



TRANSIT PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 20, 2003

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Chairperson Valerio in Room 106, San Jose City Hall, 801 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Ron Gonzales
Dena Mossar
Manuel Valerio, Chairperson

Members Absent

David Cortese, Vice Chairperson
Francis LaPoll
Ken Yeager

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

Member Mossar took her seat at 4:37 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

James Wightman, Interested Citizen, addressed the Committee and expressed concern regarding an incident he witnessed on light rail in where a guest was calling another guest names. He noted that he reported the incident to the Operator and the Operator indicated there was nothing he/she could do about the incident. Frank T. Martin, Chief Operating Officer, noted that he would look into the matter.

Mr. Wightman suggested that VTA cut light rail service to one-hour headways starting in October 2003.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Add Agenda Item #17.X., Receive a report regarding staff recommendation to abandon an eminent domain lawsuit authorized by the Resolution of Necessity identified as Agenda Item #5, adopted by Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors on October 10, 2002, for property located at 331 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, California, Parcel #7673, under the ownership of Jayvadan N. Itchhaporia, et al. for the Capitol Light Rail Project.

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to accept the Orders of the Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of February 20, 2003

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to approve the Minutes of February 20, 2003.

5. Capitol Light Rail Project – Capitol Site Restoration Contract

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder, Bianchi Amaker Construction, in an amount of \$424,032, for the restoration of residential and commercial property along Capitol Avenue that was affected by the construction of the Capitol Light Rail Project.

6. Purchase Additional Ticket Vending Machines from VenTek International for the Tasman, Capitol and Vasona Light Rail Projects

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a sole source agreement with VenTek International in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000, for the purchase and installation of 34 Ticket Vending Machines (TVM's) for the Vasona, Capitol, and Tasman East Light Rail Projects.

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

7. Automotive Dispensing Equipment (Non-Fuel) Maintenance and Repair

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to exercise the two remaining one-year options of the existing contract with Central Equipment Service Company, extending the contract through June 30, 2005 for automotive dispensing equipment (non-fuel) preventive maintenance and repair services. The value of the two option years will not exceed \$125,000 for the fourth option year and \$128,000 for the fifth option year for a total contract amount of \$614,000 for the five-year term of the contract.

8. Community Oriented Design Enhancements (CODE) Program Update – January 2003 – February 2003

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Community Oriented Design Enhancements (CODE) Program Update – January 2003 – February 2003.

9. Report on the Capitol Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2003

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Report on the Capitol Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2003.

10. Report on the Tasman East Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2003

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Report on the Tasman East Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2003.

11. Report on the Vasona light Rail Project for the Month of February 2003

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Report on the Vasona Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2003.

12. Joint Powers Board Monthly Status Report

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Joint Powers Board Monthly Status Report.

13. Committee for Transit Accessibility Report

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Committee for Transit Accessibility Report.

14. Monthly Legislative Report

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to receive and file the Monthly Legislative Report.

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Vasona Light Rail Project – Route 17 Underpass and Hamilton Avenue Overcrossing Contract

Jack J. Collins, Chief Construction Officer, reported that Stacy & Witbeck/R.M. Harris, a Joint Venture, the apparent low bidder, did not meet the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 17 percent on the contract and did not demonstrate a good faith effort. He noted that the second low bidder, R&L Brosamer, did not meet good faith efforts. Mr. Collins noted that West Bay Builders withdrew their bid and VTA has given Viking Construction until Friday, March 21, 2003, to submit documentation to determine if Viking Construction has met their good faith effort. Mr. Collins noted that if the good faith efforts could not be met, VTA might have to rebid the contract.

Member Gonzales expressed concern regarding awarding a contract that is both over the Engineer's Estimate and the lowest bid. He queried if it would be simpler to reject the bids and to rebid the contract.

Discussion ensued regarding the pre-qualification process. Member Gonzales recommended that staff reject all bids.

Member Gonzales requested that staff contact Neil Struthers, Chief Executive Officer of the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, to obtain ideas to enhance DBE/Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation.

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to recommend that staff reject all bids for construction of the Route 17 Underpass and Hamilton Avenue Overcrossing, move expeditiously, and work with the labor community.

16. Tag-On Procurement Contract of Signals Facilities for the Caltrain Service Improvement Program

Mr. Collins reported that over a year ago, the Joint Powers Board (JPB) entered into a contract to buy new signaling equipment for the entire Caltrain line. The JPB went out with a procurement for the signaling equipment and GE Transportation Systems was selected as the supplier of all the train signaling equipment for Caltrain.

Mr. Collins reported that in the double track area, Tamien to Lick, VTA needs to do signaling equipment to tie into the double tracking. He noted that the JPB has requested that VTA use the same type of equipment.

Mr. Collins reported that VTA has talked to GE Transportation Systems and noted GE Transportation Systems would be prepared to extend the same price quote that was given to the JPB to VTA.

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a tag-on procurement contract with GE Transportation Systems in an amount not to exceed \$1,411,800, for the fabrication, delivery, and testing of signal equipment for the Tamien to Lick Double Track Project.

OTHER ITEMS

17. Fare Modifications for FY 2003-2004

Scott Buhner, Chief Financial Officer, noted that the Proposed Transit and ADA Paratransit Fare Modifications for Implementation August 1, 2003, would be discussed in depth at the VTA Board of Directors Workshop on Friday, March 21, 2003.

Mr. Buhner reported that when VTA first developed the budget assumptions, VTA initially had proposed for the upcoming fiscal year that there would not be a fare change. When the budget assumptions were brought forward to the Administration and Finance Committee, the Committee felt that in light of the looming deficits, VTA should go back and develop a proposal that would increase passenger fares. Mr. Buhner reported that VTA has developed a proposal and is now about to embark on the public involvement process.

Mr. Buhner noted that the public meetings would be held April 2 – 10, 2003 and that the proposal would be going through the committee structures in both April and May 2003. The proposal would be forwarded to the Board of Directors in June 2003 for an August 2003 implementation.

Upon query of Mr. Wightman, Mr. Buhner provided information on the proposed increases for the Senior and Disabled customers.

Member Mossar expressed concern regarding the cuts in service and proposed fare increases. She noted that she keeps looking for information that will help her feel comfortable about what that means. She noted that the impact of the decision-making is disproportionate throughout the County of Santa Clara.

On order of Chairperson Valerio, there being no objection, the Proposed Transit and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Fare Modifications for Implementation August 1, 2003 was discussed.

17.X. Capitol Light Rail Project, Segment C225, Parcel 7673 – Abandonment of Eminent Domain Lawsuit

M/S/C (Gonzales/Mossar) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to abandon an eminent domain lawsuit authorized by the Resolution of Necessity identified as Agenda Item #5, adopted by Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors on October 10, 2002, for property located at 331 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, California, Parcel #7673, under the ownership of Jayvadan N. Itchhaporia, et al. for the Capitol Light Rail Project.

18. Paratransit Service Business Practices Improvement Plan: Project Update

George Tacké, Accessible Services Manager, reported that approximately 13 months ago, VTA kicked off the development of the Paratransit Service Business Practices Improvement Plan, which is now a four-phased Plan.

Mr. Tacké reported that Phase I of the Paratransit Service Business Practices Improvement Plan has already been implemented. Phase II of the Plan is partially implemented and will be fully implemented July 1, 2003. Mr. Tacké noted that the eligibility certification vendor contract would be forwarded to the TP&O Committee in April 2003 and the appeals vendor contract would be forwarded to the Committee in May 2003.

Mr. Tacké reported that Phase III of the Plan would be forwarded to the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) in April 2003 and then to the community the week of April 28, 2003. Phase III of the Plan would then be forwarded to the TP&O Committee in May 2003.

Mr. Tacké reported that Phase IV of the Plan is in the development stage.

Mr. Tacké directed attention to Attachment B, VTA Paratransit Program Cost, Fiscal Year 97-98 through Fiscal Year 02-03, and provided an overview.

Mr. Tacké reported that based on the trends at the time the budget was prepared a year ago, before starting the Plan development process, VTA was looking at \$38.2 million in expenses for this year. Based on numbers through January 2003, it now looks like VTA will be spending about \$30.6 million, which is a \$7.6 million

reduction than originally projected. Mr. Tacké noted that the cost savings is attributed to the improvements developed.

Mr. Tacké directed attention to Attachment A, VTA Paratransit Ridership and Cost History, Fiscal Year 97-98 through Fiscal Year 02-03, and provided an overview.

Mr. Tacké provided a report on future cost saving strategies to be implemented.

Member Mossar expressed concern regarding the impact to seniors due to the limitation of service in the North County.

Chairperson Valerio noted the concerns of representatives from San Jose State University regarding paratransit. Mr. Tacké noted that information regarding paratransit as a component is contained in the fare proposal and would be discussed at the Board of Directors Workshop on Friday, March 21, 2003.

Member Gonzales acknowledged the work of staff on the Paratransit Service Business Practices Improvement Plan.

Member Gonzales discussed the difficult decisions the Board of Directors has made and will be facing to address VTA's deficit. He noted that staff should continue to report back to the Board of Directors with the cost savings of this Program.

On order of Chairperson Valerio, there being no objection, the Paratransit Service Business Practices Improvement Plan: Project Update was received and filed.

19. Committee Work Plan

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

20. Committee Staff Report

There was no Committee Staff Report.

21. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

22. Determine the Consent Agenda for April 3, 2003 Board Meeting

CONSENT: Item #5. Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder, Bianchi Amaker Construction, in an amount of \$424,032, for the restoration of residential and commercial property along Capitol Avenue that was affected by the construction of the Capitol Light Rail Project; **Item #6.** Authorize the General Manager to execute a sole source agreement with VenTek International in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000, for the purchase and installation of 34 Ticket Vending Machines (TVM's) for the Vasona, Capitol, and Tasman East Light Rail Projects; **Item #7.** Authorize the General Manager to exercise the two remaining one-year options of the existing contract with Central Equipment Service Company, extending the contract through June 30, 2005 for automotive dispensing equipment (non-fuel) preventive maintenance and repair services. The value of the two option years will not exceed \$125,000 for the fourth option year and \$128,000 for the fifth option year for a total contract amount of \$614,000 for the five-year term of the contract; **Item #16.** Authorize the General Manager to execute a tag-on procurement contract with GE Transportation Systems in an amount not to exceed \$1,411,800, for the fabrication, delivery, and testing of signal equipment for the Tamien to Lick Double Track Project; and, **Item #17.X.** Abandon an eminent domain lawsuit authorized by the Resolution of Necessity identified as Agenda Item #5, adopted by Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors on October 10, 2002, for property located at 331 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, California, Parcel #7673, under the ownership of Jayvadan N. Itchhaporla, et al. for the Capitol Light Rail Project.

REGULAR: None

23. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

24. Adjourn

On order of Chairperson Valerio, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors