

Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

Thursday, December 17, 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 1:05 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
Dave 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.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

5. Status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT Project

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided a report highlighting: 1) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project schedule; 2) Request for Proposals from on-call BRT planning list for preliminary engineering; 3) State Route 130 relinquishment; and 4) final conceptual plans for Alum Rock Avenue.

Mr. Connolly noted the Board's action to defer vehicle procurement has no effect to the project schedule.

Member Herrera took her seat at 1:07 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Ray Salvano, Department of Transportation, City of San Jose, provided an update about the relinquishment of State Route 130 and 82. He noted that City of San Jose staff is currently working with legislative representatives in Sacramento to set up a bill and proceed with the State Route relinquishment. He stated that a detailed report would be presented to the San Jose City Council on February 2010.

Member Cortese took his seat at 1:12 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo took his seat at 1:14 p.m.

Member Herrera inquired about the plan for the Ocala Avenue Station.

Mr. Connolly responded the ultimate configuration for the Ocala Avenue Station is to have both Light Rail and BRT stations. The interim configuration is to have a BRT station that could be utilized temporarily or permanently, depending on the status of the Light Rail project.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo expressed concern about the changes made to the BRT project schedule.

Mr. Connolly responded that no major change was made to the BRT project schedule. BRT would start operation fall of 2013, as scheduled. He noted the Board's action to defer procurement of vehicles have no impact to the project schedule.

Chairperson Campos requested City of San Jose staff provide an update to the Committee on the status of the State Route relinquishments.

Mr. Salvano stated that a detailed report would be provided at the March 4, 2010 DTEV meeting.

On order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received a report on the status of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT Project.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. Minutes of September 3, 2009

M/S/C (Liccardo/Herrera) to approve Minutes of September 3, 2009.

4. Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit Project Agreement

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager and Staff Liaison, provided an overview of the agreement. His report highlighted the following: 1) purpose of the agreement; 2) process of the agreement; and 3) outstanding issue.

Mr. Connolly stated staff would come back to the Committee at the March 4, 2010 meeting and provide a recommendation to address the issue of the station with two possible locations. He added the agreement represents the hard work between the staff of the City of San Jose and VTA.

Member Herrera inquired on the impacts of the financial crisis to the BRT project.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, responded that funding for the preliminary engineering and design phase of the BRT project is included under the current two year budget. He noted additional approvals will be required for the next phases of the project.

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

Member Herrera inquired about VTA's cost saving policy. She recommended that cost savings for the project be used for related projects or projects within the same area.

Mr. Ristow responded VTA does not have a cost saving policy. He stated cost savings for the project will not be identified until it reaches the construction phase where bids are received from contractors. He added it is the Board's discretion to allocate which project would receive unused Measure A funds.

Mr. Connolly explained two thirds of the BRT project would be funded by State grants, and one third through Measure A. Staff anticipates that all of the State grants would be consumed for the project.

M/S/C (Herrera/Liccardo) to recommend approval of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit Draft Project Agreement between the City of San Jose and VTA establishing a project description and vision statement for the project; and to recommend reinvesting any cost savings to projects within the same area, as amended.

6. Status of the Eastridge Transit Center Access & Improvement Plan

Jody Littlehales, Transportation Planner, provided a report highlighting: 1) findings from the feedback forms; 2) presented the study to different community groups and solicited input; and 3) conducted a Community Open House where the community's feedback and the analysis of the urban design consultant were presented.

Ms. Littlehales noted staff is incorporating the feedbacks received into the draft report that would be presented to the Committee at its March 4, 2010 meeting.

Member Herrera expressed appreciation for the outreach work conducted by staff. She inquired about the following: 1) process of prioritizing list of improvements identified by the public; and 2) meet with Eastridge management.

Ms. Littlehales noted staff would look for more input from the community when the draft report is circulated. Based from the input received, staff would prioritize the list of improvements.

Kenneth Ronsse, Deputy Director of Construction, stated the conceptual evaluation for the Eastridge Transit Center will be conducted early next year. Staff would refer to the list of improvements and incorporate them on a phased approach.

Ms. Littlehales stated staff met with John Peterson, Eastridge General Manager, and his staff to present recommended improvements for the transit center. She noted that Eastridge management was open to the improvements. More meetings would be conducted with Eastridge management early next year.

On order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received a report on the status of the Eastridge Transit Center Access & Improvement Plan.

7. Capitol Expressway Improvements Status Report

Kenneth Ronsse, Deputy Director of Construction, provided a report highlighting: 1) status of the Federal Environmental Document; 2) prepared the conceptual layout of the pedestrian improvements; 3) process of the Expressway relinquishment; and 4) phased approach for the transit center design.

Member Cortese requested staff to provide referral documents needed to move the project forward.

Mr. Ronsse responded the following needs to happen: 1) City of San Jose and County agreeing to City standards on pedestrian improvements; 2) agreement from the County and City of San Jose regarding maintenance of the improvements; 3) County to issue encroachment and utility relocation permits; and 4) agreement for eminent domain requirements. He noted a report would be created highlighting staff's needs.

Member Cortese inquired on the status of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Mr. Ronsse responded the target date of the EIS, with Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) support, is early to mid 2011. He noted the milestones that lead up to the study and draft documents would be available by mid 2010.

Member Cortese requested to continuously receive updates on the following: 1) Federal Environment Document, and 2) availability of Federal Stimulus funds.

Member Herrera expressed her appreciation for all the work done by Member Cortese on moving transportation projects forward and his advocacy on Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

Mr. Ronsse provided a presentation describing the improvements to the Capitol Expressway. He noted the improvements to Capitol Expressway are all compatible with the construction of Light Rail.

Member Cortese recommended staff work with the group that maintains the landscape of Cunningham Park to resolve irrigation issues.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, announced the Capitol Expressway Corridor was listed as a Grand Boulevard section by the Envision 2040 Task Force where Vice Chairperson Liccardo is a member.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo noted the concept of the Grand Boulevard would bring a lot of attention to the city and its major corridors.

Member Cortese commented the concept of the Grand Boulevard is consistent with the findings of the County Expressway Study.

Chairperson Campos stressed the importance of improving the Capitol Expressway. She expressed her appreciation for all the work done by the staff of the City of San Jose and VTA, and the members of the DTEV PAB.

On order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee received the Capitol Expressway Improvements Status Report.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary