

Transit Planning & Operations Committee

Thursday, April 16, 2009

MINUTES

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 Chairperson Sellers in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Dominic Caserta	Vice Chairperson	Absent
Ash Kalra	Member	Present
Dolly Sandoval	Member	Present
Greg Sellers	Chairperson	Present
Chris Moylan	Alternate Member	N/A
Nora Campos	Alternate Member	N/A
Chuck Page	Alternate Member	N/A
Bob Livengood	Alternate Member	N/A

***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

Michael T. Burns, General Manager requested the Closed Session item be continued until a quorum was established.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole accepted the Orders of the Day.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Agenda was taken Out of Order.

5. **Report from the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) Meeting**

Jim Unites, CTA Staff Liaison, provided a report from the April CTA Meeting highlighting the following:

- The Committee adopted a provisional draft Mission Statement which included adding the wording, “seniors and economically disadvantaged” and made a secondary motion to recommend a name change to the Committee for Transportation Accessibility.
- The Committee reviewed a variety of items from the Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee and will continue to be involved with that process.
- Chairperson Morrow made a motion to discontinue the Mobility Options Task Force and talked to staff about developing a Committee workshop in June to address the issue.
- Chairperson Morrow met with Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer, and Michael T. Burns, General Manager, to discuss ongoing process issues and communication with staff.

Chairperson Sellers indicated he met with Mr. Morrow regarding the committee and their role, and at the request of Mr. Morrow, will be forwarding a letter summarizing their discussion. He indicated his agreement with Mr. Morrow that matters pertaining to the economically disadvantaged were important, but conveyed his belief that it is outside the purview of the CTA.

Member Sandoval took her seat at 4:38 pm and a quorum was declared.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the report from the Committee for Transit Accessibility was received.

3.1 **Recessed to Closed Session at 4:40 pm.**

- A. Conference with Labor Negotiators
[Government Code Section 54957.6]
VTA Designated Representatives:
Joseph Smith, Chief Financial Officer
Bill Lopez, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert L. Escobar, Human Resources Manager
Employee Organizations:
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 265
Service Employees International Union, (SEIU), Local 521
Transportation Authority Engineers and Architects Association (TAEA), Local 21

Reconvened to Open Session at 5:00 pm.

3.2 **Closed Session Report**

There was no reportable action taken during Closed Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of March 19, 2009

M/S/C (Sandoval/Kalra) to approve the Minutes of March 19, 2009.

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

6. 2009 VTA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Strategic Plan

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a brief update on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Strategic Plan. On advice obtained from the advisory committees, outreach was made to other groups and cities for input on the study. He indicated feedback was received that ranged from enthusiasm to trepidation, which was expected.

Member Kalra questioned outreach conducted in the Alum Rock Corridor indicating concerns were expressed by vendors regarding the loss of parking and the impacts construction would have on business. Mr. Connolly indicated the parking issue has been addressed and parking in the corridor will only be lost on one side of the street. He noted detailed designs need to be implemented before many of the questions regarding construction and scheduling can be answered.

Member Kalra requested there be an outline added to future presentations signifying outreach performed and future outreach planned.

M/S/C (Kalra/Sandoval) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt the 2009 VTA Bus rapid transit (BRT) Strategic Plan.

7. Laser Intrusion Detection System

Mark Robinson, Chief Construction Officer, provided a brief presentation on the Laser Intrusion Detection System to be installed at the Tasman East Elevated Guideway. The sensors will allow the system to detect an intrusion onto the light rail structure to aid in the prevention of pedestrian/automobile conflicts. Mr. Robinson indicated there were two bids received for the contract and Siemens Building Technology, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder. He indicated the federal grant requires equipment be assembled and fabricated in the United States, but there are no American suppliers or manufacturers of the laser equipment. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has been notified and a request submitted to waive the requirement. He noted approval is expected to be granted before the May Board meeting.

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

M/S/C (Kalra/Sandoval) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Siemens Building Technology, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$307,096 for the Laser Intrusion Detection System at Light Rail Stations, pending approval by FTA for a waiver to the Buy America requirements. This contract is 100% funded by a combination of Federal Transit Security, Federal Department of Homeland Security and State Prop 1B California Transit Security Grant Program funds.

8. Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Phase 1, 2, and 3 Project

Mark Robinson, Chief Construction Officer, provided a brief update on the Closed Circuit Television project, which will add cameras at seven light rail stations. The bidding was competitive with seven bidders and the lowest responsible being Cupertino Electric.

M/S/C (Kalra/Sandoval) to approve a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Cupertino Electric, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$524,920 for the Closed Circuit Television Phase 1, 2 and 3 Project. This contract is 100% funded by a combination of Federal Transit Security, Federal Department of Homeland Security and State Prop 1B California Transit Security Grant Program funds.

9. Low –Floor Diesel Electric Hybrid Buses

Michael Hursh, Deputy Director for Maintenance and Security, provided information on VTA's preparation to purchase up to 107 low-floor diesel electric hybrid 40-foot buses, using a combination of stimulus funds and Proposition 1B funds. He indicated the process needs to move forward quickly to secure the funds, and approval is needed to use a competitive negotiating process instead of a competitive bid process to get the best price, the most reliable power plant, most accessible bus possible, and the highest reliability. He indicated this process was used to purchase both the articulated buses and the light rail vehicles.

Chairperson Sellers questioned if the item will come back to the Board at the end of the process. Mr. Hursh indicated it will be presented several times during the process and ultimately to the Board for approval of the purchase of the buses.

Member Sandoval questioned if other transit agencies receiving federal stimulus funds are looking at purchasing the buses as well and queried if it is wise to have several organizations interviewed together for a better competitive price.

Mr. Hursh indicated the difficulty of agencies trying to purchase vehicles together because of different needs. He noted there is significant interest in purchasing the buses in the State of California to meet the California Air Resources Board (CARB) deadline for zero emission buses.

Chairperson Sandoval questioned the cost of the buses from contract to delivery. Mr. Hursh indicated the range is \$500 to \$800 thousand per bus depending on features. VTA

is looking to obtain the hybrid bus that provides the most accessibility and cleanest emissions.

M/S/C (Sandoval/Kalra) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt a resolution upon a two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors finding the conditions are not appropriate for a competitive bid process and use of competitive negotiation for the purchase of up to 107 low-floor diesel electric hybrid 40-foot buses is adequate to meet VTA's needs, as required by Public Contract Code Sections 20216 and 20217.

10. Light Rail System Analysis

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a presentation on the Light Rail Analysis program focusing on making the system as efficient and effective as possible and providing capital improvements to give the system the ability to handle future growth. He indicated overall the system is not as productive as similar properties in North America. Several constraints including, single track segments, downtown transit mall where speeds slow to 10 mph, intersections with heavy traffic, and train sequencing where there are single tracks relate to the systems efficiency and flexibility. He noted the system is run well but is not achieving high ridership in comparison to similar systems throughout the country.

Mr. Connolly indicated the light rail is not competing well in certain areas, and at times takes twice the time of using a car to make the trip. Several solutions include; Santa Teresa express trains and skip-stop service operation on North First Street, double tracking portions of North First Street, predictive priority systems at key traffic signals, and adding terminal space in downtown San Jose and on the Vasona Line. He indicated scenario testing and cost benefit analysis will be further analyzed in June and July and the study is expected to be completed by December 2009.

Member Sandoval questioned where light rail ridership is in comparison to VTA's initial projections and requested staff provide the information when the item is presented again.

Member Kalra indicated he was in favor of the idea of express service and questioned the amount of time it would save traveling from Santa Teresa to the downtown area. Mr. Connolly indicated there would be a 25 percent reduction in travel time.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Light Rail System Analysis presentation was received.

OTHER ITEMS

13. March 2009 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance Report

Joonie Tolosa, Manager, Operations Analysis and Reporting, provided a report on the March 2009 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance which highlighted the following: 1) System ridership increased by 4.6 percent compared to the same period last

year and average weekday ridership increased by 3.4 percent; 2) Average weekday bus ridership increased by 2.3 percent; 3) Average weekday light rail ridership increased by 7.1 percent, which is the highest March in VTA history; and 4) Fare revenue for Fiscal Year To Date (FYTD) increased by 3.1 percent and monthly totals decreased by 1.9 percent. Mr. Tolosa indicated there continues to be an increase in pass sales.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the March 2009 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance Report was received.

14. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

There were no Items of Concern and Referral to Administration.

15. Committee Work Plan

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Committee Work Plan was reviewed.

16. Committee Staff Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer and Staff Liaison, distributed a written staff report to the Committee which highlighted the Cupertino Senior Center's Golden Getaway trip to Stanford and Palo Alto, an assault and robbery, passenger stabbing, and theft of bicycles and a handbag.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Committee Staff Report was received.

17. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

18. Determine Consent Agenda for the April 2, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

Consent:

Item #7, Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Siemens Building Technology, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$307,096 for the Laser Intrusion Detection System at Light Rail Stations, pending approval by FTA for a waiver to the Buy America requirements. This contract is 100% funded by a combination of Federal Transit Security, Federal Department of Homeland Security and State Prop 1B California Transit Security Grant Program funds.

Item #8, Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Cupertino Electric, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$524,920 for the Closed Circuit Television Phase 1, 2 and 3 Project. This contract is 100% funded by a combination of Federal Transit Security, Federal Department of Homeland Security and State Prop 1B California Transit Security Grant Program funds.

Item #9, Adopt a Resolution upon a two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors finding the conditions are not appropriate for a competitive bid process and use of competitive negotiation for the purchase of up to 107 low-floor diesel electric hybrid 40-foot buses is adequate to meet VTA's needs, as required by Public Contract Code Sections 20216 and 20217.

Regular:

Item #6, Adopt the 2009 VTA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Strategic Plan.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

20. ADJOURNMENT

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Menominee L. McCarter, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors