

## **CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Thursday, April 17, 2003

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee (CMPP) was called to order at 10:39 a.m. by Chairperson Chavez in Room 106, San Jose City Hall, 801 North First Street, San Jose, California.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present**

Blanca Alvarado  
Cindy Chavez, Chairperson  
John McLemore  
Thomas Springer

##### **Members Absent**

Patricia Dixon

**A quorum was present.**

#### **2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Public Presentations.

#### **3. ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, the Orders of the Day were accepted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **4. Minutes of March 20, 2003**

**M/S/C (Alvarado/Springer)** to approve the Minutes of March 20, 2003.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 5. Modified Fiscal Year 2003-04 Congestion Management Program Work Program, Budget and Member Agency Fees

Michael P. Evanhoe, Chief Development Officer, stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that the Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee (CMPP) approve the Budget and Work Program as presented.

Mr. Evanhoe noted that Valley Transportation Plan 2020 (VTP 2020) would be updated this year and presented to CMPP in fall 2003. Staff further noted that the Intra-County Corridor Studies and the Transportation Gateway Studies would also be brought to CMPP in fall 2003. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will review the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

**M/S/C (Alvarado/McLemore)** to approve the modified FY 03-04 Congestion Management Program Work Program, Budget and Member Agency Fees.

### 6. Fiscal Year 2003-04 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager Fund (TFCA 40%) Project Allocations

Erin Chao, Transportation Planner III, reported that approximately \$2.7 million is available for programming this year.

Ms. Chao noted that new 2003 Cost Effectiveness Modeling Worksheets have not been received from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMID). The current Air District policy states that the overall 40% TFCA Program has to be under a \$50,000 per ton cap. When the new models are received, staff may need to make necessary modifications to recommendations and present an amendment to the Board of Directors in May 2003.

Chairperson Chavez queried the implications of modification changes. Ms. Chao responded that sponsors might need to be asked to reduce the amount of their grant requests in order to meet the \$50,000 per ton criteria.

Mr. Evanhoe stated that for some borderline projects it might mean that they have to put up more local funding if they want to sustain the project.

Member Alvarado requested that a report be provided regarding reprogramming of funds for the Light Rail Shuttle Program at the Board of Director's Workshop Meeting on April 25, 2003.

**M/S/C (Alvarado/Springer)** to approve programming \$2.7 million in Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager (TFCA 40%) funds to the Competitive Projects and to the Tier 1 Bicycle Projects in the FY 2003-04 cycle.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **7. Proposed Transit and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Fare Modifications for Implementation August 1, 2003**

Scott Buhner, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update of the Proposed Transit and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Fare Modifications for Implementation August 1, 2003 which were first discussed at the March 21, 2003 Board of Directors' Workshop.

Mr. Buhner reported that when the original fare proposal was brought to the Board of Directors at the March 21, 2003 Workshop, staff discussed its objective to bring VTA's discounts and multiples in line with comparable agencies. The Board of Directors stated that an undo hardship was being put on the senior and disabled community and queried the impacts associated with reducing the day pass from the initial staff recommendation of \$2.25 down to \$1.75. The Board of Directors also requested that staff review the impacts of reducing the monthly pass from the initial staff recommendation of \$22.50 down to \$17.50.

Mr. Buhner stated that the changes which were recommended at the March 21, 2003 Workshop would reduce revenue by nearly \$500,000 and would reduce the loss of ridership by 480,000 riders.

Member Alvarado queried the methodology used to determine loss in ridership regarding fare increases. Mr. Buhner responded that the Fare Elasticity Model developed by Booz Allen & Hamilton, a prominent transit-consulting firm, has been used to estimate impacts. Mr. Buhner reported that when staff reviewed results of the last five increases, staff found that the actual results seem to be more influenced by exogenous factors other than pricing, for example, the employment market and adding or reducing services.

Mr. Buhner reported that the Board of Directors requested that other alternatives be reviewed that could achieve the budget goal of increasing revenues by \$4 million.

Mr. Buhner reported that the Administration and Finance Committee (A&F) met this morning and requested that this item be brought to the Board of Directors' Workshop Meeting of April 25, 2003, for further discussion.

Member Springer queried whether squeezing an additional \$270,000 in revenue out of the revenue stream is justification for losing 270,000 trips by the senior and disabled community.

Member McLemore requested estimates of how many monthly passes there are for adults, how many monthly passes were actually issued for youth and how many monthly passes were issued for the senior and disabled community.

Member Springer left his seat at 11:03 a.m.

Mr. Buhner responded that a chart would be provided showing the estimated results that would occur from each pricing scenario of the ridership and of the number of units of that fare that would be sold and the resulting revenue.

Member McLemore queried the reason why the adult pass would be kept at \$52.50 rather than rounding it to \$53. Member McLemore stated that he wants to make sure that we minimize the burden on the senior and disabled community.

Member Alvarado stated that it is necessary to know who the user population of the transit system is, what their needs are, and how they will be affected. Member Alvarado noted that it is difficult to arrive at any measure of increase or decrease or analysis without having a view of who will be affected.

Member Springer took his seat at 11:10 a.m.

Member Alvarado expressed concern that severe service reductions at the outset might cause a loss of ridership that will be difficult to recapture.

Member Buhner reported that the modern fare pricing theory is that the loss of ridership is temporary. Much of it will return within six months and virtually all of it will return within 15 months.

Chairperson Chavez stated that the Board of Directors and the broader community does not have common agreement regarding the role of VTA and noted that this decision needs to be made. Mr. Buhner stated that it is important for staff to bring forward a fare policy to the Board of Directors later this summer that will address all of these issues regarding appropriate levels of discounts so that discussion can be held.

Chairperson Chavez requested that staff provide to the Board of Directors the shared vision at the time that the Transit Authority became VTA and stressed the need to have people rooted in what the original intent was as we start these next discussions.

Suzanne Gifford, General Counsel, stated that this information is contained in the Public Utilities Code, VTA's Enabling Act.

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, Proposed Transit and ADA Paratransit Fare Modifications for Implementation August 1, 2003, were received and filed.

**8. Legislative Reports**

Kurt M. Evans, Government Affairs Manager, provided information regarding the following bills which could potentially provide additional funds for transportation: 1) **SB 541** (Torlakson) which ties the State Gas Tax rate to the consumer price index so that as inflation goes up, the gas tax will automatically adjust upward to compensate. If this Bill were enacted, the initial result would be a four-cent bump in the State Gas Tax rate from .18 cents to .22 cents. The Bill would automatically adjust the gas tax upward to compensate for any lost revenue to the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) and the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund; 2) **AB 1500** (Diaz) which calls for imposing a \$1 fee on each barrel of crude oil that is refined in California and 3) **AB 1065** (Longville) which could become a vehicle to double TDA from the current ¼ cent sales tax to ½ cent sales tax.

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, the Legislative Reports were received and filed.

**9. Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for January – March 2003**

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for January – March 2003 was received and filed.

**10. Proactive Congestion Management Program (CMP) Reviewed and Approved Projects Monthly Status Report**

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Monthly Status Report was received and filed.

**11. Committee Work Plan**

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, the Committee Work Plan was accepted, as submitted.

**12. Committee Staff Report**

There was no Committee Staff Report.

**13. Chairperson's Report**

There was no Chairperson's Report.

**14. Determine Consent Agenda for May 1, 2003 Board of Directors' Meeting**

**CONSENT: Agenda Item #5.**, Approve the modified FY 03-04 Congestion Management Program Work Program, Budget and Member Agency Fees. and **Agenda Item #6.**, Approve programming \$2.7 million in Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager (TFCA 40 %) funds to the Competitive Projects and to the Tier 1 Bicycle Projects in the FY 2003-04 cycle.

**REGULAR:** None

**15. Announcements**

John Ristow, Deputy Director, Programming and Highway Administration, announced an additional Ad Hoc for Financial Stability Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2003, at a time and place to be determined.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Chavez**, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Tinlin, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors