
6. Included as part of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Status Report is a request from the PAB, at the March 2009 meeting, for the investment priority history policy decisions by the VTA Board and the Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board. Attached to the memo is a copy of the Board Resolution.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo took his seat at 3:08 p.m.

Chairperson Campos thanked the staff for the report. She stated staff are working with the Redevelopment Agency as well as the Department of Transportation to make sure we minimize the impact to the businesses as well as to the homes that will be affected by the project. She would like to reiterate that we try to proceed with the project with as much caution as possible to be able to accomplish the bigger vision which is to have public transportation that is of the standards that the community deserves.

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

**3. Minutes of March 5, 2009 (continued)**

**M/S/C (Liccardo/Shirakawa)** to approve the Minutes of March 5, 2009.

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

## 5. Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project – Phasing of Pedestrian Improvements

Ken Ronsse, Deputy Director, stated a memo dated June 3, 2009, was sent to the Policy Advisory Board from Jim Lawson, VTA Executive Policy Advisor, in response to the questions regarding the VTA Budget for FY2010-2011. There was a typographical error on the memo in regards to Response to Question #3, “The proposed FY10 and FY11 budget includes a total amount of \$60M with an available Measure A contribution of \$25M.” The figure should be \$70 million instead of \$60 million. A revised memo was distributed to reflect the correct figure.

Mr. Ronsse stated at the March 2009 DTEV PAB meeting, staff were asked to evaluate the possibility of phasing the pedestrian improvements prior to the completion of the light rail improvements. Staff had conducted an analysis and prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Project Phasing of the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project Eastridge Extension. Highlights from the presentation included the following: 1) Project Status; 2) Project Phasing; 3) Phasing of Pedestrian Improvements; 4) Budget and Schedule; and 5) BRT Phasing with Pedestrian Improvements.

Mr. Ronsse reported the project could be phased with pedestrian improvements prior to light rail improvements. Most of the improvements can be installed on the majority of the corridors. The cost for the pedestrian improvements was estimated at \$25 million. Staff recommended in the FY10 and FY11 budget to ensure there is a \$25 million contribution for local Measure A to allow VTA to proceed with the pedestrian improvements.

Mr. Ronsse stated on the design concept, there are areas that are difficult to achieve without significant impacts with the Light Rail Project. Staff is recommending we add a sidewalk on the correct configuration without buying the right-of-way that is not necessary for BRT.

Member Cortese asked if the property becomes available before the Light Rail Project, will VTA purchase the property if we need the right of way. Mr. Ronsse responded that has not been explored. Member Cortese requested a written response to his question.

Mr. Ronsse stated on the Ocala Station area, the potential walkway is planned to be improved with the Silver Creek Trail.

Member Cortese asked if there is a plan for improvement for the Water District Trail and our plan is temporary, should we include the improvements in this area as part of this phase. Mr. Ronsse will check and provide Member Cortese with a written response.

Member Cortese commented he is grateful VTA is proceeding along with this project which he strongly supports. It is a very important project and he appreciates it being done.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo asked if there had been consideration in creating segregated bike lanes within the right-of-way to have a safe bicycle route and a purely pedestrian sidewalk. Mr. Lawson responded staff could look into that.

Chairperson Campos asked if there is a possibility of distinguishing the bike lane on the multi path so people know where they walk and where they ride. Mr. Ronsse responded staff would work with the City of San Jose to determine if there are other approaches that can be explored.

Bone Mace, President of District 8 Community Round Table, thanked Mr. Ronsse for coming to their Community Round Table meeting. The community group is pleased about the \$25 million budget for the pedestrian improvements and phasing. Miss Mace expressed concerns of the group as follows: 1) Total de-obligation amount for the project is confusing and needs clarification for the public; 2) Wants to ensure the Capitol Light Rail Extension Project will not be terminated if the \$45 million funding does not materialize; and 3) Wants to ensure the pedestrian improvements are for both the BRT and the light rail.

Member Herrera took her seat at 3:50 p.m.

Mr. Lawson stated: staff is preparing a list that shows remaining funds for each of the projects to avoid confusion; VTA will always continue to look for sources of funds for different projects; and VTA is very careful how the funds are allocated.

Dan Collen, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports Department, stated there is a current County Board Policy that does not allow landscaping on expressway unless there is agreement in place that provides for either maintenance by another party or cost recovery for the maintenance or landscaping. There is an asphalt sidewalk that exists along the westside of Capitol Expressway between Story and Ocala that may help for interim conditions in areas where VTA do not want to invest in permanent improvements.

Member Herrera thanked staff for the presentation and Bonnie Mace of the District 8 Community Round Table for their recommendation. She expressed concern about the future of the Capitol Light Rail Project. She emphasized it is important we not only get the pedestrian and landscape improvements completed but push to make sure we get the Light Rail Project completed.

**On Order of Chairperson Campos** and there being no objection, the Committee received the Analysis for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Transit Pedestrian Phasing.

## **6. Status Report for Capitol Expressway Federal Environmental Clearance**

Tom Fitzwater, Manager, Environmental Programs, reported staff met with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in May to discuss the Capitol Expressway Project environmental clearance.

The BRT, utilities relocation, pedestrian improvements and landscaping projects are all in the categorical exclusion category, which means the project has no significant environmental impacts. The environmental clearance process will take about 4 to 6 months.

Environmental Impact Study for LRT – the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was presented to the VTA Board in August 2007. The staff did an Environmental

Impact Report (EIR) because there were significant vibrations along the corridor and there were significant construction noise and vibration during construction. VTA has done a lot of work and could use the analysis that was done before, but FTA wants a new traffic analysis. This process will take about 18 months depending on FTA review and approvals.

**On Order of Chairperson Campos** and there being no objection, the Committee received the Status Report for Capitol Expressway Federal Environmental Clearance.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Campos** and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Cruz, Assistant Board Secretary  
VTA Board of Directors



Date: August 28, 2009  
Current Meeting: September 3, 2009  
Board Meeting: September 3, 2009

**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 BRT Project

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**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**BACKGROUND:**

This memorandum presents a status report of activities on the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Transit Improvement Project for the period June to August 2009.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Project Schedule**

Since the last PAB meeting in June, Staff has been working on a scope of work for Preliminary Engineering (PE), and will request limited proposals from three firms on the approved On-Call Consultant list. VTA and City of San Jose staff will be working through the Fall to solicit consultant proposals and negotiate a contract with the selected firm. It is estimated that the consultant contract for PE will begin in February 2010.

The project has experienced a six-month schedule delay in order to allow intensive work with City of San Jose staff to achieve consensus on the final conceptual design that will be the basis for Preliminary Engineering. The compensation for the later-than-anticipated start to Preliminary Engineering should come with an improved project that has a much higher level of definition and broad consensus on design details from the staff at the public agencies that will participate in the effort.

The estimated schedule for the BRT project is shown in Table 1:

**Table 1 - BRT Schedule**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
VTA BOD approved BRT On-Call Consultant list		June 2009
State Route 130 Condition Assessment	March 2009	July 2009
BRT Vehicle Procurement	January 2010	Spring 2013

Preliminary Engineering	February 2010	February 2011
Final Design	February 2011	April 2012
Construction	April 2012	June 2013
First Day of Service	-	July 2013

### **Request for Proposals from On-Call BRT Planning List for Preliminary Engineering**

The VTA Board of Directors approved the BRT On-call Consultant list at the June 2009 meeting, which qualified firms to provide consulting services for BRT projects, including Santa Clara-Alum Rock. VTA will select three firms from the approved list and request limited proposals for Preliminary Engineering, beginning in late September and select a firm by December. It anticipated that staff will seek authorization to enter into a contract from the VTA Board in January 2010, allowing for a start date no later than February 2010.

### **State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue) Relinquishment**

An assessment of the condition of State Route 130 (Alum Rock Avenue) between highways 101 and 680 was completed in July. The assessment evaluated the condition of the roadway and estimated the cost to upgrade the facility. The report will help inform the City in discussions with Caltrans regarding relinquishment of the State Highway facility to the City of San Jose. The final analysis showed that aside from the improvements that will already occur as part of the transit project, the cost to bring the remaining portions of the street up to a state of good repair ranges from \$6 to \$12 million.

Caltrans has also requested that the City of San Jose accept all of the State Route 130 within the City limits (1.5 miles). The City of San Jose sent a letter to Caltrans on June 17, 2009 accepting Caltrans proposed relinquishment of State Route 130 from US 101 to the City limit. The City requested in its letter that Caltrans contribute to the upgrades that are needed to bring the State route to a state of good repair. The City has not received a response to this letter, but has been told by Caltrans staff that a response is coming.

Staff from VTA, the City and Caltrans are working under the assumption that a no-cost relinquishment will occur within an established 24-month schedule, allowing the project to proceed with design and construction. This schedule assumes that an agreement between the three parties can be reached prior to the end of 2009, when the process for relinquishment formally begins through the submittal of a letter to the state legislature.

### **Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan**

VTA received a grant from Caltrans to create an Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan. The goal of the study is to identify barriers to access and utilization of the transit services available at the Eastridge Transit Center. Barriers may be physical such as a lack of adequate bicycle or pedestrian facilities or they could be cultural such as the need for more information in alternate languages. The study will help identify ways to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the transit center, as well as ways to improve the transit waiting environment. The study will also identify strategies for raising the awareness of the Center's transit services, particularly in communities where English is not the primary language spoken at home. The Transit Center is the second busiest transfer point in the VTA system and currently serves 11

routes and with the future service, the information received from the study will help inform the future re-design of the transit center.

VTA staff began work on the project in June and presented the study and requested input at the August 17<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup> meetings of the K.O.N.A and West Evergreen Neighborhood Actions Coalitions. VTA staff has been working since June with stakeholders to schedule focus group meetings to allow for a more in depth discussion of needs at the transit center. The first focus group meeting was held at the Hank Lopez Community Center on August 27<sup>th</sup>, to seek input from seniors about access issues and needs at the transit center. A meeting was also scheduled on August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Eastridge Transit Center to query working people on their morning commute and those that may not be able to attend an outside meeting, to better understand their needs at the transit center. VTA staff is working to schedule a second focus group meeting and an evening meeting at the transit center. In October there will be a public workshop to allow the urban design consultant to present suggestions for improving access and amenities at the transit center, and the date and time for the meeting will be circulated to stakeholders once it is set.

### **Revised Project Conceptual Plans for Alum Rock Avenue**

VTA has continued to meet bi-weekly with City of San Jose staff to address concerns over the roadway operational and maintenance implications of the adopted project design. The meetings have attempted to develop consensus on project design prior to entering into the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT project. In addition to traffic operations, concerns have been raised about the impact on existing businesses in the corridor, specifically relating to loss of on-street parking and potential right-of-way acquisition. The result of these meetings is a revised project design for the Alum Rock segment that balances the competing needs of the street for the transportation and development vision expressed in the Form-based zoning initiative and the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Transit Improvement project. An overview of the revised project design and the areas of difference with the previous plans will be presented to the Policy Advisory Board at the September meeting.

Prepared By: Jody Littlehales  
Memo No. 2215



Date: August 28, 2009  
 Current Meeting: September 3, 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:** Agreement for Preliminary Engineering for the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT Project

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**Policy-Related Action:** No

**Government Code Section 84308 Applies:** No

## **ACTION ITEM**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the creation of a project agreement for the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit Project establishing a design basis for Preliminary Engineering.

### **BACKGROUND:**

VTA staff is working toward an agreement between the City of San Jose and VTA for Preliminary Engineering (PE) to formalize a consensus among the agencies and departments on a conceptual project design prior to the start of the PE effort. The concept for the agreement is modeled on agreements developed by other agencies with City partners as a means to ensure agreement on project design elements, ensuring an efficient project management and an smooth, predictable schedule. The project agreement would be agreed to by the staff liaisons from the City and VTA before the end of the calendar year and signed by the VTA Board and City Council prior to the start of the PE contract. It is anticipated that a draft agreement will be presented to the PAB in at the December 2009 meeting for recommendation to the VTA Board of Directors.

### **DISCUSSION:**

A Project Agreement between the City of San Jose and VTA will include conceptual project designs agreed to by all parties and will serve as a basis for the PE effort. Further refinement of the project design will undoubtedly occur as detailed analysis of traffic operations, signal timing, utility relocation and street geometrics is better understood. Further, architectural and design elements, which have received only cursory treatment in the Conceptual Engineering phase, will be a focus of intensive design study and community outreach. To help this process proceed

under an expedited schedule, it is important that the established project design be agreed to by the PE partners as a "starting point" and avoid wholesale redesign that will negatively impact project effectiveness and schedule.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Policy Advisory Board can elect not to direct staff to work towards a project agreement signed by the City Council and VTA Board. Alternatively, the PAB can choose to direct staff to develop an agreement for staff-level signature by the General Manager and City Manager. Finally, the PAB can reject the idea of a project agreement and ask staff to enter into PE without such a document in place.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Jody Littlehales  
Memo No. 2216



Date: August 27, 2009  
Current Meeting: September 3, 2009  
Board Meeting: September 3, 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 Improvements Status Report

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### FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There are two primary activities currently underway for the proposed improvements along Capitol Expressway. These activities focus on Federal Environmental Clearance and pedestrian improvements. The status and schedule of these items is summarized as follows:

Current activities:

- Federal Environmental Clearance
  - LRT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Studies have been initiated and the Notice of Intent has been issued. A public Scoping Meeting is scheduled for September 30 at Eastridge shopping mall. FTA approval is anticipated in 12 to 24 months.
  - Pedestrian Improvements: Work for the Federal Categorical Exemption (CE) has been initiated. Anticipate completion by the end of 2009.
- Property acquisition for pedestrian improvements
  - Updating documents for the several parcels necessary for the pedestrian improvements. Intend to make offers in early 2010 after Federal CE approval.
- Utility relocation
  - Staff has approached the utility companies to refine the relocation design for the pedestrian improvement work.
- Design
  - Staff has initiated the various studies for the Federal EIS and CE
  - Design consultant is preparing the various design studies for the pedestrian improvements (drainage, lighting, etc.)
  - Need to confirm the design criteria and associated maintenance responsibility (City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara) for the pedestrian improvements (sidewalk, landscape, street lights, etc.).

Schedule for Pedestrian Improvements:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ➤ EIS Studies and R/W updates    | July 2009 - Dec. 2009  |
| ➤ Property Acquisition           | Make offers Jan. 2010 - Feb 2010<br>Obtain Possession Sept. 2010 |
| ➤ Prepare Construction Documents | Jan. 2010 - Late 2010  |
| ➤ Relocate Utilities             | Oct 2010 - April 2011  |
| ➤ Pedestrian Improvements        | Advertise Fall 2010;<br>Const. Early 2011 - Early 2012           |

Prepared By: Kenneth Ronsse, Deputy Director  
Memo No. 2217