



## **TRANSIT PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, April 21, 2005

### **MINUTES**

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

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chairperson Cortese in Room 106-E, 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**

Bob Livengood

##### **Alternates Present**

Dennis Kennedy

##### **Alternates Absent**

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 March 17, 2005**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to approve the Minutes of March 17, 2005.

5. **Memorandum of Understanding for the Regional Transit Connection Discount Card Program**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to continue to administer the Regional Transit District Connection Discount Card Program for an additional five-year period with options for two one-year extensions.

6. **Community Oriented Design Enhancements (CODE) Program Update: March through April 2005**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Community Oriented Design Enhancements (CODE) Program Update: March through April 2005.

7. **Report on the Vasona Light Rail Project for the Month of March 2005**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Report on the Vasona Light Rail Project for the Month of March 2005.

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

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

9. **Committee for Transit Accessibility Report**

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

10. **Monthly Legislative Report for March 2005**

M/S/C (Gonzales/Pirzynski) to receive and file the Monthly Legislative Report for March 2005.

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

## **REGULAR/OTHER ITEMS**

11. **Progress Report on the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program**

Art Douwes, Sr. Mechanical Engineer, noted the success of the kick-off event for the Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program, which was held on February 24, 2005. Revenue service began on February 28, 2005, and since that time, the ZEBs have achieved over 3,600 miles of service. The fuel-cell buses are in operation on VTA Bus Lines 33, 45, and 47 and are moving around in different routes throughout the County of Santa Clara.

Alternate Member Kennedy took his seat at 4:34 p.m.

Mr. Douwes provided a report on the performance of the buses and fueling facility from February 28, 2005 through March 31, 2005. He noted that the buses are averaging 590 miles between road calls compared to an average of 6,000 miles between road calls for a diesel bus. Many of the road calls have to do with the sensors in the vehicles that monitor the fuel as well as the performance. He noted problems encountered at the fueling facility and with the buses and indicated the steps that VTA has taken to correct the problems. VTA is also working closely with the California Fuel Cell Partnership in developing standards.

Mr. Douwes provided a report on VTA's community outreach efforts and noted upcoming events.

Member Gonzales thanked VTA staff for meeting with the delegation from Espoo, Finland, regarding the ZEB Program.

Alternate Member Kennedy queried about the percentage of time a day the buses are in actual operation. Mr. Douwes noted that the intent is to have two buses out each day. When the buses are in service, they have been operating from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski referred to the differences between targets and actuals and asked how close VTA is to the offsets being standard for a new start up versus something that is unusual and VTA taking another look at the system itself. Mr. Douwes noted because this is such new technology nobody really knew how close VTA would get to the goals to start off with. Matthew O. Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, noted that from the beginning of the whole process, VTA knew that the ZEB was not going to measure close to the performance of the buses that VTA has on the streets today. He noted that VTA is one of the few properties in the Country that actually has a ZEB in service.

Chairperson Cortese congratulated staff on a very successful Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program Kick-Off Event.

**On order of Chairperson Cortese**, there being no objection, the Progress Report on the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program was received and filed.

**12. FY 2005 Second Quarter Transit Operations Performance Report**

Mr. Tucker referred to the FY 2005 Second Quarter Transit Operations Performance Report and provided a report, highlighting: 1) Operating cost per total hour increased, 2) overall operating expenses decreased about 1.2 percent due to a reduction in service hours, 3) still seeing significant month after month improvements in light rail ridership, 4) bus operator absenteeism decreased by 24 percent, and 5) light rail operator absenteeism decreased by 17 percent. Mr. Tucker noted that VTA's overall service quality is still trending in a positive and strong direction.

**On order of Chairperson Cortese**, there being no objection, the FY 2005 Second Quarter Transit Operations Performance Report was received and filed.

**13. Committee Work Plan**

Denise Daly, Chief of Staff, noted that the Committee Work Plan has been updated.

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

**14. Committee Staff Report**

There was no Committee Staff Report.

**15. Chairperson's Report**

There was no Chairperson's Report.

**16. Determine the Consent Agenda for the May 5, 2005 Board Meeting**

**CONSENT: Item #5.** Authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to continue to administer the Regional Transit District Connection Discount Card Program for an additional five-year period with options for two one-year extensions.

**REGULAR: None**

**17. Announcements**

There were no Announcements.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**On order of Chairperson Cortese**, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant  
VTA Board of Directors