



TRANSIT PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 20, 2005

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Pirzynski in the City Council Chambers, San Jose City Hall, 200 East Santa Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Ron Gonzales
Bob Livengood
Joe Pirzynski, Vice Chairperson

Members Absent

David Cortese, Chairperson

Alternates Present

None

Alternates Absent

Dennis Kennedy
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

Michael T. Burns, VTA General Manager, noted the departure of the VTA Board Secretary, Sandra Weymouth, and introduced Maria Marinos, the new VTA Board Secretary. Mr. Burns noted Ms. Marinos' 20 years of experience in the transit industry, noting that she has been employed at VTA for four years. He also noted her prior experience as a Board Secretary.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski welcomed Ms. Marinos to her new position.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, there being no objection, the Committee accepted the Orders of the Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of September 15, 2005

M/S/C (Gonzales/Livengood) to approve the Minutes of September 15, 2005.

5. Report on the Vasona Light Rail Project for the Month of September 2005

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

6. Monthly Legislative Report for September 2005

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

REGULAR/OTHER ITEMS

7. VTA Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Scenario Advisory Committee Feedback

Mr. Burns noted that staff met with all five Advisory Committees the week of October 10, 2005, and received comments on the recommended VTA Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Scenario.

Mr. Burns noted that all five of the Advisory Committees were supportive of the VTA Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Scenario. He provided a report, highlighting that the Committees were in support of the following: 1) the increasing of the service levels from 12 percent to 24 percent, 2) the local streets and roads funding, and 3) the separate line item for disabled and senior new programs.

Mr. Burns noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) expressed concern regarding the Caltrain reduction of ten percent. The CAC and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) expressed concern regarding the San

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

Jose Mineta Airport People Mover and noted that it was a regional project, indicating

some of the commitments that were made to the community as part of the airport expansion.

Mr. Burns noted that a summary of all the comments received would be provided to the Board of Directors prior to the November 3, 2005 Board of Directors' Meeting.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, there being no objection, a report on feedback from VTA Advisory Committees and stakeholders regarding the VTA Scenario agenda for the November 3, 2005 Board of Directors' Meeting was received.

8. Paratransit Eligibility Certification Program Modifications

Mr. Tucker reported that VTA has been through several cycles of review and changes to its Paratransit Eligibility Certification Program process. He noted that staff recently evaluated the changes that were made over the last couple of years and believes that they are in the position to put forth a preliminary recommendation that will assist the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) as well as the community in discussing the type of program VTA should ultimately look at towards implementing.

Mr. Tucker noted that based upon the review conducted by staff over the last few months, staff came to two key policy decisions that would allow staff to make the recommendation. The first policy decision to support the preliminary recommendation was relative to what type of program VTA should use as a foundation for any eligibility model. Staff looked at the new regional model, noting that it seemed to provide a lot of the best programs that the community has expressed to VTA over time. The second key piece is relative to the administration of the program. Mr. Tucker noted that from a community perspective, OUTREACH has name brand recognition throughout the region and it is easier for VTA's customers to gain access to services if the customers only have to call one number. Since VTA now has multiple vendors in place for the eligibility process, it does make communication a little more difficult in terms of customers' information being exchanged as well as scheduling trips. Mr. Tucker noted that staff looked at it from an administrative efficiency improvement perspective and came up with the recommendation that OUTREACH would probably be the best entity to administer the program. Staff looked at the checks and balances that would need to be put in place and feels comfortable and confident that through audits, staff would be able to ensure that the program is administrated properly.

Mr. Tucker noted that the modifications to the Paratransit Eligibility Certification Program have been forwarded to the Board of Directors and to the CTA Sub-committee for review and feedback. He noted that VTA would be looking at an April 2006 timeframe to come back to the Board of Directors with a final decision for implementation in July 2006.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski queried about the affect the modified Paratransit Eligibility Certification Program would have on the community and the friendliness of VTA's ability to provide the service. Mr. Tucker indicated the program has more features,

noting it has a more streamlined application process and that VTA is also researching implementing an online application process. The program will result in an overall cost savings.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, there being no objection, the recommendations for proposed modifications to the Paratransit Eligibility Certification Program were received and discussed.

9. FY 2005 Preliminary Annual Transit Operations Performance Report

Mr. Tucker directed attention to the Transit Operations Performance Report, Page 4, Performance Goals FY 2005. He noted that when the Board of Directors adopts a Budget, VTA uses the adopted Budget as a guideline for the goals. Also, VTA benchmarks its performance against the previous fiscal year's performance.

Mr. Tucker provided a presentation on the FY 2005 Transit Operations Performance Report, highlighting: 1) FY 05 Ridership Performance Results, 2) Operating Expense and Revenue Results, 3) Key Performance Results, and 4) Paratransit.

Member Livengood referred to Pages 2 and 3 of the presentation, which noted that bus ridership was 1.68 percent above the budgeted goal, rail ridership was up 2.7 percent above the budgeted goal, and that total fare revenue was 1 percent below budget. He queried about the ridership being above budget and fare amounts being below budget. Mr. Tucker noted that it deals with the assumption of what the average fare was going to be and that with the average fare, you sort of crunch down all the different fare media you have to determine the actual average fare revenue achieved. He noted that staff would have to do further analysis to determine VTA's assumptions versus its results.

Member Gonzales referred to the Operating Expense and Revenue Results in which staff noted some of the reasons why the operating cost per hour was up. He noted that staff did not mention fuel cost and queried if the assumption was because VTA had not seen an increase in fuel cost. Mr. Tucker noted that in terms of an overall basis, the materials and services line item was down during FY 05. There was an increase in fuel, but overall if looking at a 12-month trend, it was not a contributor to the increase in operating cost per hour.

Vice Chairperson Pirzynski noted the issue of the light rail performance is becoming a very consistent plus for VTA and queried about the reason for light rail's renewed popularity. Mr. Tucker noted as VTA completed the network, added more to the system, and had operating plans that were even more customer friendly in terms of reducing headways there has been an increase in ridership.

Upon query of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, Mr. Tucker noted that staff is in the process of getting an up-to-date count on the Vasona Light Rail line ridership.

Jerry Grace, Interested Citizen, queried about VTA having other light rail corridors. Mr. Tucker noted that Sam Lau, Deputy Director of Operations Planning & Support Services, would speak to Mr. Grace after the meeting.

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, there being no objection, the FY 2005 Preliminary Annual Transit Operations Performance Report was received and filed.

10. Committee for Transit Accessibility Unapproved Minutes of October 12, 2005

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, there being no objection, the Committee for Transit Accessibility Unapproved Minutes of October 12, 2005 were received and filed.

11. Committee Work Plan

Denise Daly, Chief of Staff, noted that the Committee Work Plan reflected the addition of the following items: 1) 1996 Measure B Semi-Annual Report – agendized for the November 2005 TP&O Meeting, 2) Bus Mobility Device Securement Policy – agendized for the January 2006 TP&O Meeting, and 3) Contract with Sheriff Department – agendized for the January 2006 TP&O Meeting.

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

12. Committee Staff Report

There was no Committee Staff Report.

13. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

14. Determine the Consent Agenda for the November 3, 2005 Board Meeting

CONSENT: None

REGULAR: None

15. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

16. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Vice Chairperson Pirzynski, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors