



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 9, 2007

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

FROM: Carolyn M. Gonot
Chief SVRT Program Officer

SUBJECT: FTA New Starts Activities

The funding plan for the BART extension to Milpitas, San Jose, and Santa Clara anticipates federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program. FTA has guidance that outlines the process for receiving funding from the New Starts Program. VTA has been working through this process over the past 6 years in the planning and early engineering phases. VTA must work closely with FTA to receive concurrence on many of the technical documents required as part of the process.

Over the past six months, the following significant FTA coordination activities occurred:

- FTA printed the Notice of Intent for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register on September 21, 2007. This notice kicks off the scoping for the federal environmental clearance process.
- VTA was awarded two FTA grants for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) Project. Under the New Starts Program in the FY05 and FY06 federal transportation spending bills, Congress appropriated the two federal grants totaling \$8.85 million. VTA submitted applications in early 2007 and worked cooperatively with the FTA to obtain the release of these funds, which will be used to reimburse VTA for preliminary engineering (PE) work related to the BART Extension.

- FTA confirmed the travel demand forecasting model for use in projecting ridership for the BART extension. VTA is currently conducting an assessment of the model assumptions to gauge the effects of the assumptions on the projections.
- VTA participated in the 2007 New Starts Roundtable. The roundtable is an invitation-only session hosted by FTA for project sponsors in the New Starts process. The session provides updates on guidance and reporting requirements as well as solicits feedback regarding the planning and reporting process.