



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2007

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

FROM: Marian Lee-Skowronek, Principal Planner
Congestion Management and Planning

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SUBJECT: Planning Progress Report – April 2007

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

FTA New Starts Update

The following activities are focused on preparing the necessary documents to re-enter the FTA New Starts program and improving the competitiveness of the SVRT project for federal funding.

Travel Forecast

The modeling team is updating the SVRT ridership projections using the FTA approved travel forecast model. The updated projections will be reviewed by FTA staff and used for the federal environmental document and re-entry into FTA New Starts. This summer, the modeling team will begin conducting sensitivity analysis based on FTA guidance which will be used to explain the effect of the various assumptions in the model.

Economic Impacts Analysis

The economic consulting team has been collecting data and evaluating the economic impacts associated with travel efficiency benefits. A meeting with the project Technical Advisory Committee will be conducted in May to discuss and review the inputs and methodologies used in the REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) model. Results will be presented to the VTA Policy Advisory Committee this summer. Next phases of work will include evaluating economic impacts resulting from increased mobility and accessibility and examining the fiscal impact to local governments.

Station Area Planning

During the last several months, VTA and city partners have been focused on developing long-term land use visions for the station areas and making appropriate changes to the station campus engineering plans to support the cities' and communities' long-term visions. In conjunction with the visioning exercise, VTA staff is also assessing the practicability of supporting the 2030 parking demand, identifying policy strategies that could reduce the park-n-ride demand and developing parking implementation strategies that include constructing parking in phases integrated with TOD.

The goal is to complete these efforts by summer of 2007 to provide input for 65% engineering. Documentation of the planning process and work products will be included in the SVRT Parking Plan to be presented to the PAB.

Warm Springs Extension Update

Following receipt of the Record of Decision (ROD) in October 2007 from the FTA on the Warm Springs Extension project, the WSX project team has begun to remobilize staff. Key components of this effort include the development of a revised project schedule, updating the project's capital cost estimate, and re-activating the ROW acquisition process.

On the funding side, the WSX Policy Advisory Committee is working on solidifying the WSX funding plan. The Committee met for the second time on March 30, 2007. At this meeting, the PAC received information about updated project costs in year 2007 dollars that included cost increases due to escalation since the last estimate was prepared in 2004. The PAC also approved BART's recommendation to advance the design of the subway through Fremont Central Park in preparation for advertisement (for construction) in the spring of 2008 as a way of minimizing construction cost escalation. Efforts will continue to resolve outstanding overall project funding issues. And BART will go to the CTC this summer to request the remaining TCRP funds for additional design work and right-of-way acquisition.