



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 16, 2005

TO: Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor Policy Advisory Board
BART Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara

FROM: Ann Jamison, Deputy Director, Planning and Congestion Management

SUBJECT: Planning Updates

Planning is working in close coordination with the Preliminary Engineering Team to further define the SVRTC project, work through the value engineering, and to coordinate outreach to the community. The PE refinement of the project description will be the foundation for the revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) if required. In addition, we are working to resolve concerns raised by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through the New Starts process. Key updates include:

FTA New Starts Milestones: Last fall FTA expressed concern that the SVRTC project was not making adequate progress in the New Starts process to support maintaining the projects current Preliminary Engineering status. VTA and FTA agreed to two key milestones as a condition of maintaining PE status. These milestones and their current status are described below.

- Milestone#1: VTA will document the process and timelines involved in the adoption of the 2000 Measure A Transit Expenditure Plan and the placement of a local sales tax referendum on the November 2006 ballot.

VTA submitted this documentation to FTA last November.

- Milestone #2: VTA will submit a full and acceptable estimate of ridership and user benefits to FTA by June 30, 2005.

VTA submitted the technical documentation to resolve the final calibration concerns to FTA on March 9, 2005. A conference call to review that information with FTA, and conclude the calibration efforts is scheduled for March 15, 2004. Staff will provide a verbal update on the outcome of the call at the PAB meeting.

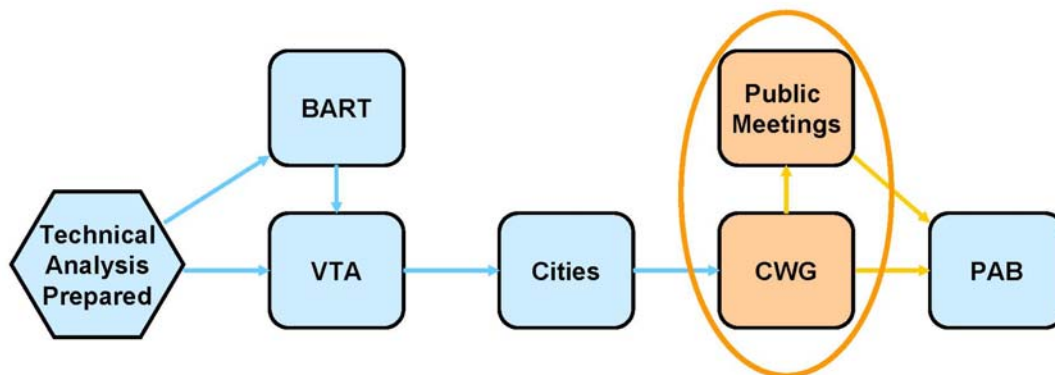
Community Outreach:

Several of the value-engineering proposals currently under consideration by the PE team will require additional public outreach as they move forward. The PE team has also planned outreach meetings in association with the further design of the proposed stations and a construction methods workshop. The planning staff and the PE team worked together to develop an approach for these outreach efforts.

Generally speaking, additional outreach is recommended for design elements that meet one of the following criteria:

- Design element is a major change from what was presented in the BART EIR project description
- The engineering team would benefit from public input on the design element in order to move the design forward
- The design element has historically been a sensitive issue to the public, elected officials, or the cities
- VTA previously promised additional community input.

The following graphic shows the outreach review process that VTA has been following for the project and which has generally worked well on major issues that need to go through a public review process. For many of the value engineering and preliminary engineering project modifications no significant public process is required. For others, only a portion of this process may be implemented. This is the process to be used for our continuing outreach efforts relative to significant value engineering or preliminary engineering project modifications.



The specific sequence and schedule will be detailed out for each item as they come forward. In some instances minor adjustments to this process may be required to address the needs of VTA and the cities.

The Grade Separated Dixon Landing Road proposal is the first PE item working through this process. This analysis responds to a request by the City of Milpitas during the EIR process to look at an alternative that would fully grade separate Dixon Landing Road from both the UP railroad track and the BART track in an underpass structure. There have been several meetings with the City on this item. The City and VTA are bringing the item forward to the public jointly. The public meeting on the proposal is scheduled for March 16, 2004 in Milpitas. Staff issued a

press release, mailed flyers to over 2,700 residents and businesses, and distributed over 6,000 flyers to local neighborhood associations and schools to announce the meeting. Staff will provide a verbal summary of the meeting for the PAB.