

Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee

Thursday, August 20, 2009

MINUTES

On General Consensus and there being no objection, the Committee appointed Member Pyle as Chairperson Pro Tempore.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee (CMPP) was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Chairperson Pro Tempore Pyle in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority, River Oaks Campus, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Nora Campos	Alternate Member	N/A
Sam Liccardo	Chairperson	Present
Nancy Pyle	Member	Present
Yoriko Kishimoto	Vice Chairperson	Absent
Chris Moylan	Alternate Member	Absent
Rose Herrera	Member	Present

* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Measure A Fund Exchange – Semi Annual Update

Chairperson Liccardo arrived at the meeting at 10:11 a.m. and a quorum was declared. Chairperson Pro Tempore Pyle relinquished her seat as Chairperson and Chairperson Liccardo presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Marcela Rensi, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a brief background on the history of Measure A fund exchanges. She reported on the two fund exchanges done for Measure A and the list of projects that benefited from the fund exchange.

Member Herrera inquired on the US 101 Improvements listed twice on the list of projects receiving Measure A funds. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, explained the US 101 Improvements were divided into two phases to secure funding. First phase would fund preliminary engineering and environmental studies. Second phase would fund final design and right-of-way.

Member Pyle inquired on the amount of the fund exchanged. Mr. Ristow responded the amount exchanged was \$107,980,000.

Chairperson Liccardo inquired on the concerns of the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) regarding the Measure A fund exchange. Mr. Ristow responded staff provided a presentation to the CWC to address their inquiries regarding the Measure A fund exchange. The presentation described the process involved in recommending fund exchanges and the process used to report on the status of the fund exchange. He recommended the Committee receive the presentation on Measure A fund exchange at its next meeting.

Kevin Allmand, General Counsel, noted that auditors vetted the Measure A fund exchange and found no legal issues in the process.

Chairperson Liccardo inquired on an equivalent Federal full level grant agreement on the State level. Ms. Rensi explained grant funds from the State are programmed and enrolled in the State database. She noted the State grant funds are allocated to two Measure A projects. She added more information regarding State grant funds would be presented to the Committee.

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Measure A Fund Exchange – Semi Annual Update was received.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of May 21, 2009

M/S/C (Herrera/Pyle) to approve the Minutes of May 21, 2009.

5. Development Review Program Enhancements & Proactive CMP Report April-June 2009

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, reported on the following enhancements made to the Development Review Program: 1) Internal processes and reporting; 2) Summary of the projects; 3) Outreach and influence efforts; and 4) Targeted research.

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

Member Pyle expressed appreciation regarding the improved program and the way VTA maintains good public relations.

Chairperson Liccardo inquired if the Planning Departments of different agencies adhere to VTA's comments on projects. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, responded there is an improvement on how City staff plans their projects. He added it is VTA's objective to be of assistance to other agencies.

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, commented staff has been attending Planning Commission meetings to provide assistance to other agencies. He noted staff is developing a process to receive feedback from comments on projects.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, commented VTA may have some discretion on funding and conditions may be applied on projects to receive funds.

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Development Review Program Enhancements & Proactive CMP Report April-June 2009 was received.

6. Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April-June 2009

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April-June 2009 was received.

7. Civil Grand Jury Response

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Civil Grand Jury Response was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. General Manager Authority to Execute Caltrans Cooperative Agreements (Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program)

Chairperson Liccardo inquired about the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) bond financing. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, responded VTA does not rely on MTC regarding bond financing because there is no legislation. He noted in the future, VTA might engage in MTC's bond financing.

Joseph Smith, Chief Financial Officer, explained VTA created a Reimbursement Resolution that would reimburse VTA for any cost incurred in issuing bonds.

Member Herrera expressed her support for VTA taking the lead as a Project Development Agency.

M/S/C (Herrera/Pyle) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute Cooperative Agreements with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), covering environmental, design,

right of way, construction, landscaping, project close-out phases of Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program projects.

9. VTA Comments on CEQA Guidelines Amendments

Ying Smith, Transportation Planner Manager, reported on staff's proposal to submit a formal letter during the Natural Resource Agency's comment period. The following major comments are contained in the letter: 1) A new preamble to Appendix G – Initial Study Checklist; 2) A new question on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in Section VII, Greenhouse Gas Emissions; and 3) Changes and additions to the transportation checklist.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, noted Advisory Committees requested staff draft the letter for their approval, signifying VTA acting as a countywide regional body.

M/S/C (Pyle/Herrera) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors authorizing the General Manager submit a comment letter on the proposed CEQA Guidelines Amendments to the California Natural Resources Agency, as presented in Attachment C.

10. Implementing the Regional Transportation Plan: MTC's Proposed Policies

Marcela Rensi, Transportation Planning Manager, reported on the programs funded through the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and its upcoming six year re-authorization. The following are the core programs proposed by MTC: 1) Freeway Performance Initiative; 2) Transit Capital & Regional Streets and Road Rehabilitation (“Fix It First”); 3) Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC); 4) Regional Bike Program; and 5) Climate Initiatives.

Member Herrera inquired about the Freeway Performance Initiative. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, noted VTA supports updating the whole freeway system. He noted more information regarding the benefits of integrating the basic systems would be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, commented in the Bay Area, VTA has been a leader in implementing ramp metering in the freeway system.

Chairperson Liccardo expressed his support on staff's recommendation. He inquired why MTC is engaging in distributing transportation funding when the re-authorization of the SAFETEA-LU is a year away. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, explained that with or without the SAFETEA-LU re-authorization, programming decisions need to be determined because the Federal government authorizes an annual amount for Federal programs. He stated MTC uses federal funds and places them in programs as part of their policy direction. Staff has proposals on how MTC should structure the distribution of transportation funding in the next six years.

Chairperson Liccardo expressed concern on the following: 1) TLC funding should not go to developers, but should be used for Transit Capital & Regional Streets and Road Rehabilitation; 2) MTC's Transit Program Structure proposal, under the Transit Capital

& Regional Streets and Road Rehabilitation, should be more objective; and 3) Bike program should be established on a local level.

Member Herrera stressed the need to have measurable results to ensure projects contribute to Climate Initiatives.

M/S/C (Pyle/Herrera) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to submit comments on the MTC's draft/proposed programs to distribute transportation funding under the recently adopted Regional Transportation Plan (T2035).

12. Community-Based Transportation Plan - Milpitas

Aiko Cuenco, Transportation Planner, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) Community-Based Transportation Planning Program; 2) List of Outreach meetings; 3) Top transportation concerns; 4) Transportation proposals; 5) Bus service proposal; and 6) Projects for future consideration.

Chairperson Liccardo inquired on the budget impacts of converting Bus Lines to Community Bus with additional trips. Ms. Cuenco responded the proposal is cost neutral. She added there are some savings because some Lines would be combined.

Chairperson Liccardo inquired on the funding for the Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP). John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, responded most of the proposed transportation needs, programs and projects under the CBTP are eligible for funding under the MTC's proposed programs.

Member Herrera inquired on the timeline to convert current Bus Lines into Community Bus. Ms. Cuenco responded conversion of the Bus Lines to Community Bus would be implemented on January 2010. She stated staff's proposals were derived from the 20 Outreach meetings conducted and the successful survey that had a ten percent response rate.

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Community-Based Transportation Plan – Milpitas was received.

13. Grand Boulevard Initiative – Status Report

Robert Swierk, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a report highlighting the following: 1) Grand Boulevard Initiative overview; 2) El Camino Real – State Route 82; 3) Grand Boulevard Task Force; 4) Guiding principles; 5) Progress to date; 6) Benefits to VTA and Member Agencies; and 7) Moving forward.

Member Herrera inquired if the historical value of the Boulevard would be considered on the plan. Mr. Swierk responded keeping the historical value of the Boulevard was discussed by the Task Force and is part of the established Guiding Principles.

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Grand Boulevard Initiative – Status Report was received.

14. Bike Sharing Pilot Program – Project Update

Aiko Cuenco, Transportation Planner, reported the Bike Share Pilot Study was conducted to analyze a bike share program on Caltrain stations in Palo Alto, Mountain View, San Jose Diridon, and the downtown San Jose Area. She noted a Project Working Group was established to provide input on project parameters, draft Scope of Work, draft Request for Information, survey methodology, and potential survey sites. The Next Steps of the program are as follows: 1) Determine final list of survey locations; 2) Develop survey questions and methodology; 3) Conduct surveys in mid-September; 4) Continue technology research and summarize findings from RFI responses; and 5) Begin developing the Finance Business Plans.

Member Pyle expressed support for the Bike Sharing Pilot Program. She noted the program helps a lot of commuters and solves bike issues in trains.

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Bike Sharing Pilot Program – Project Update was received.

OTHER

15. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, noted staff will provide the Committee with the Measure A Fund Exchange presentation at a future meeting.

16. Committee Work Plan

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Work Plan.

17. Committee Staff Report

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, reported on the following: 1) Local events; 2) High Speed Rail/Caltrain Electrification; 3) MTC, State & Federal; and 4) VTA CMA.

18. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Liccardo stated that representation and allocation issues with MTC should be expressed when Scott Heggarty, MTC Chair, comes to visit the VTA Board of Directors on September 3, 2009.

19. Determine Consent Agenda for September 3, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

CONSENT:

Agenda Item #8, Authorize the General Manager to execute Cooperative Agreements with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), covering environmental, design, right of way, construction, landscaping, project close-out phases of Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program projects.

Agenda Item #9, Authorize the General Manager to submit a comment letter on the proposed CEQA Guidelines Amendments to the California Natural Resources Agency, as presented in Attachment C.

Agenda Item #11, Receive an update to the Measure A Fund Exchange Semi-Annual Report.

Agenda Item #12, Receive a presentation on the Milpitas Community-Based Transportation Plan.

Agenda Item #13, Receive a status report on the Grand Boulevard Initiative.

Agenda Item #14, Receive a update on the Bike Share Pilot Study.

REGULAR:

Agenda Item #10, Authorize the General Manager to submit comments on the MTC's draft/proposed programs to distribute transportation funding under the recently adopted Regional Transportation Plan (T2035).

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements.

21. ADJOURN

On order of Chairperson Liccardo and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary