

Date: _____ March 11, 2008

Committee Meeting Date: _____ March 20, 2008

Board Meeting Date: _____ N/A

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County

Policy-Related Action: No

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct VTA staff to draft a work plan, schedule, and budget for the development of a transportation system monitoring program for Santa Clara County and return in 60 days for review and approval.

BACKGROUND:

Significant investments have been made and continue to be made in Santa Clara County's transportation system network to support its growing population and businesses. Recently, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) identified a need for more comprehensive monitoring of how these investments are translating to better transportation conditions and services for the residents and communities of Santa Clara County.

Although there are transportation system monitoring programs in place that provide performance assessments such as VTA's Congestion Management Program Monitoring and Conformance Report and VTA's quarterly Transit Operations Report, a countywide transportation monitoring mechanism that provides a comprehensive assessment of the county's transportation system in a single, easy to understand format does not exist.

The purpose of the Santa Clara County Transportation System Monitoring Program would be to provide the VTA Advisory Committees and the VTA Board of Directors with a comprehensive status on the current condition and performance of the transportation systems in Santa Clara County in a public, user friendly format.

DISCUSSION:

At the February 14, 2008 TAC meeting, the committee members discussed the pros and cons of introducing a countywide transportation system monitoring program. The key benefit of developing and implementing a comprehensive transportation system monitoring program for Santa Clara County would be the ability to provide local jurisdictions, VTA Advisory Committees, and the VTA Board of Directors with periodic information on the condition and performance of transportation systems in Santa Clara County in a single, easy to understand report format. Some of the challenges mentioned during the discussion were the availability of data that could be used for monitoring, the development of standards, and the potential for general public and media interest. A list of potential system measurement topics is included as Attachment A.

The data collected could be used for transportation planning and funding purposes, to identify specific areas in the transportation system needing improvements and to advocate for allocation of resources to make improvements or correct deficiencies.

At the end of the discussion, the TAC members agreed that VTA, in its capacity as both a Congestion Management Agency and Transit Agency for Santa Clara County, would be the appropriate agency to lead this effort. The TAC requested that VTA staff return with a proposal for development of a transportation system monitoring program concept for review and direction to proceed with development of the work plan for the monitoring program.

This memorandum requests approval for VTA staff to proceed with development of a draft work plan, schedule, and budget for the development of a transportation system monitoring program for Santa Clara County. If directed, staff would return in 60 days with a recommendation for implementation of the monitoring program. The monitoring program would require a modification to the currently approved Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 CMP Budget and Work Plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee may elect to not proceed with this concept of a comprehensive system monitoring program. If so, no modification in existing budget or work plan would be required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to approval of staff to develop the draft work plan for the proposed monitoring program.

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