



TRANSIT PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 18, 2004

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Cortese in Room 204, San Jose City Hall, 801 North First Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

David Cortese, Chairperson
Ron Gonzales
Joe Pirzynski, Vice Chairperson

Members Absent

Pete McHugh

Alternates Present

None

Alternates Absent

Blanca Alvarado
Dolores Sandoval
Ken Yeager

*Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **Minutes of February 19, 2004**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to approve the Minutes of February 19, 2004.

5. **Tasman East/Capitol Light Rail Projects – Amendment to Bianchi-Amaker Construction Agreement**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to amend the total authorized funding for the Bianchi-Amaker Construction Agreement in an amount of \$250,000 over the original contract amount for a new contract amount of \$1,515,935. The amendment is required to construct field changes discovered during construction on the Tasman East/Capitol Light Rail Project.

6. **Community Oriented Design Enhancements (CODE) Program Update – February 2004 – March 2004**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Community Oriented Design Enhancements (CODE) Program Update – February 2004 – March 2004.

7. **Report on the Capitol Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2004**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Report on the Capitol Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2004.

8. **Report on the Tasman East Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2004**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Report on the Tasman East Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2004.

9. **Report on the Vasona light Rail Project for the Month of February 2004**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Report on the Vasona Light Rail Project for the Month of February 2004.

10. **Joint Powers Board Monthly Status Report**

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

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

11. Committee for Transit Accessibility Report

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

12. Monthly Legislative Reports

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Monthly Legislative Reports.

REGULAR AGENDA

13. Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Project Line Segment Preliminary Engineering Services

Jack J. Collins, Chief Construction Officer, reported that the line segment design contract is the third of six engineering design contracts coming to the VTA Board of Directors between March and August 2004 for Preliminary Engineering services on the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) Project. He noted that work would consist of railroad relocation design for the Union Pacific Railroad at-grade alignment and track profile, below-grade alignment using retained cut and cut and cover structures, and aerial alignment using retained fill and aerial structures.

Mr. Collins reported that five firms submitted proposals to VTA. He noted that a VTA and BART interview panel selected HNTB Corporation as the best-qualified firm. The project team consists of 23 sub-consultants. The initial Preliminary Engineering contract is for \$20 million and consists of an \$18 million cost plus fixed fee design element and a \$2 million time and materials element to conduct special studies on a task order basis.

Mr. Collins reported that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal is 21 percent, and the contractor has committed to achieve the 21 percent participation.

M/S/C (Pirzynski/Gonzales) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with HNTB for line segment design services for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) Project in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000 for the Preliminary Engineering phase. The initial contract term will be for 24 months with future amendments to be presented to the Board for final design services once approval to enter into final design for the SVRT Project is determined. This contract is currently 1.25 percent (\$250,000) federally funded.

14. Consideration and Adoption of Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Palo Alto Caltrain Transit Center Project

Tom Fitzwater, Environmental Planning Manager, reported that the item relates to the Palo Alto Facility, which serves a major regional transfer point for VTA. The Project consists of removing all of the existing facilities and constructing a new ten-day transit center with a new on-site pedestrian circulation.

Mr. Fitzwater directed attention to Attachment 1 – Palo Alto Caltrain Transit Center, and noted the existing and proposed facility of the Palo Alto Caltrain Transit Center.

Mr. Fitzwater reported that the Initial Study for the Palo Alto Caltrain Transit Center Project was circulated for 30 days, from February 4, 2004 – March 5, 2004. VTA received comments from the City of Palo Alto addressing VTA's traffic discretion and tree removal. The State Department of Toxic Substance Control also provided comments and VTA has revised the mitigation measures to address hazardous materials.

Mr. Fitzwater noted that with the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration by VTA, the environmental document process will be completed and the Project could proceed for construction.

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to 1) Certify the Initial Study for the Palo Alto Caltrain Transit Center Project (Project): a. Was transmitted and presented to the Board of Directors and that they reviewed and considered it; b. Meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and c. Represents the independent judgment of VTA as Lead Agency; 2) Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration based on consideration of the Initial Study, comments received and responses to those comments; 3) Adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan; and 4) Approve the Project.

15. Tasman East/Capitol Bus/Rail Service Integration Plan

Mike Aro, Service and Operations Planning Deputy Director, reported that the Preliminary Tasman East/Capitol Bus/Rail Service Integration Plan was presented to the VTA Standing Committees in January 2004, and since that time, VTA has held five community meetings. The Plan was also presented to VTA Advisory Committees in February 2004. Based upon input received, minor revisions were made and the revised Plan is being presented to the Advisory and Standing Committees in March 2004.

Mr. Aro directed attention to Page 9 of the Board Memorandum and noted the changes to the Preliminary Tasman East/Capitol Bus/Rail Service Integration Plan based upon public input.

Mr. Aro noted that Tasman East/Capitol service would be opening on June 30, 2004, with full revenue service on July 1, 2004.

Chairperson Cortese queried whether the Plan deals with the issue of integrating the actual bus stops at Capitol Avenue and McKee Road with the light rail stops. Mr. Collins noted that VTA tried to move the stations back from the intersections and put a pedestrian crossing right at McKee Road in the back. The reason for doing this is the left turn pockets had to be lengthened, so the station will be in the shadow of the left turn pocket, and the access to the pedestrian crossings were placed on the back-end of the station, not right at McKee Road. This will be effective in terms of allowing people to gain access to the station, the bus stop will be close to the location, to be close to the pedestrian button to cross the intersection, rather than stopping the bus right at the corner of McKee Road. As part of the Capitol Project, adjusted some of the bus stop locations to better facilitate the transfer.

Member Pirzynski inquired when beginning to see the market rebound at Tasman West, what will be the transition that will take place, assuming there will be some adjustment on the Tasman West Line in terms of frequency/number of cars on train. Mr. Aro noted at present both lines are running at 15-minute frequencies. He referred to the large amount of transfer activities at the Baypointe Station and noted staff could always revisit the situation in VTA's Operating Plan.

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the bus and light rail operating plans included in the Tasman East/Capitol Bus/Rail Service Integration Plan.

OTHER ITEMS

16. Report on the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program Third Quarter, 2004

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Report on the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program Third Quarter, 2004.

17. Operating Cost Per Total Hour

Member Gonzales directed attention to Page 4 of 4 of the Board Memorandum and expressed concern regarding the huge increase in medical and retiree medical costs from year 2001 to 2003.

Kaye L. Evleth, Chief Administrative Officer, distributed a memorandum dated March 17, 2004, addressed to VTA Board of Directors, regarding Retiree Medical Costs, noting that the issue was also raised at the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC).

Ms. Evleth directed attention to the memorandum and noted that a number of VTA's budgetary issues listed under benefits are actuarially determined as opposed to being actual payments for that year. She indicated that the ATU pension, PERS, Workers' Compensation, and retiree medical payments are not the only payments VTA has to make for this year in premiums that VTA is paying for retirees, VTA also has to put money aside in order to continue to pay premiums in the future. VTA has to have an actuary determine that particular amount needed to be set-aside.

Ms. Evleth reported that VTA has not changed retiree medical benefits for over 20 years, except for the most recent changes made where VTA now has future retirees contributing to premium contributions.

Ms. Evleth noted the following three things that actually go into the actuarial determination: 1) the number of employees, both active and retired, who qualify or are expected to qualify, 2) the medical premium costs, current and anticipated in the future, and 3) the investment income; e.g., interest rates, current and anticipated in the future.

Ms. Evleth directed attention to the charts entitled "Valley Transportation Authority Schedule of Actuarial Study Rates For Fiscal Years 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03" and "Valley Transportation Authority Retiree Medical Actuary Studies Schedule of Factors that Increased the Unfunded Actuarial Liability January 1, 2001 to July 1, 2002," and provided an overview. Ms. Evleth noted VTA was doing a six percent steady rise of medical costs and is now no longer doing that, because VTA went to a 12 percent increase. Over the last three years, VTA's actual medical increases overall have been in the 15 to 17 percent increase. Due to the huge increase in medical costs, VTA is currently in the process of doing an actuary determination for this year and should be receiving the actuary determination in April or May 2004.

Ms. Evleth directed attention to the chart entitled "Valley Transportation Authority Retiree Medical Actuarial Assumptions For the Reports As of 1/1/1999, 1/1/2001, 7/1/2002," and provided an overview.

Member Gonzales queried how the percentage increase in medical costs compares with other agencies. Ms. Evleth noted that she would check with other agencies.

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Report on Operating Cost Per Total Hour.

18. Committee Work Plan

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

19. Committee Staff Report

Denise Daly, Chief of Staff, noted that the May 20, 2004 TP&O Meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. instead of the regularly scheduled time of 4:30 p.m. to accommodate Committee Members attending the City of San Jose Study Sessions.

On order of Chairperson Cortese, there being no objection, the Committee Staff Report was received.

20. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

21. Determine the Consent Agenda for the April 1, 2004 Board Meeting

CONSENT: Item #5. Authorize the General Manager to amend the total authorized funding for the Bianchi-Amaker Construction Agreement in an amount of \$250,000 over the original contract amount for a new contract amount of \$1,515,935. The amendment is required to construct field changes discovered during construction on the Tasman East/Capitol Light Rail Project and **Item #15.** Approve the bus and light rail operating plans included in the Tasman East/Capitol Bus/Rail Service Integration Plan.

REGULAR: Item #13. Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with HNTB for line segment design services for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) Project in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000 for the Preliminary Engineering phase. The initial contract term will be for 24 months with future amendments to be presented to the Board for final design services once approval to enter into final design for the SVRT Project is determined. This contract is currently 1.25 percent (\$250,000) federally funded and **Item #14.** 1) Certify the Initial Study for the Palo Alto Caltrain Transit Center Project (Project): a. Was transmitted and presented to the Board of Directors and that they reviewed and considered it; b. Meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and c. Represents the independent judgment of VTA as Lead Agency; 2) Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration based on consideration of the Initial Study, comments received and responses to those comments; 3) Adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan; and 4) Approve the Project.

22. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

23. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Cortese, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors