

Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board

Thursday, March 25, 2010

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board (DTEV PAB) was called to order at 2:36 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
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

The Agenda was taken out of order.

4. Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT Project Status Update

Member Cortese took his seat at 2:38 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) project schedule; 2) Santa Clara-Alum Rock project agreement; 3) consultant selection for preliminary engineering; and 4) City of San Jose proposal for design & construction services.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo took his seat at 2:41 p.m.

Hans Larsen, Acting Director of San Jose Department of Transportation, provided an update on the sponsored legislation by the City of San Jose to pursue relinquishment on State Route 82 and State Route 130.

Jody Littlehales, Transportation Planner, provided a report about the experiences of other agencies regarding Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). She referenced the BRT project in Cleveland, Ohio.

Member Cortese recommended changing the name of the BRT. He suggested involving the community in selecting a new name for the project.

Member Herrera supported the idea to change the name of the BRT. She recommended staff explore corporate interests in selecting a name for the project. She also inquired about the economic development the project will bring.

Mr. Connolly responded staff will consider changing the name of the project. He added that an economic development study have not been conducted for the project.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, noted staff will be working with the City of San Jose staff on land use approvals, zoning, and other key aspects to determine the project's economic development.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo suggested exploring naming opportunities for the project. He noted that revenue received from the project name can be used to sustain its operation.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired about the delays to the project schedule.

Mr. Connolly responded that there was a six month delay last quarter due to the discussions made with the City of San Jose staff.

Mr. Ristow added that due to budget constraints, purchase of BRT vehicles was deferred.

On Order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT Project Status Update was received.

3. Minutes of December 17, 2009

M/S/C (Liccardo/Herrera) to approve the Minutes of December 17, 2009.

5. Final Location for City Hall Bus Rapid Transit Station

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, reported on staff's recommendation that the City Hall BRT station be located west of 6th Street. He enumerated factors that support staff's recommendation. He also reported on the impacts if Option 2, locate the station west of 7th Street, will be selected.

Hans Larsen, Acting Director of Transportation, City of San Jose, reported that City staff recommends that the station be located west of 7th Street. He provided factors that led City staff to support Option 2.

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

Member Herrera, Vice Chairperson Liccardo, and Chairperson Campos expressed their support for Option 2, locating the BRT station west of 7th Street, due to the following reasons: 1) security of the San Jose City Hall; 2) 7th Street is the main pedestrian and bicycle corridor; and 3) access to San Jose State University.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo suggested conducting more outreach and explore locating the station north of 7th Street to mitigate the cost of loss of parking.

Member Cortese commented that it is convenient for the public to have a station in front of the City Hall since it is a major generator for transit. He noted a station in front of City Hall would increase security because County Sheriffs would be involved.

M/S/C (Liccardo/Herrera) on a vote of 3 Ayes, to 0 Noes, to 1 Abstention to recommend Option 2, City Hall BRT station be located west of 7th Street, with further staff investigation on the north side. Member Cortese abstained.

6. Eastridge Transit Center Access & Improvement Plan

Jody Littlehales, Transportation Planner, provided the following information included in the Eastridge Transit Center Access and Improvement Plan final report: 1) analysis of the conditions for pedestrians and bicycles as well as suggestion for improvements; 2) community feedback regarding access issues; 3) suggestions to improve amenities; 4) goal of the study; and 5) Eastridge Transit Center design suggestions.

Member Herrera expressed appreciation to staff specially Jody Littlehales for the extensive outreach conducted with the community. She asked about the impact of the Improvement Plan to the Thompson Creek corridor.

Ms. Littlehales noted the report points out existing issues regarding the Thompson Creek corridor connection as well as suggestions on how to improve it. She added the Thompson Creek corridor connection will be considered on future plans and further study needs to be conducted.

Member Herrera suggested staff continuously meet with John Peterson, Eastridge General Manager, to engage Eastridge management regarding the Transit Center Access and Improvement Plan.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired about building restriction on the Transit Center. He suggested exploring a multi level transit center with commercial spaces, depending on the building restriction.

Ken Ronsse, Deputy Director of Construction, responded information about the building restriction will be provided to the Committee.

Member Cortese inquired if planning for projects like the Thompson Creek corridor connection needs to be recognized so it will be considered for the improvement plan and get funding.

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, responded the report is not prescriptive to allow projects to have flexibility in design which increases the ability to receive funding.

Ms. Littlehales noted the report recognizes connection issues to the Transit Center. It also provides recommendations to improve the linkage to the Transit Center by developing new crossings.

Member Cortese expressed the importance of having an improved and safe connection to the Transit Center from its surrounding communities.

Mr. Connolly responded new pedestrian crossings will be incorporated in the study.

Member Herrera directed staff to include pedestrian crossing as part of the long range plan and to study its feasibility.

M/S/C (Herrera/Liccardo) to recommend approval of the Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan.

7. Capitol Expressway Improvements Status Report

Ken Ronsse, Deputy Director of Construction, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) two phases of the Light Rail Project; 2) coordination with City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara; 3) project design team; and 4) project schedule.

Member Cortese left the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Liccardo inquired about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), New Starts process and schedule that involve improvements to the Capitol Expressway and Vasona Line.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, responded analysis of the projects will be conducted on a regional level and they will be organized in a way that they will both get proper support. He noted that New Starts process will go to the Board on an annual basis in relation to the completion of the EIS.

Chairperson Campos expressed concern about City of San Jose budget cuts and suggested deferring the lighting improvements on the project.

Mr. Ronsse responded decision about lighting improvements will depend on the analysis that will be conducted where safety elements will be considered as a key factor.

M/S/C (Herrera/Liccardo) to conduct further analysis on lighting and provide the Committee with cost saving options. Consider using new technology and conduct a phased approach toward lighting improvements.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

On Order of Chairperson Campos and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary